



Principal's Update

Week of 3/15/21



Message from Michele



St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time - a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic.



Last week was filled with joy! As we opened our doors to those students and staff that returned to in-person learning, there was so much happiness and cheer. Sounds of students and staff so excited to be reunited again in person was wonderful. As the week continued there was much to juggle, navigate and tackle. When I woke on Saturday morning, after a dynamic week, I remembered that I overlooked completing my weekly update. I hope no one missed it. 😊

I found the quote above and thought it was fitting for this week. While the weather keeps playing tricks on us teetering between warm and cool days, I hope the winter days are over and spring is just around the corner. Before we know, it we will then sail into the magic of summer!

On the horizon in the next 2 weeks is spring break. For many, traditionally this week is a time to see family, travel or take daily adventures. I am sure some have plans already. To continue to provide the safest environment for all in-person students and staff, ADS has developed travel quarantine guidelines for students and staff to ensure the wellbeing of all. They are in line with the recommendations from the CDC and County Health Department. There will be more information to follow on this early next week.

Also, next week all will receive a survey about your plans for traveling. It is important that upon return to school after break, we can ensure that ADS can provide a safe environment for all in-person staff and students. Remote staff and students, keep rocking remote learning- you are doing great and staying safe!

Please make sure you read the weekly updates section for some important information. Have a happy and relaxing weekend!

~Michele

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WEEKLY UPDATES

- This week ADS experienced for the first time a positive case of COVID-19 in the classroom. That classroom was quickly placed on quarantine and heavily sanitized. Our positive practices and effective contact tracing allowed us to reduce the risk to other classes.
- The head of the CDC stated this week that she warns about another surge of COVID-19 as Americans travel for spring break. In an effort to keep everyone that reports for in-person learning safe, ADS has established travel quarantine guidelines for students and staff. They will be distributed next week. Once received, please contact our school nurses with questions, or reach out to our nurses if you plan to travel.
- Families and staff will soon receive a survey inquiring about and future travel plans. This will help us to prepare for a safe return after spring break.
- As we look to the extended school year, there is talk at the state level that the governor may continue the executive order into the summer to allow for remote learning. In person learning and therapy only will continue to be options for students. A parental survey will soon be distributed to gather information so that ADS can adequately prepare for our summer program.
- The CDC revised its guidance today on social distancing in schools, saying most students can now sit 3 feet apart instead of 6 feet as long as they are wearing masks.
 - The recommendation is for all K-12 students, regardless of whether community transmission is low, moderate or substantial.
 - In communities where transmission is high, the CDC recommends that middle school and high school students remain at least 6 feet apart if schools aren't able to keep students and teachers in assigned groups.
 - **At ADS since the students do not wear masks, we will continue to distance students to the maximum extent possible and maintain 6 feet.**
- Any parent may request a change in learning options for their child at any time. Please contact me to make this change.

ADS NEWS

Below is a link to an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer about community support one of our students received. So nice.....

<https://www.inquirer.com/life/freds-footsteps-assistance-sick-children-families-philadelphia-20210323.html>

Parents in need of support services such as Fred's Footsteps, should contact our social worker, Alicia Gilbert. Her email is agilbert@sjogcs.org Alicia can provide families with resources and community supports to help home situations.