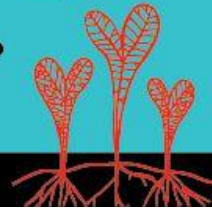




NOURISHING THE ROOTS, TENDING THE GARDEN.

A note from Julie Bragdon, Head of School



Dear Families,

As you have no doubt seen on the news, last night Governor Polis mandated all schools to close through at least April 17 to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We will continue to provide distance learning per this directive and our campus will remain closed. I want to take this opportunity to let you all know that we do not have any new positive cases of the COVID-19 virus in the MSD community, but we can all be assured it is still active in the Denver community and many people will continue to go untested.

This is hard for us all, managing a new normal that seems to change daily. Next week we will all catch our breath, hopefully, and enjoy Spring Break. On Monday, March 30, we will have a virtual Staff Day. Teachers will use this day to plan for more days of distant schoolwork. Thank you so much for the great feedback on the teacher emails, Instagram ideas, and for sharing pictures of the great work being done at home. I was not sure how we were going to do MSD at home but had no doubt our amazing team would figure it out – and they have succeeded beyond my wildest dreams! Many of you have asked about sharing our MSD work ideas with friends and family members. We are quickly creating a public page on our NEW website with all of our teaching resources to help any family keep their children curious, learning, and happy. Stay tuned!

Please tell us how distant learning is going by taking a short survey that Rachel, Anne, or Carrie will be sending you soon. Is it too much, not enough, the wrong kind, making your head hurt, giving you math sweats, making you happy? We want to hear your feedback so we can make adjustments as we move forward.

We want to support *you* as you navigate supporting *yourself* and your family. Dr. Sara Knickerbocker, former MSD school psychologist and source of on-going support to our community, will host parent support sessions via Zoom to lend inspiration, offer time to process, and above all, create connection. Beginning the week of March 30, there will be one weekly session for parents in Toddler/Primary and one for Elementary/Middle School. Some of you will be lucky enough to be able to attend both! Session schedule and Zoom access information to come.

Other MSD resources you have:

- Please reach out to [Jen Wettstein](#), Parent Association President, if you are in need of something. The PA is managing a spreadsheet and making deliveries if they can help.
- Check out the MSD pages on Instagram; we have two! Each page is updated frequently with ideas to do at home with yourself or your MSD student. Visit them here:
 - MSD's main account ([@montessorischofdenver](#))
 - MSD's Farm account ([@montessori_farm](#))
- The [MSD Facebook page](#) is full of fun shares of fellow parents doing #MSDathome.
- The private COVID-19 parent resource page will continue to be updated with new resources and information.
- One another!

It is my hope that we can continue to stay connected, to come together as a community and support each other in new ways. There is a saying that “a ship in port is safe, but that’s not what they are made for,” which I think applies now to our piece of land-locked Colorado. We are testing our MSD seaworthiness, out at sea navigating new waters together. I am happy we are shipmates.

Please reach out by email if you need me and do let me know about any health concerns that develop. **Stay Well** – continue to add up the deeds of kindness and support, and heed the important acts of *undoing* that I mentioned in my last email.

virtual elbow bump
Julie

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