

Dear families,

Good afternoon! There has not been too much that has been normal these last couple of weeks so it feels good to be sitting down and writing Announcements as always at the end of a school week.

Distance Learning Planning

We know that school is closed (for both distance and in person learning) until at least March 31. At Prairie Creek we have been busy with preparations for a transition to distance learning should that be required. Children return to learning on Tuesday, March 31 and there is a distinct possibility that they will be learning from home. Prairie Creek's Distance Learning plan will be shared with families no later than March 27. It will also be posted on our website.

We are advising families to be prepared for children learning at home for an extended period of time. During our planning time together, we have repeatedly reminded ourselves that we are creating something entirely new, for which guidance is emerging and changing on a daily basis. While we did not have a template for this, I will tell you that our faculty has responded in a remarkable way to the challenge. Prairie Creek is a progressive, teacher powered school. Our educators are well-versed in the art of creating curriculum and designing programming through an equitable and child-centered lens. That is what we are busy doing!

It has helped us to remember that a "slow start" will give us time to monitor, adjust and avoid overwhelming children, parents and staff as we respond to this unprecedented situation. In a typical year at PCCS, we take a similar approach, focusing the first six weeks on establishing routines, schedule and building culture. Those weeks are a time when we commitment to providing a safe, happy and welcoming environment to children. Social and emotional needs are prioritized. It has helped us to slow down and take care with our design to consider the first four days of this transition after break, as days that will reflect the purpose of those six weeks each fall. Just as the Six Weeks are critical to the cultural and academic success of our program in later months, so will the first Four Days be essential to the success of our distance learning plan should it need to move through an extended period of time.

This mission-based approach asks for the trust of parents that we are preparing in the best way we can to support children. It means we will not have detailed answers right away about schedules and academic content so we can take advantage of this planning time that has been granted to us. Much more information will be forthcoming. Thank you for your patience!

In the meantime, you will see emails from teachers about some resources we are going to be working with, especially in regard to technology. A priority for us right now is making sure that children and parents will have the technology needed to support our plan. We took the chance to distribute a lot of technology and other resources this week, but please reach out to your teachers if you have technology needs or questions, or need internet access support.

Child Care for Children of Health and Emergency Workers

In collaboration with Northfield Public Schools, our authorizer, child care is provided for emergency and medical workers only. Details about child care are available [here](#).

Food Program

Free meal access information for students can be found on our [website](#).

Auction Update

Our auction had to “pivot” (auction lead Gennia’s word!) multiple times as this situation evolved. I’m amazed at the generous way our community has continued to support our auction. I’m sad that we won’t have an in-person event tonight for many reasons but especially as it denies an opportunity to thank Gennia and the wonderful team of auction volunteers for all their amazing work. Thank you, team!

It is not too late at all to support and honor their hard work. We still have an online auction going on! It’s wild just how generous our community is being in the midst of all of this. Want to support it? Items can be bid on up through 8:59 PM on Sunday, March 22, 2020. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register for online bidding, and get a bid number assigned, or go to: <https://www.auctria.com/auction/TWIGS2020>.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy spring break.

Sincerely,
Simon