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"Together we Share, Discover, Create, and Achieve"

Dear Families,

It is truly a pleasure to welcome you to Pine Grove School for 2020 -2021 school year. Meeting our incoming Kindergarten students and their families is always a high point of our Spring. As I write to you from home, and with schools closed for at least another month, our plans for Kindergarten Orientation and perhaps our typical student story hours will need to change. As such, I wanted to make sure that no one felt adrift or out of the loop. Please know that we are continuing our process of Kindergarten registration and preparation just like any other year with some modifications in place to keep families and children healthy and safe at the same time.

First, we typically host a parent orientation evening in late April or early May where we invite all our families to join our Pine Grove staff and me to learn about the highlights of the K year, ask questions, and get a feel for this important transition to Kindergarten. With this not being an option currently, we will be putting together a presentation sharing as much information as we can for you to view at your convenience. Then, we will follow up with a set of optional interactive "Hangouts" (i.e. video-conferences) for you to reach out directly with us, 'meet us' virtually, and ask questions.

Following the orientation we traditionally host what we call a "Story Hour" where we invite into the building our incoming Kindergarteners to meet K teachers, see classrooms, and participate in a set of interactive activities (listening to a story, some fun crafts, etc.!) This helps the children feel comfortable in the setting, and gives us a chance to meet them in person. With this not being an option at the moment, there are a couple of paths we can go down: If schools *do* open before the end of this (school) year, we'll host the Story Hour as is typical, or if they do *not*, then we will host the Story Hours at some point over the summer. More information regarding story hours will be sent out as we learn more about what will happen with school closings for the remainder of the year.

We will be coordinating dates and details in the relatively near future, so, nothing to put onto your calendars yet. But as a parent of two elementary aged children myself, I just wanted to make sure you weren't feeling alone and disconnected in what should be a wonderfully exciting step forward in your children's lives! The starting of formal school is such an amazing time of growth, learning, and fun – and I'm deeply proud to be able to welcome you to the PGS Family in the near future.

Again, more information to come as we round out April, and in the meantime, feel free to reach out to me directly at jgiannini@avon.k12.ct.us for any questions, wonders or worries you may have.

Be well, safe, and healthy,

Jess M. Giannini
Pine Grove School