



**BROOKLYN
FRIENDS
SCHOOL**

May 27, 2020

Dear Lower School Families:

It's hard to believe we are just two weeks away from the end of the school year. It has truly been a year, and in particular, a spring, filled with immense growth and learning. This school year will be unforgettable - not only because of the unprecedented and historic challenge we have faced in our school, city, and world, but also because of the warmth, generosity, and love our community has extended toward one another at this time. While we grieve for our neighbors and/or loved ones, normalcy and various traditional events, I hope that we are able to take time to appreciate what we have gained and created during this extraordinary time - innovation, imagination, and possibility.

I'm writing to you today to share with you how we will creatively bring **closure and celebration** to this school year. In addition, you will find in this communication important information about:

- **Our next Lower School Connect and Talk - Monday, June 1 - with New Head of Lower School, Jason Novak**
- **End-of-Year Spring Narratives**
- **Lower School Class Placement Procedures**

The last day of school for students is Tuesday, June 9

Kindergarten, First, Second and Third Grade children will spend the morning of the 9th, partaking in classroom traditions and saying goodbye to their classmates and teachers.

Fourth Grade children will start their day with their classrooms. At 11:15 a.m., we will hold our first-ever, Virtual Fourth Grade Moving-Up Ceremony. The program will include children singing, and Fourth Graders will share memories from their Lower School years. **Fourth Grade Families, please plan to attend this program.** Extended family and friends are welcome. We will send the Zoom link for this special event at the end of next week. The program will end by 12:00 p.m.

Major Special Family Closing Events

and
Classroom Celebrations Leading up to Tuesday, June 9!

Kindergarten

Spirit Week and Special All-Kindergarten Dance Event

June 1 - June 5 is our traditional Kindergarten Spirit Week. Each day, the children will dress for class meetings in a special spirited way. You will hear details from your classroom teachers soon.

On Friday, June 5 at 11:00 a.m., the final day of Spirit Week, we will end with a special “Family Dance” time with Kindergarten Dance Teachers, Jules Skloot and Helen Tocci. Families, get ready to spin, twirl, clap and celebrate with your child and the entire kindergarten grade level. (Zoom invitation to follow.)

First Grade

“How-To Books” and Special Meeting for Worship

This week and next, First Graders share their special “How-To Books” with their classmates. Each day, a few children have the spotlight.

On Monday, June 8, all First Grade families will be invited to join their child for a special Classroom Meeting for Worship. Your child’s teachers will send the details.

Second Grade

“The Brooklyn Bridge Monologues”

Second Graders will perform *The Brooklyn Bridge Monologues* on **Monday, June 8.**

2B and 2C will perform at 10:30 a.m.; and,
2A will perform at 11:15 a.m.

All family members are welcome! Your child’s teachers will send details shortly.

Third Grade

Animal Research Celebration

Third Graders will hold a special Animal Research Celebration. **Families, please plan to join your child on Monday, June 8** for a special Zoom event. More details soon.

Our Next Connect and Talk **Monday, June 1, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Crissy Cáceres, Head of School, Jackie Condie, retiring Head of Lower School, Katie Banks, Assistant Head of Lower School for Academics, and Dr. Rachel Maldonado, Lower School Psychologist, invite you to join our next Connect and Talk **where we will welcome incoming Lower School Division Head, Jason Novak, to BFS.**

We hope you will be able to join us. We plan to record this event for those who cannot attend. [Please RSVP here if you are planning to attend this Connect and Talk session and enter any questions you have that you hope will be addressed during this time.](#) If you cannot attend the Connect and Talk, but would still like to submit a question, please do so on the RSVP form.

Here is the Zoom information for our next Connect & Talk:

Connect & Talk Zoom Link: Monday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. (please see your email for link)

Lower School Spring Reports

You will receive your child's Spring Report as you typically do the week after school ends. We recognize the diverse and varied learning environment each child and family experienced as we moved quickly to a remote learning platform. Teachers will write a detailed description of the content taught this spring, as well as a **personal letter to your child to acknowledge and celebrate all the ways that your child has blossomed and grown.** We hope you will take time to read this letter with your child. Please note that due to this spring's virtual learning format, we modified our reports and decided not to include any checklists.

A Note About Class Placement Procedures

Because it's quite natural for parents to start thinking about next year as summer approaches, I'd like to share our placement process with you. In June, before closing colleague meetings, we meet by grade level along with the Enrollment Office to discuss class assignments. We carefully consider all factors that affect the educational development of the individual student. Learning styles, gender balance, race, and group dynamics are some of the factors evaluated.

As noted in our Family Handbook, parents are asked not to request the assignment of children to specific teachers. We also ask that parents **not make specific requests to**

be placed with or separated from specific children; we ask that you trust the school's professional judgment as to appropriate placement.

I know you join me in thanking our teachers for their dedication and commitment. It has been a year of significant growth for each of us in the Lower School. Thank you for your care, your partnership, and for the gift of learning about our world and ourselves with your child and with all of you.

In friendship,

Jacquelyn Condie
Head of Lower School