

Dear Linden Waldorf School,

Before this celebratory last day of school comes to an end, I want to reach out to you as a parent in the Class of 2020 and thank each of you on our class' behalf for making our first virtual Graduation and post-Reverse Rose Ceremony parade so incredibly special for this group of children and their parents. Everyone in our class—parents, students, and Ms. Scott—is still basking in the radiance of the love and support this community has shown. We cannot stop talking about the countless thoughtful details that went into making every part of this year's end of year celebrations absolutely unforgettable.

The drive-through Graduation parade today was another Linden first and it was spectacular! Our class parents were in on it, but would you believe not a single one of our children knew anything about it until we all pulled into the parking lot? You guys can sure keep a secret. I cannot tell you how wonderful it was for us to see your faces in person! There was so much love in that driveway and this class is still feeling it this evening. We could see the bittersweet joy on every face. While it will hopefully not be our last Graduation parade (we may have a new Linden tradition!), it will forever be the first *surprise* parade.

We know that everything—the surreptitious delivery of Linden Class of 2020 yard signs this week, the time spent carefully curating the contents of the giant hand-decorated boxes of decorations and treasures that were delivered to each 8th grader's household, the heartwarming hand-made gifts from their buddies, the highly edited, socially-distanced collaboration videos—took literally hundreds of hours of crafting, recording, shopping, decoupaging, labeling, copying, calligraphing, printing, editing, driving, writing, memorizing, reciting, singing, playing, gift-wrapping, sign-making, and car-decorating. You did all of this out of love for this community and for this class and it was sublime. We are humbled. We are grateful.

If you missed the festivities, here are the links to <u>Graduation</u> and the <u>Reverse Rose Ceremony</u>, as well as the <u>Class of 2020 slideshow</u> (a Linden post-Graduation tradition). This year's slideshow is a marathon 20 minutes, which is not bad for trying to compress nine years together as a class, but heck—school's out and we know you can't go anywhere, so what's 20 minutes?

I'm taking a little time this weekend to pause and spend time with my gang and I hope you will, too. Next week is virtual in-service for the entire staff and we'll be working on year-end reports (for a year like no other) and grappling with the challenging details of the road to August. We have much to discuss as a community about how we're going to get there and I'll be asking for your input in the coming weeks to help shape the contours of plans for next year and beyond. Be on the lookout for another message from me, along with another survey, the first week of June.

And on that note, let's call 2019-2020 officially behind us.

With gratitude,

Tricia Drake, Head of School

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