

Sesame sprout

opening young minds to a world of learning

April 2, 2020

Dear Families of Sesame Sprout,

Sitting in my home at this early morning hour instead of sipping coffee in my car as I drive to school, I can't tell you how much I, and we all miss being together as a school community. It is the first comment I hear from our wonderful teachers and staff members when we speak each day. We miss your faces walking into our school doors. We miss connecting with you in the school that we love; hearing your laughter and the adorable, wise statement your child made that you had to share!

I have deep admiration for each of you, our partners in education, for how you are stepping up every day to bring remote learning to our children. It is so important during this frightening, uncertain time to bring consistency, routine and continued education to our children, until we can be together again at Sesame Sprout. Our teachers are putting their hearts into reaching out to each of you through online lessons, live video classrooms, phone calls and support to you, our new co-teachers. I hope you have enjoyed joining our story times and meeting times, our yoga and Second-Step lessons. Many classes have met for snack and celebrations online and for virtual trips, and I know that the children love seeing and talking to their children and friends, even if it is only on a screen. But it is also an added responsibility for parents, at a time when you are all taking care of so much. I can't tell you how impressed I am with each of you all as you proudly post your videos, child's artwork and projects, to show us how your children are learning. I cannot thank you enough.

For some of you, health challenges have made supporting remote learning difficult. We all watch the news, and hear from our family and friends, how hard Covid19 is hitting our beautiful Queens neighborhoods. I wish I could say that it has not touched our Sesame community, but it has. For those of you who are ill, or are taking care of family members that are ill, we understand that the most important job you have is to take care of your health, and the health of your loved ones. Please know that we will continue to support each of you in whatever ways that you need, by teaching your children when you are not up to it, by providing community resources and meals, and by listening. And we will be there when you are feeling better, to walk you through the day's lessons and projects when you are ready.

It is so important right now to safeguard our health, and the health of our beautiful community. The most important way we can do this is by being mindful to keep the social distance guidelines set by our Governor, which can be challenging in our busy, crowded neighborhoods, apartment buildings and stores. But keeping distance between ourselves and our neighbors is the best way to keep us all healthy and well, so that we can get back to our lives, and back to Sesame Sprout as quickly as possible.

As always, I invite you to reach out to myself, to our Sesame staff, and to your teachers if we can help you in any way.

Wishing you each health, family and love,

Celia Exelbert
Principal