



## **August 28, 2020: A Friday Update**

Dear CDS Community,

It was such a joy to see 385 members of our community for our Friday Assembly Zoom today! Happy birthday to all of our summer birthdays and welcome to all of our new families. The start of the year is focused on community, belonging, and our students finding their safe place in our new classrooms – in person and virtually. Kevin Carroll's book *A Kids Book About Belonging* reminds us that first we must find belonging in ourselves and then we are able to bring our authentic selves to others. Something that has always impressed me is how it is safe to bring one's authentic self to CDS. I truly treasure that aspect of our community, as it provides a safe place for our adult and student learners.

Current national events make it even more clear that we are interconnected as we experience discomfort from the smoky fires in our state, restrictions and changes in our daily lives through a pandemic that blankets the world, and the solidarity of antiracism work that we can all take an active stance in addressing. In the assembly, Anthony shared that we have a task force focused specifically on this work and, although our Black community members are more directly impacted, racism is a disease that impacts us all and requires the same level of engagement and behavioral change that the current COVID pandemic has required. We all must interrogate our behaviors and actions, take a pledge to educate ourselves about the history and the impact of systemic practices tied to holding down Black and Brown people in the United States, and actively move in a direction toward antiracism. If we are not active in our fight, we are participants in racist policies and practices. This commitment will be embedded in all our work going forward and I encourage you to personally join us.

## **Updates**

### **Waiver Process and Timeline**

We have sent the Department of Public Health a letter of intent to apply for a waiver to open K-4th grades at CDS. Now we wait for the process and timeline. As we wait, we will

refine our policies and observe current practices for our in-person ECP program to inform our next steps and practices. Our priority will be to enable our youngest students (Kindergarten) first and then work on a reasonable timeline for the other lower school grades as soon as it is safe. Parent opinions on how quickly we should move to in-person learning run along a continuum from “I will be there in an hour” to “I need two weeks to get organized and shift our lives to support in-person learning.” Once the waiver is approved, we will communicate and set up a timeline allowing for teacher transition (including readying the classroom for in-person learning) and family complexities as we move to a combination of in-person for some families and online for others. I cannot predict when we will be able to come in person, but we will continue to use our guiding principles to drive our decision-making. Any updates will come in Friday communications and then will be added to our [Return to School page](#).

### **Childcare**

We are pleased to announce that, through a partnership with the Columbia Park Boys and Girls Clubhouse, we will be able to offer school-day childcare for students in grades K-6 from 8:00-4:30 starting on Tuesday, September 8. Chris Teare will send out more information and signup forms ASAP. This will take place on the 333 campus and be staffed by familiar faces from our aftercare program. We will prioritize vulnerable families and children of essential workers and will do our best to accommodate families who are having hardship with online home learning.

Meanwhile, I continue to add new stories to my “Storytime with Shelly” channel on our Vimeo platform. I will be starting another chapter book soon, so look for my updates on this next week in the Coop. And feel free to send me some suggestions!

Have a restful weekend.

Warmly,  
Shelly