

Dear Glencoe Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and well. Seems so strange that we have reached Memorial Day Weekend already. So, there is no school on Monday and classes will resume on Tuesday, May 26th. I hope you have time to view our [Pet Show Slide Show](#) from last week's spirit day.

Teachers and students will have two and a half weeks left before we wrap up this school year. This is the time of year when our school and classroom schedules are interrupted with many end of year activities: Spring Connect to Kindergarten and Registration, Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, Field Day, STEAM Night, Storybook Parade and the 5th Grade Celebration to name a few..

Even though our doors are closed, we are still registering incoming kindergarten students for the 2020-21 school year. If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, please register for kindergarten now! With schools closed, online registration is the easiest option, but paper options will be available soon. **You don't need to register if your child attends a PPS Head Start or Pre-Kindergarten program.** Children with IEPs need to register using a paper form. To register, go to pps.net/kinderenroll. The process takes 20-30 minutes. Once we receive your registration information and confirm your address, Amanda in our front office will send you a parent questionnaire. This is a questionnaire that we typically have parents do during the Kindergarten Connection in May, when students are experiencing a brief activity in one of our Kinder classrooms. This information is very valuable to us. It helps us build balanced cohorts and gives our teachers a picture of who your child is before they arrive. If you would like, or need to register on paper, registration packets will be available in multiple languages at the PPS meal sites starting Wednesday, May 27th. TRANSLATED INFO can be found [here](#) in 5 languages.

Unfortunately, some of our springtime events just won't happen this year like Field Day, STEAM Night and our Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. Some of our events WILL happen, just in a different way. Our **Storybook Parade will happen (minus the parade) during class meetings the week of June 1st.** We won't parade through our neighborhood for obvious reasons, but students can still celebrate their favorite books together. They can dress as a storybook character and/or share a favorite book with their classmates. Since they will be doing this from home, they can [create](#) a diorama of a favorite scene or character, make a poster that represents their book, draw a picture of a favorite scene or character instead. Our students are creative and we can't wait to see how they celebrate Storybooks this year!

We will also be celebrating our 5th graders and giving them a sendoff to middle school, it will just be a different celebration. Our plan is to host a drive through celebration on June 9th in the late afternoon/evening. If you are a 5th grade parent, we hope you completed the survey we sent you last week. We are finalizing our plan and will be sharing it with you by the end of next week. Hold the date!

As we all know, this spring has been like no other in our lifetime. There has been, and continues to be loss during this time. The other day I was in a virtual workshop, "Finding Peace in the Pandemic" and the presenter shared an image of a Balance Scale with "loss" on one side and "gain" on the other. She shared that in times of incredible suffering and loss there is also the possibility of

gaining a “gift” in the journey. So, I began to think about the hidden gifts that may come from this experience:

- Skills and knowledge gained around technology platforms that may enhance our classrooms in the future
- Students who may choose to be a scientist or medical professional to help in the future
- The privilege of getting to know each other in a different way. We have met and learned about each other’s pets and spent time with family members who join class meetings. We’ve shared our favorite stuffies and fun toys and some of us had virtual scavenger hunts sharing things in our homes.
- Additional time spent with our immediate family, possibly seeing them in a different role (active student, working from home parent, parent as teacher).
- Finding different, and sometimes creative ways to connect with friends and family, reminding us of the importance of making an effort for those relationships in our lives.
- Kids that may have complained about school are asking when they get to go back.
- Seeing students who are quiet in the classroom talk more and engage more readily through a virtual platform

What are the little gifts you may have found during this time? It is an interesting conversation to have at the dinner table or before heading off to bed. I am wondering what you or your child may add to this list.

In closing, I leave you with one of my favorite lines from Leonard Cohen’s song, “Anthem”:

“There is a crack in everything, that’s how the light gets in.”

Best,

Lori Clark
Glencoe Principal