

Celebrate the Children

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

www.celebratethechildren.org

A message from the Executive Director

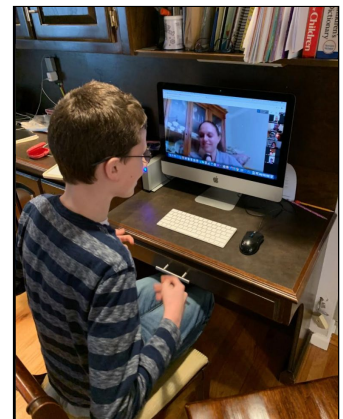


Dear Celebrate the Children Families,

I hope this finds you safe and healthy in these very difficult times! We miss each other tremendously and have recognized throughout this process how much our daily relationships and routines mean to all of us! Over the last week and a half, we

have all had to expend the majority of our energy on rebooting our daily schedules and ensuring we sustain connections online. First and foremost, we recognize that schools being closed, and the burden this has on your families, is profoundly disruptive. CTC's administration and staff have been working around the clock to quickly put together lesson plans, online classes, and resources for our students and families. This includes an extensive remote learning plan that follows state guidelines and has been approved by the Department of Education. We are deeply appreciative for all of your positive feedback, support, and patience as we work as quickly as we can.

Just like our students, we understand that each of you is unique and has your own learning preferences. Some of our parents have expressed that the online workload is too much, some not enough, while others have fallen into the new routine fairly smoothly. We are here for you and will provide support and adaptations to the best of our ability. Please keep in mind that our teachers and other staff are still learning to navigate this new teaching medium. Some are also dealing with children at home, have spouses who are out of work, and may be dealing with the same fears and uncertainty that you may be feeling. It is important that we are patient and compassionate with each other during this difficult time, as we are all doing the best we can. Over the coming weeks, we will increase online class opportunities

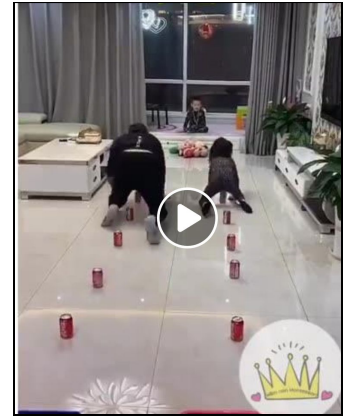


and parent resources. Meanwhile, we appreciate your respectful communication with your teachers and related service providers. If you have concerns beyond questions related to assignments, please direct your correspondence to [Principal Randy](#) who will work with the leadership team on productive solutions.

So...is there anything positive about this situation? Families are holed up together in their homes, parents globally are required to be involved in their child's online learning, and moms and dads are getting creative around how to keep their kids active ([click here](#)) and engaged at home! Is it possible we might view this experience as an opportunity to *slow down* and re-prioritize our families and close

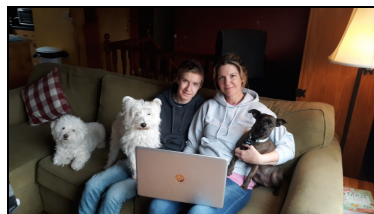


friendships over the day-to-day rat race? Personally, I have made it a priority to take advantage of my children being home to dedicate at least 30-60 minutes a day to be with only my kids, pets, and nature (no technology allowed)! It's a shame that it has taken being locked in our homes for me to make this a daily routine. This situation has provoked a lot of healthy self-reflection for our family as I'm sure it has for all of you.



Over the next few weeks, we will provide a variety of ways for you to share your thoughts and experiences - *the good and the bad* - with us on this question of "is there anything good about this situation?" I was inspired to receive this blog from our school psychologist, Dr. Kim on ["positive thinking,"](#) and hope you will enjoy it too.

As a start, many of you have responded to my request to send pictures and videos of how you are "being together" at home for the remake of Brady Rymer's music slide show to the song '[Just Being with You.](#)' My husband, Dan Myers, and I co-wrote this song with Brady to celebrate these moments we share with our



children "just enjoy being together" putting aside any diagnosis, teaching moments, technology, or other challenges. Thank you for all of your submissions so far and for sharing these very special moments with us. Because there has been such a robust response to this



request, we will again extend the deadline for submitting images to me until Friday afternoon at mosgood@celebratethechildren.org. Over the weekend I will create the new slideshow for Randy to share on an upcoming episode of Principal Randy's Corner early next week!



Finally, please, stay safe, healthy, and do your best to enjoy this time to “pause” and enjoy the special relationships in your life. You will be hearing from me again very soon!

Respectfully,

Monica G. Osgood

Executive Director, Celebrate the Children