



March 17, 2020

Dear Parents,

Tomorrow our school will enter a new chapter in its life by beginning school remotely and/or online at 9:00 a.m. Just as Waldorf education was revolutionary 100 years ago in its purpose and pedagogy, so it is today. 100 years ago, Rudolf Steiner hoped to remedy the ravages of World War I on education and society through a pedagogy that was designed to meet the developing child. The decisions of what to teach, when to teach, and how to teach were grounded in that purpose.

Today we are also faced with a crisis, the ultimate impact of which we can only imagine. 100 years ago, the first teachers had to actively and creatively engage with Waldorf pedagogy in order to educate the specific children who sat before them. Similarly, our teachers have been tasked with applying their creative efforts and pedagogical insights in this uncertain time. I have been humbled by the dedication of our teachers over this past week, and I am all the more grateful for our school. In addition to discussing how to best teach their lessons, the teachers have considered the social needs of their students – the impact of isolation – and how to address those needs in the coming weeks. They have also considered the challenges you as parents will face, and how they can partner with you effectively.

As we all adjust to the new learning environment, these first two weeks will require patience, flexibility, and humor. We should expect that there will be challenging moments, both for teachers and students, and that we will need to adjust aspects of our approach. The Zoom meetings you have had or will have with your children's teachers are opportunities for you to ask questions and experience Zoom for yourself.

We are also mindful of the importance of tending our community health during this time of isolation, and we are looking for ways to maintain connections. I plan to offer some open meeting times when we will have opportunities to talk about Waldorf pedagogy, parenting questions, and just enjoy each other's company as best we can. I will share that plan with you next week. Be sure to keep checking your email for communications from the school.

Lastly, I want to express gratitude for our tireless administrative team. The efforts of administrative folks are often not visible, but their work provides essential support to

our teachers. In this emergency situation, they have been both problem-solvers and steady supports.

Thank you, parents, for your flexibility, partnership, and resilience as we enter this new educational experience. Please let me know if you have questions, and I look forward to seeing you virtually in the coming weeks.

Warmly,  
Jennifer