

Friends,

I hope you found some time over the past couple of days to get outside. The weather was glorious and with the coming of spring, I am reminded about all of the good things to look forward to in the coming months. This has been a difficult time for all, but our optimism about what makes our community so special remains a driving force behind all we do.

Yesterday, Governor Cuomo extended school closures through April 29th. This means that we will officially extend our distance learning plan past spring break, with the likelihood of extending longer. As the situation continues to develop, we will be sure to keep you posted on any schedule changes that may occur as we look towards the end of the year. Additionally, for our 8th graders, the Board of Regents announced that June 2020 Regents Exams are canceled. We are awaiting further guidance on what this means and will release further details to the 8th graders soon. Lastly, another reminder to have your 2020-2021 district transportation forms returned no later than **April 15th**.

Also, to those of you who are on the frontlines in healthcare helping patients or volunteering during this pandemic, we send you our continued gratitude for your selfless and heroic work. In support of the healthcare personnel and patients at Southside Hospital, we are asking for all ECC-8th grade students to help us with an important task. Nursing management at the Hospital has requested for our students to make fish and sea-life pictures to decorate a make-shift patient space that they have set up with an "aquarium" theme. We ask that children spend some time over spring break creating these pictures. *They can be left at the school, in a plastic mailbox outside of the front door dedicated to supporting our healthcare personnel or mailing it directly to me, at **117 Locust Lane, Northport, NY 11768** by **Friday, April 17th**.* We sincerely thank the Chinitz family for helping to facilitate this important project in a time where we can provide some cheer to those who are most in need.

I got out of the house today, running an errand to the school and back. Our trees are blooming with bright colors and the smell of fresh-cut grass permeates the air. Make no mistake, our school will be ready to greet our students back when the day arrives.

For those who celebrate, we would also like to wish a Happy Easter, Greek Orthodox Easter, and Passover to all of you! Don't forget to send those spring hat pictures to Patty.Blackler@bridgesli.org so we can post accordingly to celebrate our Early Childhood spring hat parade. All Bridges students and their families are invited to participate.

See you soon,

Steve

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Stephen E. Rubenacker
Head of School

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