



May 1, 2020: Friday Note from Shelly

Dear CDS Community,

I have been teary since I saw the incredible generosity of our collective community for our Community Support Fund. Rest assured, we already are using this fund to support members of our community in meaningful ways and it's yet another reason to be proud of all that is CDS as we have again risen to the occasion to think of others in this time of crisis. I am moved every day by you and how you treat each other as family. Thank you to Jeanna, Serena, and Grecia for their leadership as well as the Bid & Bash Committee members (*Frank Alvarado, Alexei Angelides, Krista Bloome, Elainea de Vera, Alex dos Santos, Bruce Frey, Melody Hsu Terrell, Danielle Lazier, Andrea Lazorik, Jan Moolsintong, Becky Packard, Celeste Prothro, Jeffrey Tanhueco, and Tara Townsend*) for their reflection and such a thoughtful reframing of our event this year.

This week I "celebrated" 52 consecutive weeks riding my Fauxeloton (a cheap spin bike that I pretend is a Peloton by using the Peloton app). For those missing your morning meeting math, that's one year! The thing that is most interesting is not how much I ride, but actually the way the community has been built and how it has changed in our current times.

First, they changed the live studio classes so there were no participants and it felt pretty much the same to home riders. Then they had to close the studios and it took Peloton weeks to bring back just one live ride a day. These live rides that I have been doing have anywhere from 12 to 13 THOUSAND riders from across the world participating! As I watch the instructors, I imagine the time leading up to the live start as one of frantic planning and arranging. I know this because, like most of our faculty, I go through this same ritual every morning as we turn our breakfast space or living room into our classrooms or offices. We test angles, we check the light, and we move things around to make sure that the mess is hidden, to be dealt with at the end of our live sessions. I can imagine what is on the other side of the camera because we are all living it every day. The twice-daily construction and

deconstruction as we transform living spaces into learning spaces.

Peloton is doing one live 30-minute class a day, and as I join I can see the excitement of the instructors back in their domain, feeling normal again. Even the super energetic and positive one with the horrible singing voice does not hold back, as music is blasting and there is no shame in not being able to carry a tune as he sings. My favorite instructor teaches mostly in German and I love how she makes me think I am on vacation in Germany. Their enthusiasm is contagious.

I can't help but draw another parallel to our community. I have observed the teachers light up as they see students engaging in learning activities. You can see their passion so clearly, and it can be felt even through the screen. If you tuned in to this morning's assembly you know that this coming week is **Teacher Appreciation Week**, and I cannot think of a better time for us to celebrate their commitment, hard work, and connection to our community. Please take a moment to share what you appreciate this week. You will hear more from liaisons about at least one way to do this. You can also just send an email to show your appreciation. Teachers like to keep a file of notes they receive from parents and students, and now is a great time to fill this space for the heart of our community.

Warmly,
Shelly