

March 21, 2020

Dear Fiddlehead families,

Good afternoon and welcome to week two of learning from home! I want to recognize and acknowledge the tremendous amount of effort, flexibility, and creativity that our learning community has put into the last week. Fiddlehead has always valued empathy, integrity, and the interconnectedness of all things. The Covid-19 pandemic is showing us just how interconnected we are. The compassion and integrity of our teaching staff, Board, administration, and parents has filled me with gratitude. **I particularly want to thank our staff, who have risen to the challenge of providing support, empathy, and ongoing access to education for all our families at a moment's notice.** Please recognize that each classroom will vary in their approach depending on and reflecting their classroom's needs at this moment in time.

### **SCHOOL CLOSURE EXTENSION:**

Fiddlehead's Board of Directors met by video conference over the weekend and have voted to extend our anticipated return date to **no sooner than Monday, April 27**. This is in keeping with area school districts and the continuing guidance offered by the CDC and DOE. We will continue to keep you updated as long term plans become more clear. All formal decisions about our school calendar will be communicated in writing by either myself or the Board Chair.

### **CALENDAR CHANGE:**

As part of this extended school closure, Fiddlehead will also change the school calendar to modify the week of April vacation. **Instead of a full week off, we will take off Monday, April 20 and Friday, April 24. April 21st through the 23rd will be counted as school days.** This serves two purposes. The first is to maintain continuity for the children, and the second is to help minimize impact to academic growth. Teachers will work with classes to determine the plan for that week that best fits their needs, as it may involve a simplified schedule or routine.

Above all, please know that we recognize that you and your children are living in a new world that is changing under their very feet. Each family will have different challenges based on their family make up, temperament, parent's work needs, and more. **The mental health of your children and your family is paramount at this time and come before all else.** The staff is here to support your family as we navigate academics, access to services and supplies, and meeting special needs. **You have our support in setting the pace, tone, and type of 'at-home' lifestyle that works for your family.** Please reach out with questions or concerns and we will get you connected with the right supports.

Stay healthy; stay in touch,

In partnership,

Jacinda