

Dear Linden Waldorf School Community,

While less than two days have passed since my last message, the landscape has again shifted with Mayor Cooper announcing [Nashville's first presumptive case of COVID-19 this morning](#). We know that this situation will require us to be both flexible and focused as we make and communicate important, timely decisions.

At this time, Metro Health Department is not recommending that schools proactively close unless they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a staff member or student. They continue to recommend that people at higher risk of severe illness stay home and away from large groups of people as much as possible. We have advised our faculty to stay home if they are sick and again ask you to monitor your own health and that of your child(ren) for symptoms.

We are continually evaluating information as it becomes available to better inform our decisions about proactive school closure and event cancellation and will continue to take direction from the Metro Health Department and the Tennessee Department of Health regarding community health. As Mayor Cooper noted this morning, "A community response requires us all to listen to our healthcare experts and take commonsense precautions to protect each other to prevent the further spread of this disease."

Community Events and Activities

Given the current situation with COVID-19 and the massive tornado clean-up efforts that will continue for several weeks, we are **canceling the Getdown Auction scheduled for April 3**. The Linden faculty and parents, as well as Nashville businesses and other non-profits, continue to be focused on helping our fellow Nashvillians and we do not want to distract from those efforts.

It is becoming increasingly likely that we will need to cancel upcoming school trips to the Medieval Games and the Pentathlon coming up in April. As of this morning, those decisions have not yet been made. However, our teachers have already been planning ways to provide equally enriching and memorable experiences for our students to mark these milestone events, should that be necessary. We will be in touch with the 5th and 6th grade families directly about those plans and will be communicating with the 8th grade families about the trip to Boston scheduled for May.

We will share school-wide changes to our calendar with as much notice as possible. Please continue to monitor our [COVID-19 website](#).

In the event a school closure decision is made at the last minute, we will use our emergency alert system (text, email, voicemail) to share the latest information. **Please update your family's emergency contact information in [FACTS](#), in case we need to contact you with an urgent school message.**

Extended Closure and Educational Continuity Planning

We are gearing up to launch our Distance Learning Plan for Continued Education in the event of an extended period of closure. Faculty and staff are collaborating with other Waldorf schools to develop and share learning plans, curriculum resources, student and family expectations, and communication guidelines using [Google Classroom](#). The creative juices are flowing, and we are committed to bringing a quality Waldorf experience to our students from afar if needed.

As part of this preparation, we will be asking every family to fill out a short Technology Survey that we are drafting. Look for that soon. This will help us assess our community's readiness as well as assist with specific needs of individual students. As I mentioned in an earlier message, we do not want a lack of access to expertise, internet, or devices to preclude any family from participating in any distance learning plan.

Lastly, even in the midst of the swirl of information coming at us, I find myself smiling when I think of the Variety Show on Friday night. The camaraderie among the students was palpable as they cheered, laughed, snapped along, and regaled their friends after each act with thunderous applause. Let's hold tight to that feeling of unwavering support as we move through this together.

We will continue to keep you updated, and as always, please keep me posted on how you're doing.

In service,



Tricia Drake, Head of School

Linden Waldorf School

Serving Children in Early Childhood through Eighth Grade

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