

Memo for Thursday, 19 March 2020

Virtual greetings to all of you!

I hope you and yours are healthy and well. I wanted to touch base and let you know what we have been working on as a team.

We are meeting weekly through Zoom to share concerns and or questions. I am meeting with each teacher once a week to provide support and mentoring. We are in daily communication providing resources and creative ideas daily through text and our Cougar Google Classroom which was set up last summer.

As you know, many of our teachers are using Google Classroom. I have been included to co-teach at all grade levels and subjects. YIKES! Needless to say, I receive hundreds of emails each day. Any time a student asks or answers a question, I get an email and can see it. I have "dropped in" to a few of the classes already and am very pleased with the instruction the students are receiving.

Our teachers have stepped up that no way could have been planned in advance by anyone, besides a teacher. I am so pleased with their commitment, creativity and willingness to continue to learn how to best teach during these uncertain times. I realize this week has been overwhelming for many of you as parents. As we continue to navigate through this new method of teaching and learning, it will get easier. It will be more familiar to both the student and teacher. We will learn from this and be a stronger, better school as a result.

We will be adding Enriching classes should this last more than 3 weeks. Fundamentally, reading and math should be the main focus of instruction from your teachers (with the exception of middle school). Please know, like you, our teachers also have their own children at home to supervise as well as hold "office hours," provide instruction and teach. They are juggling A LOT! What I do know, is you have been incredibly supportive. Many of you have spoken to your teachers already and verbalized this. I have received many emails from you as well. For that, thank you. It means so much to have you supporting our teachers more that you already have, during this time.

Public Education Department (PED) has announced that any student (public or privately educated) are welcome to receive breakfast and lunch FREE. Well actually, it's not really free, your tax dollars pay for it. Here is the link with the locations should you need a grab and go meal.

<https://www.kob.com/albuquerque-news/aps-grab-and-go-meals-will-be-available-for-students-at-over-80-locations/5673653/>

Also, Audible has offered for kids to listen for free while school is paused. If your teacher has assigned reading you may find it here. Here is the link: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

And Dion's is now delivering!

And finally, we do not know how long this is going to last. I believe 3 weeks is optimistic. We do know that it is changing rapidly and daily. We will make decisions promptly and with caution. We will stay in close communication with you both from the administrative side as well as from your child's classroom.

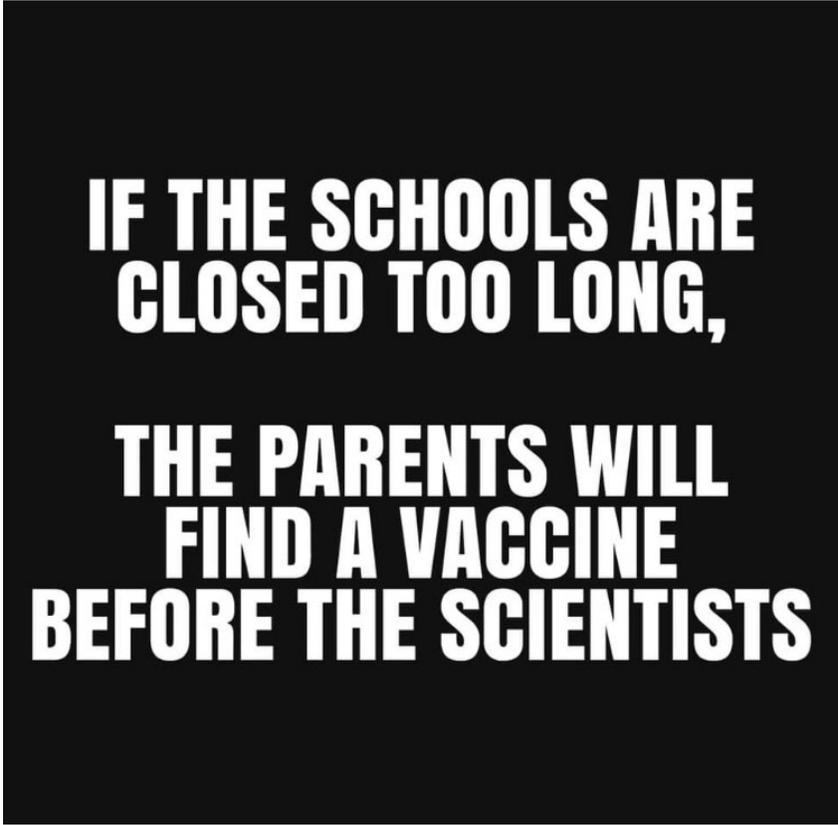
I would like to ask that you do the same. If you have a questions or concern do not wait to ask. We are here to work alongside you (virtually) and ensure we get through this together.

I've attached a meme. Just a little humor to make you giggle.

Let us not forget it is still Lent. Our few days of inconvenience is nothing compared to Christ's 40 days, passion and crucifixion.

May God continue to bless you, your children and our school.

R. Maestas-Sanchez, St. Mary's Albuquerque, Principal



**IF THE SCHOOLS ARE
CLOSED TOO LONG,
THE PARENTS WILL
FIND A VACCINE
BEFORE THE SCIENTISTS**