



BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL

May 25, 2020

Dear Preschool Families.

The final weeks of our 2019-20 school year begin after this weekend. I want to acknowledge that we have all gone through an unprecedented and unimaginable experience. We have held joy, pain, and a range of emotions and experiences as we regrouped and worked to nurture our precious children.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication, support and partnership these past months. I know that you join me in a huge thank you to our teachers for their continuing care, creativity and love.

Upcoming Events!

Talking About Goodbyes and Transitions
Ideas for Having an End-of-the-Year Discussion with your Child
Tomorrow - Tuesday, May 26 Drag Queen Story Hour at the 12:30 Preschool Community Time Live!
Preschool Closing Celebration - Friday, June 5th

Talking About Goodbyes and Transitions

This Tuesday teachers in all of our classes will begin to talk about “Goodbyes”, the Summer, and the Hellos that will follow next year. It is very helpful to have these conversations begin at home and extend into school. While this may bring mixed emotions for you and for the children, we are here to help guide you both.

We recommend listening to the **PS Coffee Hour** we hosted May 14 with Noelle Dean for tips about talking to your child about the transition. We have included some of the tips in a list at the bottom of this email.

Coffee Hour Link (please see your email)

Below are links to the two transition meetings we had last week - Threes to Fours Transition and Fours to Kindergarten. It was nice to see some of you there!

Threes to Fours Transition Meeting (please see your email)

Fours to K Transition Meeting (please see your email)

Saying goodbye in a typical year raises mixed and bittersweet emotions. Last week at Community Time Live, Jane and her stuffy, Fuzzy, talked with the children about “mixed feelings”. Fuzzy shared some times when she had more than one feeling at a time, and learned that sometimes all of us have more than one feeling at a time. We discussed a few things we can do to help express those feelings. Please click here to see the full video. (please see your email)

As we talk to the children it is good to focus on the following:

*What is the same and what is different?
What do we know? What don't we know?*

Possible language for sharing what we know:

- We will say goodbye to teachers and friends in our classrooms this year.
- We will continue to be friends and stay in touch.
- We will have fun over the summer.
- There will be school again next year.

I will keep you all posted as to Preschool “reunions” when the time comes. Please make sure that we have any change to your contact information.

The goal is to let your child know what to expect and acknowledge that we are all working on plans for the fall. It is also helpful to let your child's teachers know if there are any big changes being planned so that we can address them in our discussions.

Possible language for talking about what we don't know:

- While we know we will be back at school it may be in person or like we are doing now at home, with seeing our teachers and friends on Zoom, in videos, Storypark, etc.
- You will see many of your friends that you have now and make new friends too!
- You will meet new teachers who will love you just like your teachers do now!
- Remember when you didn't know your teachers or friends and you got used to everything? We don't know who all the teachers and friends will be but you will know them next year!

Ideas for Having an End-of-the-Year Discussion with your Child

If you have any questions or would like to talk to me, Jane or your teachers before you speak to your child, let us know and we will arrange a time to chat.

Here are some ideas and conversation starters taken from the May 14 Coffee Hour with Noelle, Jane and me:

- Make a visual timeline or a calendar of the days from now until the start of the new school year. Choose one color for the school/Zoom days and one color for the summertime. It will help the children see where they are presently and to see that there is a very long time until school starts again.
- Have your child's stuffy be part of the conversation. The children can express their feelings through their stuffy (i.e., "ask Stuffy if she will miss her teachers and friends").
- Discuss the ways your child has grown over the year and tell them they will continue to grow over the summer. They will be ready to learn new and exciting things next year!
- They will make new friends next year and keep all the friends they have now.
- Their new teachers will love them and care for them.
- It's ok to have mixed feelings, excitement for new adventures and sadness at leaving.
- Transitions can be hard. Remind your child that they have been through transition and change in the past, and that it worked out well!

*"Remember when you started this year and didn't know anyone?
"Remember when you didn't know your teachers and now you do?"*

- The children will be in the same class cohorts next year (for children remaining at BFS).

*"You will have old friends AND new friends
and you will all get to know your new teachers!"*

The opportunity for staying in touch is important. Let the children know they can always visit, write, and zoom with friends and teachers from their class this year. This is particularly important for the children leaving BFS.

Drag Queen Story Hour!

Get your dress ups and out (big people too!) and come to a Special Event at **Community Time Live tomorrow, Tuesday, May 26!**

Please see the message below from our Preschool Librarians, Gili and Maggie. We thank them for organizing this exciting event!

Dear Preschool Families,

Your child is invited to a special remote Drag Queen Story Hour on Tuesday, May 26 from 12:30 - 1:00 pm. We will be hearing stories, singing songs and dancing with the fabulous Harmonica Sunbeam, who was a huge hit with our Preschool and Lower School friends when she visited last year!

We prepared a lesson in advance of this special event which your child can view [here](#).
(please see your email)

Your child is welcome to dress up for this event!

Looking forward to another sensational Drag Queen Story Hour!

*Gili and Maggie
PS/LS Librarians*

Link to Community Time Live: Drag Queen Story Hour (please see your email)

Preschool Closing Celebration

This year we will rise to the challenge of doing our Closing Celebration via Zoom!

On **June 5th at 12:30** we will have our 2019-20 Preschool Closing Celebration Zoom at Community Time Live with Crissy, Maura, Nancy and Tony and your Teachers!

Invitation: Wear the color of your rooms or your BFS swag! (Big People - you are also invited to attend and wear the classroom colors or your own BFS spirit wear!)

Children bring a Stuffy for one of Tony's Songs!

Link to Community Time Live Preschool Closing Celebration! (please see your email)

In Friendship,
Maura