March 16, 2020

Good evening -

The weight of our current circumstances are very hard to grasp. I can imagine all of us are trying to manage unending streams of new information, our own roles as parents/caregivers, and work responsibilities. I am planning for my own two kids’ next couple weeks while also trying to process what’s happening in the world. It is a lot all at once. It is important to remember we are a community of people with Big Hearts and Focused Minds working together.

Below you will see a few updates about our plans and what we are working on. We very much appreciate the partnership and the collective approach to work closely together even when we are socially distant.

**What we know:**

1. **APR will follow the Boston Public Schools plan for reopening schools on April 27.**
   We believe that it’s important to work with the Mayor and make collective decisions for the health and welfare of the city. Currently, the Mayor is setting a target of April 27 for reopening schools, but he has also communicated a possibility of opening sooner.

   Please note that the Centers for Disease Control is recommending closure of 8 weeks (vs. the 6 currently planned in Boston through April 27). We are planning for extended closure while hoping that this won’t be the case.

2. **Duration of School.** We know that we will not go beyond June 30. What we don’t know yet is what the state will prescribe for graduation requirements and the number of required school days for this year. Our school year could go longer than the scheduled final day of June 23.

3. **All school sponsored field trips (in state, out of state and abroad) are cancelled for the remainder of the year.** With a heavy heart we are making this decision for two reasons. The first reason is for the safety of our community. The second reason is that we want to put all of our resources into a focus on learning in the midst of daily changes to our lives.
We are beginning to work with tour operators and airlines to return the payments that have been made from the school and from families. Our intent is to return all of the family payments but the mechanics and timeline of this process will vary with each of the trips planned. Please be patient with this process over the next several months.

4. We will send community-wide messages on Tuesday and Thursday of each week to keep you updated about current plans and forecasts for the future.

Ongoing supports we are planning for you:

5. If your student was absent on Friday you will be able to pick up Chromebooks this week from 11:00am - 1:00pm. Please come to the Great Room door, not the main entrance. If you have an issue with connecting to the internet you can contact Oliver Truog at otruog@pacrim.org or (617) 361-0050 x176.

6. Grab ‘n Go student meals will be available at the school from 11:00am - 1:00pm every day this week while we are closed. Meals will be available outside the Great Room Doors. Students will not be able to enter the building or congregate during the lunch time. This plan may change over time as the Mayor works on coordinating food distribution sites throughout the city.

7. In week one of the school closure our goal is that all students are engaged in continued learning. Google Classrooms for core area subjects should be live by Wednesday. Later this week, on the APR website you can also find daily schedule suggestions as well as mindful exercises for the family.

Ongoing Virtual Learning Plan:

We are expecting that students and teachers will spend 2-3 hours per day completing learning activities so that we can continue to engage our Minds and our Hearts. This week, Advisors will follow up with students through one-on-one virtual check ins. As the situation continues to evolve and we have a better sense of the length of closure we will provide guidance to faculty, families, and students on how we can purposefully capture student learning.

1. State and National Assessments. There are many kinds of assessments that are scheduled for March - June, including MCAS, AP exams, ACT/SAT exams. We are somewhat dependent upon state decisions and federal decisions about assessment.

2. Ongoing Learning and Course Credit. We stopped school with two weeks to go in the third quarter. We are also making plans for what the third and fourth quarter of school look like both in terms of learning and for grades/course credit. We understand that some students may face possible lapses in technology, limited access to quiet work spaces, and competing needs on time. Therefore, our focus will be individual feedback for students on their work to support their ongoing development. We are thinking
through the process for when students return and making it possible for all students to earn credit for the year.

3. **Continued Communication Tools.** We believe that we all need to stay connected while we are ‘social distancing.’ We are developing online platforms and training teachers about online platforms, the primary one being Google Classrooms. All students should have Google Classrooms for their ELA, math, science, and history classes set up by Wednesday of this week. We are also looking into the possibility of holding weekly community-wide calls to connect and answer questions if there is interest in doing so.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, especially in a situation like this with lots of unknowns. Our mantra is always that we keep each other safe (and healthy).