

March 19, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of District 14:

I am reaching out to all of you to send my best wishes to stay healthy, safe, and well during these challenging times of the coronavirus pandemic and school closure. The last several days presented us with enormous challenges for individual families, schools and communities. Deep in my heart, I know that our District 14 community will come through this crisis together, supporting each other, extending a helping hand, and caring for the most vulnerable ones that are counting on us. Many of you, many PA and PTA organizations, our D14 Community Educational Council members - have already stepped up the efforts of caring, outreach, moral support, and resource sharing. I am inspired by your leadership and by your willingness to stand together with our principals, parent coordinators, the school and district staff in joining our arms to offer help, access to resources, and words of encouragement. Kindness has prevailed. Our children are watching us how we as adults interact and how as a community we are unite as a caring family.

This is the time for all of us to stay in touch, to pick up the phone to check on each other, or to email uplifting messages or to share student artwork that brings a smile to your faces and uplifts the mood, as some of our PA/PTA Presidents started doing, supporting all families in their school communities. This is a time to resist isolation.

I am also asking you that your reach out to our principals, teachers, and school staff members to send them a message of support. They are working diligently to respond to the new teaching and learning reality, with sensitivity and care for their school communities, helping everyone to navigate the new remote learning and communication.

Our principals and teachers, all of us working in schools are thriving when interacting with your children and with you. Our students are our drive, our inspiration, our “why” in what we do. One of the challenges we need to learn to overcome is that we will not be in front of the kids in a traditional, classroom and school way. I do hope and encourage our schools and you and your children to use the communication platforms, such as Class DoJo to send messages, to stay in touch.

As for all of you, the safety and health of all our students and school community members are the priorities. Let me assure you that together with principals, teachers, parent coordinators and staff from our schools and from the Brooklyn North Borough Central Office, we are working diligently to respond to the new reality, preparing for remote teaching and learning. Please let your school know if you or your neighbor with school age children still have a problem accessing information or using the Internet. We have asked the schools to share and post some free accessibility networks.

This week, we connected with all our Community Based Organizations, with our D14 Community Educational Council, and with the community school directors to start planning for family outreach and how to best use such resources as food pantries, in our community. The directors are working on a plan



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and the CEC parent leaders are supporting these efforts. I will be asking parent coordinators to continue updating all families about available resources.

District 14 has always been a community that comes through and together in good and challenging times. I am confident that this unprecedented, challenging time for our community, for the City of New York, for the country and the world - we will be here for each other.

*Yours sincerely,
Alicja Winnicki
Superintendent*