

March 26, 2020

Dear Friends:

It is my earnest hope that you and your families are healthy and that you have settled into a comfortable routine replete with joyful opportunities for authentic ‘quality time’. All of you are greatly missed here at school and are always in my thoughts.

Resilience, in particular, is on my mind today – so too, is *resourcefulness*. Together with *responsibility* and *respect*, these critical constructs are at the core of the social curriculum here at Primary Day. Our collective efforts to support all our children as they mature into competent, productive, caring citizens have never before been put to such a test, but in these turbulent times, our children need our partnered support now more than ever.

Late yesterday morning, Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools, extended the closure of the public schools in Maryland through April 24, 2020, with a potential return on Monday, April 27. With the health and safety of our extended community a paramount concern, we will follow this mandate.

As planned, we will launch our *virtual learning program* on Tuesday, March 31 and continue through Friday, April 24. Thoughtfully developed by our extraordinary faculty, this program is designed to replicate the classroom experience as much as possible. In addition to reading, writing and math lessons, many of our specialists have also created activities for the students. Throughout our planning for your children, it became increasingly apparent that our approach should also include some ‘face time’ between teachers and their students and so, in addition to regular emails, schoolwide communications, and telephone calls, we have incorporated ‘in person’ lessons into each instructional day, utilizing *Zoom* technology. Specific details about each classroom’s unique approach will be sent via email early next week.

We appreciate that the social-emotional well-being of our students is most important if our *virtual learning program* is to succeed. To keep our classroom communities connected, our Class Representatives have been reaching out and arranging virtual playdates on a variety of online platforms. In addition, our staff and PDPA representatives will be organizing several fun virtual activities for our families to engage in during this time. Please make sure you are connected to the PDS [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for details.



7300 River Road, Bethesda Maryland 20817
p: 301.365.4355 f: 301.469.8611 www.theprimarydayschool.org

Unfortunately, this change also necessitates that we delay additional events planned for April and early May. Parent-Teacher Conferences, Beako's Blast Anniversary picnic, and the Second Grade program are all postponed, with rescheduled dates yet to be determined.

I understand that all of us had hoped for a different decision from Annapolis. I know that we want to be back together as soon as possible but for now, we must be both *resilient* and *resourceful*. Together, we will be the hardy, creative, buoyant team our children need in these tentative times. Be assured that I remain available should you have a question or a concern. Feel free to reach out via email or, if you prefer, we can arrange a time for a telephone conversation.

Thank you for your partnership – it means everything.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Lawrence", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Lawrence
Head of School