



May 2, 2020

Dear Lower School Families,

I hope your child enjoyed *Wacky Wednesday* this week and the other online lessons. This week I have several details to share with you:

### **No School on May 11**

As mentioned in a communication from Head of School Melissa Soderberg last month, we have been planning to schedule a day when students (and, in turn, many of you in this world of online learning) would not have to worry about having any classes or completing any schoolwork. That day of no classes has been set for Monday, May 11. We hope this day off from school will provide faculty and students a chance to enjoy the spring and catch up on personal time, sleep and anything that does not involve looking at a screen.

### **Student Information Form for 2020-21 School Year**

Each spring, faculty create class lists for the next year. The creation of class lists is one that takes a significant amount of time and attention to detail, and incorporates many factors. These factors include a balance of intellect, social behavior, maturity, learning style, gender, ethnicity and culture, and friendships. Once the class lists have been created by the classroom teachers, Mr. Kegelmayer, Mrs. Farrenkopf and I will add a faculty member to each section. The school welcomes your input in this process. Please complete this [short form](#) to help us in this process. The school does not accept requests for a Happiness Calendar that specific teacher. If you have multiple children in the Lower School, you will need to complete a separate form for each child. If you do choose to complete the form, the deadline is Friday, May 15. This is for students currently in 3YO Explorers through Grade 4.

### **Move-up Program Week**

During the week of May 12-15, we will host our annual "Move-up Program" online. Students from our Explorers through Grade 4 will have the opportunity to learn more about their grade level next year from the teachers who currently teach in that grade level. In addition, they can ask questions about the grade level they are moving into. You will be hearing from your homeroom teacher the time/date of your child's program. Fifth-graders will have the opportunity to learn about sixth grade on a separate day. More information will be coming about the specific date and time of your child's Move-up Program.

### **Grade 5 Closing Ceremony**

We are currently creating a program for our fifth grade students to celebrate their transition from the Lower School to the Middle School. It will be online but will incorporate many of the traditional components of the closing that make it special. We will be sending out details next week to fifth grade families about this special event.

### **Feedback**

Please feel free to share [feedback with me](#) about how things are going for your child and you in your role in supporting his/her online learning program.

### **Happiness Calendar**

I came across this [Happiness Calendar](#) for the month of May from UC Berkeley's *Greater Good Science Center*. Each day has a link for an activity, article, or other type of information in relation to their theme in May – protecting relationships and building optimism.

I wish you all a lovely weekend and hope you can enjoy the sunshine and warmer temperatures.

Take care,  
Mark