December 14, 2020

Hello PIC Families,

This year continues to be one like no other! Typically in Philadelphia, we have little snow in December. However this year, we already have the possibility of a significant snowfall midweek.

While we don't know what this week's storm will look like, I want to share **PIC's 2020 snow closing plan**.

COVID-19 makes the decision-making process significantly more complicated. **The greatest pandemic consideration is around the ability to safely staff all of our classrooms.** Typically, when PIC is open during snow, we must move staff around to cover teachers who, due to commuting or child care difficulties, are not able to make it in, or who need to leave early.

During COVID-19, we do not want to break the cohort model that has so carefully been kept to since July, making it impossible for us to move teachers between classrooms.

Additionally, since the School District of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania are mostly virtual, we cannot look to their snow closing decisions. We will rely (and always have) on SEPTA's operation because many PIC staff rely on public transportation.

When significant snowfall or ice is predicted, we will watch the weather and look at our staffing plan carefully. We will notify families via text and email, as soon as a decision is made. A message will also be on our voice mail and on our website. We try our best to make closure decisions by 6:30 am.

If the weather prediction is for snow during the day, please be sure to check your text and email frequently throughout the day. If we need to close PIC during the day, we will again contact you via text and email. **Please be sure that we have updated contact information.**

This year, we have additional considerations to take into account when making weather closure decisions and we cannot afford to make the wrong call. As always, our goal is to keep everyone as safe as possible.

As always, I thank you for your partnership during these unprecedented times.

Debbie

Deb Green
Executive Director