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April 24, 2020

Dear Omni Community,

We hope that you have all remained healthy during this challenging time. We are inspired by your commitment to our school and your adaptability during this period of Montessori Learning at Home.

Governor Cooper just announced that public schools will not be returning to on-campus learning for the 2019-2020 school year. In anticipation of the Governor's announcement, we have been having discussions about what is in the best interest of our students, employees and families and have concluded that Omni Montessori School will also not return to on-campus learning this school year. Thus, Omni will continue to provide Montessori Learning at Home through Friday, May 29, 2020. In addition, we have made the following calendar adjustments:

- Parent Guide Conferences which were scheduled for May 1 and 4, 2020 will now take place June 2 and 3, 2020.
- Spring 2020 Progress Reports will be distributed on Monday, June 1, 2020.
- Each Guide will block off one school day between May 1 and May 22, 2020 to write progress reports; each guide will communicate the day chosen with his/her families.

We are still planning to hold our end of year celebrations. Our Ceremony of Light will be a virtual event and will likely take place on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at a time to be finalized later. For our transitioning ceremonies and graduation, we have not yet determined whether to hold those events virtually on June 5, 2020 or to postpone them in the hopes of hosting small gatherings of our students and their families on our campuses sometime over the summer. As soon as we make a decision about graduation, we will communicate it to you.

Several families have inquired about tuition refunds. As a non-profit, independent school, we are primarily funded by tuition. Our employees have been working diligently to provide distance learning and family/student support that best aligns with Montessori philosophy and provides a purposeful, engaging learning experience for our students. Furthermore, in an effort to keep our community whole during this challenging time, we have continued to fully compensate our employees and have not furloughed or laid anyone off. While the school is in good financial condition, tuition refunds cannot be extended without compromising the composition of our faculty and the education provided to our students. Therefore, we have chosen not to issue tuition refunds.

In an effort to support our families, we have done the following:

- Refunded fees paid for canceled Encore! activities: soccer, chorus, aftercare (please be patient as the business office is processing these now)
- Allowed for flexible payment due dates
- Discontinued late fees and finance charges until further notice
- Re-opened our FAST financial aid application for the 2020-2021 school year

Any family who is experiencing extreme hardship due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic should contact Cindy Curry or Lori Lauman directly.

As much as we would like to offer summer camps this year, based on the phased re-opening plan presented by Governor Cooper, we will not know until close to the end of June whether such endeavors are permitted. Therefore, we are canceling Camp Saw Whet for the weeks of June 15th and June 22nd. As fees were not yet collected for these camps, no refunds are due.

Finally, we want to ensure that you are aware that the Omni Board of Trustees COVID-19 Task Force meets weekly and has been discussing a variety of human and financial resource tools for our school and its families. Going forward, this task force will also begin exploring scenarios to ensure the well-being of our students when we do return to on-campus learning next school year.

We appreciate that these are unsettling times and that life right now is very surreal. However, we continue to be a strong community committed to doing what is best for our children, families and employees. Maria Montessori once said, "We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity." Let us continue to walk through COVID-19 together so that Omni Montessori School may continue to be one whole community.

Warm Regards,

Regards,



Cindy Curry
Head of School



Kris Phillips
BOT President