

Dear Linden Waldorf School Families,

As we near the end of the second week of our distance learning program, I wanted to provide an update since my last communication and check in with you to see how you're doing.

Even though the campus is closed, our school year continues! I know that our new normal is a lot for us all to process, as families and as a school. Not surprisingly, our mighty little school has rallied and it is inspiring to see our students, parents, teachers, and staff each doing their part to keep us moving forward.

I am sure that everyone is curious as to how long we will be in distance learning mode. The governor has closed schools until at least April 24 and will likely announce a revised timeline in the coming days. In the meanwhile, we are prepared to continue with Beyond the Classroom through the end of the school year if necessary and are assessing the situation week by week.

#### Financial Operations & Emergency Assistance

As learning continues, so do the financial operations of the school. Our incredible faculty and staff have been agile and open-minded in adapting to the many challenges this crisis has presented and we are committed to providing wages and benefits for all employees, both full- and part-time, as they work remotely. Consequently, during the time that Linden provides distance learning, regular tuition will continue without refund.

We recognize the sudden and unforeseen financial impact COVID-19 has had on some of our families. As we have said from the beginning of this crisis, our top priority is to sustain our vibrant community through this tumultuous time. **We do not want to lose a single family to financial hardship caused by this pandemic.** To provide vital support to Linden families in need, we have established the LWS COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund. **If you are experiencing a loss of income, please contact our Director of Administration, Kim Robinson, at [krobinson@lindenwaldorf.org](mailto:krobinson@lindenwaldorf.org). If you would like to donate to the Emergency Assistance Fund, please look for more information in the coming days.**

#### Technology

- You may have heard that several school districts have discontinued using Zoom as their video conference platform. We are following this story and will keep you posted, should we determine we need to transition away from their service.
- Effective April 4, Zoom is requiring passwords for all meetings hosted by K-12 schools and has enabled the Waiting Room feature as a default setting. For added security, we have removed all public links to any Zoom meetings, and links will not be posted on the school's public calendar or disseminated in Linden Life (as that publication is widely distributed). We will continue to provide private links solely and directly to current Linden families by posting them on the individual class calendars. Please do not share these links with the external community. We want this new necessity to be safe and easy for everyone and apologize for the kinks as we streamline our new internal process.
- All parents have been invited as "Guardians" in their child(ren)'s classroom(s) with the e-mail addresses we have on file. This should allow you a bird's-eye view of everything in the Google Classroom(s) without having to log in to each child's account.
- Parent e-mail addresses have been added as the "recovery e-mail" on their child's account, meaning you can now have a password reset link sent to your address rather than contacting tech support.
- Please continue to use the [Tech Support Form](#) to submit your requests for help.

#### Beyond the Classroom [Survey](#)

Now that we are several days into distance learning, we want to hear how your family is experiencing Beyond the Classroom. **We hope you'll take a few minutes to provide your valuable feedback in this [short survey](#)** as we continue to fine-tune our program.

#### BYOT Tomorrow at 11!

One more thing! I hope you'll join me, Kim Robinson, and Steve Perkins **tomorrow from 11 to 12 for our first virtual installment of Tea with the Leadership Team**, BYOT style. Drop in and drop out. It's a casual conversation and I hope to see you there. You will find the link in your child's Google calendar.

That's it for now. Thank you for your continued support, enthusiasm, and engagement as we march on.

In service,



Tricia Drake, Head of School

Linden Waldorf School

Serving Children in Early Childhood through Eighth Grade

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