



## April 10, 2020: Friday Note from Shelly

Dear CDS Community,

Thank you for joining us for another great assembly earlier today! It's so rewarding to see all of your smiling faces. We continue to prove to ourselves that at CDS, community really does matter. I hope you enjoyed seeing a quick snapshot of our after school friends in action. Like ALL our teachers have done, the Extended Program team is doing wonderful work connecting with our students and creating engaging content. They have a great line up planned for camp activities next week.

By now, most of you have completed your parent-teacher conferences. We hope these meetings have been useful and have provided you with a chance to work with your teachers to create an environment that supports home learning. Despite the unique challenges we are facing, I do feel we are also opening up a space for new possibilities.

### Plans for the Remainder of the Year

As we head into spring break, I want to share an update about our plans for the next few months (*I know you're all wondering!*) In the last few days, I have talked with other school heads here in the Bay Area. Like them, I am still hopeful. **We are not yet committing to closing our campus for the year**, yet at the same time we continue to plan for the alternative. We are looking to make decisions as things are changing quickly and we want to be nimble so that if there is a chance we can come back together physically in a safe way, we will. Stay tuned for continued updates.

We will have some kind of graduation to celebrate our amazing 8th graders and families. We are working on potential alternative dates so we can experience the ceremony in a real way together if we cannot connect in person on June 5.

## **Looking Ahead to Summer**

We recently made the decision to postpone the roof replacement project that was scheduled for this summer so that when the shelter-in-place is lifted, we can all come home to the CDS yard. The good news about pausing the roof project is that we will now be able to again host our always popular summer camp at 333 Dolores! We know that our beautiful yard and classrooms are a favorite summer destination for many and this year, in particular, these spaces will be a welcome sight for sore eyes!

## **Working Together with You**

More than 250 of you completed our request for feedback about your home learning experience. This kind of response confirms just how important it is for us to seek your input. Your perspective helps us to deliver a mission-aligned distance learning model during this unprecedented time. Thank you again to all who offered feedback and ideas! And thank you to Lindsay Hershenhorn for working to synthesize the data and leading the action planning.

Here is [an article on Medium](#) I came across that might shed some perspective on the difficulties we are all experiencing at home during this time. It certainly helped me gain perspective on the struggles I am having and it's been an ongoing topic with my friends who are parenting in this complex time.

## **Town Hall with Shelly on Wed., April 22**

I would like to invite the community to a virtual Town Hall with me and our senior administrative team on Wednesday, April 22. We hope that this question and answer session will be an opportunity for us to address wonderings or observations you may have about your experiences over the last month and how we can support your family throughout the remainder of the school year. If you have questions, please submit them here [in this form](#).

## **Do Something For You**

We all have different ways of adjusting to this situation. There have been so many great ideas floating around, it's hard to keep track of them all. I know our faculty sure are making the best of it. When they are not teaching your children, many are learning new skills. One has taught themselves how to be a disc jockey. Another is finally learning those old family recipes. Others are taking up new musical instruments. Whatever you choose to do – cook, exercise, read a new book, meditate, worship – during this upcoming week, please choose to do something *for you*.



**A New Addition to the Wille Family!**

On a personal note, we are so happy to welcome Caledonia, a Beagle-Terrier-? mix, into our home! Cali is an 8-week old rescue. She has gone from a shelter in Sacramento to shelter-in-place here on 3rd Street, and I can't wait for her to meet all of you someday soon!

Have a restful week.

Warmly,  
Shelly