



May 21, 2020

Hello PIC Families,

I hope this finds everyone safe and well! I suspect that I am not alone in saying that at this point I am feeling very worn down. I've been on enough Zoom calls and webinars to last a lifetime.

And, I recognize that I am not caring for young children at the same time that I am trying to work all day. My heart goes out to all who are, as well as to those who have been furloughed from their positions and want to be working again. We all want this to end.

While we eagerly wait to hear from the Governor and the Mayor with a reopening timeline, it feels that the end is not yet in sight. Everyone is watching for a significant drop in the number of new COVID-19 cases.

We continue to work on and plan for when we can reopen. Our Reopening Task Force has been meeting weekly. They are looking at each of the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and determine how to operationalize those recommendations at PIC.

I am so grateful to be working with such a dedicated group of board members, two physicians, teachers from each age group and administrators. Their individual input is invaluable as we continue to work through logistical questions. *How will drop-off and pick-up procedures need to change? What can social distancing look like for young children? How will lunch be served?*

It is a lot of work and while far from complete, we are making good headway. In the end, we will have handbooks for families and staff to help everyone understand the changes that we will need to make.

PIC's Board leadership team and the Finance Committee are working on budget models to understand the financial implications of following CDC recommendations, where lower group sizes will lead to significantly lower revenue, and increased cleaning and protective equipment will increase expenses.

While we understand that there is still so much that is unknown, we must try to project enrollment numbers. We have been asking families to share when you think your child will return, and if you foresee having any flexibility in your schedule. Without some sense of this, it is very difficult to plan.

If you have not yet completed the Reopening Survey, [please use this link to do so](#). Feel free to share any concerns or comments in the last question.

The Reopening Survey will also tell us about Summer Camp enrollment. We hope to have a decision about Camp by the end of the month, though it still remains dependent upon hearing when we are able to reopen, as well as on our ability to manage the significant challenges presented by COVID-19.

We know that once the go-ahead is given for businesses to reopen in Philadelphia (the “Yellow Phase”), we will need some time before we can safely open to children. We will communicate with every family about your enrollment plans, including start dates, drop-off and pick up scheduling, and move-up plans. There will also be staff training on the new health and safety procedures that will be adapted upon return.

For children and adults, this is all unnatural and overwhelming. I am sharing this lovely YouTube video of Audrey Duck telling Dr. Susan that “[I’m tired of the virus](#).” The title says it all and is something that you can view with your children.

On an ending note, for those who have yet to view the new [Love from PIC video](#), it's a message from our staff to you. While the video is meant to bring a few minutes of joy to our families, we have heard it has also brought a few tears.

I know I speak on behalf of all of our staff in saying that we really miss you all and cannot wait to see you again!

Stay safe. Be well. And hang in there!

Deb Green
Executive Director