In alignment with our socially responsible values and in the context of the increasing impacts of coronavirus, Sacramento Waldorf School will be closed Monday, March 16 - April 3, followed by our calendared Spring Break. We plan to resume classes on Monday, April 20.

All school activities have been cancelled at this time. Our intention is to reschedule many of the activities that have been postponed once we return to school. We will keep you apprised of new dates and schedules as soon as possible.

While we will continue to be in touch by email, we also will be posting to Facebook and Instagram.

Message from Administrators

Dear Parents:

While we have had to close our hands with responsibility for the health of our school community, we simultaneously open our hearts. The further we are from each other physically, the more we expand our hearts and minds to see ourselves as part of a global society. The further we move apart, the closer we move together emotionally in the spirit of faith and compassion. We are in a globally shared, historical moment that is even greater than we can perceive at this time. Sacramento Waldorf School is honored to be on this journey with you through these trying times.

One of the central tenets of Waldorf education is that we provide students with educational experiences that meet them in their current development stage. These are broadly outlined in the 0-7 years of willing, the 7-14 years of feeling, and the 14-21 years of thinking. As a resource for you, we will be sending parent information about how to best meet the particular phase(s) your child(ren) are in as we continue to support our students from a distance.

In alignment with our school community values to serve the betterment of society, we are staying up-to-date on information to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. At this time it is essential that we proceed with the utmost responsibility to stop the spread of this virus.

This moment asks us to think differently, to understand our own interconnectedness. While we don’t believe that we will be able to prevent all cases of coronavirus from reaching our own community, taking sensible measures are vital to minimizing the impact from a public health perspective. We need to take responsibility not only for our own health but also for the health of each other by not taking unnecessary risks by keeping gatherings small: The smaller the group, the lower the risk.

Governor Newsom announced this afternoon, as a result of the increasing rate of coronavirus in the state, that those residents over 65 voluntarily isolate themselves, that various types of establishments close, and that restaurants reduce occupancy significantly. Clearly the situation remains fluid and information changes almost hourly.

It is through this lens that we ask you to extend your partnership with the school through this unprecedented public health crisis. We ask our students to act responsibly in ways that reflect consideration and respect for others. Now those words take on a new and important meaning as we react to the coronavirus pandemic. RESPOND instead of react!

Based on current CDC recommendations, guidelines for gatherings of children and youth during this time are as follows: That necessary groupings of children and adolescents remain consistent in composition and be no larger than three.

While we understand that our working parents must collaborate, especially healthcare workers who are our modern-day heroes, we thank you for helping to prioritize the health of our community during this extremely challenging time. We will continue to provide you with up-to-date information as it is received from county, state, and national health care agencies.
Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you are in need at this time. Our school is built upon principles of social responsibility and we are committed to supporting the students and their families through the coming weeks.

With gratitude,
Dean Smith and Kat McFee
Administration@sacwaldorf.org

Distance-Learning Preparations

Lower School

The rains arrive in divine timing to soothe our collective minds, hearts, and soul forces. I am heartened by the stories pouring in from around the world that illustrate that humanity’s indomitable spirit thrives in the fabric of our interconnectedness. The goodwill and ingenuity you have displayed in your many messages of support to us and each other have been in service to the whole school community.

Your SWS faculty and administrative staff have been working continuously in service to the students of our school and their families as we continue to meet the mission and vision of our educational aims. The creativity and dedication that faculty is bringing to their school-to-home distance learning approach is remarkable.

Lower school faculty and administration will collaborate tomorrow by Zoom videoconference to make final preparations for our distance learning program. I will email you afterwards with specific information about student curriculum, including when and how to pick up your child’s work. Expect to see a communication from me by 4 pm on Monday afternoon.

Our Parent Guild president, Melissa Rainsford, has shared with us questions that have arisen among the parent body regarding curriculum. The answers to these questions will be found in tomorrow’s communication.

We are here for you and We’ve Got This!

In service,
Kat McFee
kmcefo@sacwaldorf.org

High School

As I shared in an email to high school parents and students on Saturday, we are embarking on a new journey together in these extraordinary circumstances.

High school students will begin online classes this week using videoconferencing technology. Online learning has many similarities to in-class learning and requires similar skills: preparation, organization and self-discipline.

Teachers will likely make changes to the course syllabi as a result of the transition to online learning. We recognize that this process is a change for us all and requires collective patience, support, and communication. Encourage students to tell teachers what is working, as well as what isn’t, so they can adjust their teaching style for online learning.

As a reminder to parents:
• Make sure we have your student’s email address.
• If your student did not receive Saturday’s email from me, contact helpdesk@sacwaldorf.org.
• Ask your student(s) to check email regularly.
• Ensure your student can access the student portal, Veracross. If they can not, email, bpetering@sacwaldorf.org.
• Install Zoom, the videoconferencing platform we will be using, and become familiar with it by checking out: Getting started with Zoom.

Thank you for your collaboration,
Dean Smith
dsmith@sacwaldorf.org

When you are in doubt, be still, and wait; when doubt no longer exists for you, then go forward with courage.

So long as mists envelop you, be still; be still until the sunlight pours through and dispels the mists - as it surely will.

Then act with courage.

~ Ponca Chief, White Eagle

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