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April 5, 2020

This Week at BFS

April 6 Preschool Coffee Hour with Maura and Jane at 1:15pm and 8:00pm. Details have been emailed to PS parents.

IMPORTANT There will be NO Virtual BFS classes on **Thursday, April 9 and Friday, April 10** for religious observances. ***While some of the new Virtual BFS student schedules have lessons listed for Thursday or Friday, do not follow those schedules. Keep them as a reference point for the following weeks.***

Message from Crissy

Dear Families,

Over the past week, you have continued to receive regular communication from divisional leaders providing details pertinent to [Virtual BFS](#). Understanding and appreciating the fact that you, along with all of us, are navigating the newness of what the home and school experience is like at this time, I want to personally express my sincere gratitude for the support and flexibility that you have been exhibiting.

None of this is simple, easy, or our usual normal. School, as we have lived it at BFS, is different at the moment. Our city, nation, and world are different at the moment. We are all experiencing varied emotions and increased challenges to grapple with each day. However, I remain hopeful, and I hope that you do too.

Now that I have had a chance to join several zoom sessions with your children to say hello and be in their presence, I am moved by their ever-present palpable energy. They are able to bring perspective front and center, making me feel thankful every day for the community that I am a part of. I am also inspired and deeply proud of the efforts of all colleagues, working diligently to deliver creative and meaningful content in both synchronous and asynchronous formats. In the weeks ahead, I am certain that we will continue to grow in our virtual teaching, guiding, and supporting skills.

Several of you have raised concerns about the Zoom platform and its security features. While the open Zoom platform (the one at no cost for subscribers) is currently fraught with some security challenges, BFS has invested the necessary resources and finalized its subscription to the Zoom Educational Platform, which offers extensive security features that address the raised concerns and more. [This letter explains it all in detail.](#)

As would be the case if we were physically open, Virtual BFS will be in full effect for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. We will pause on Thursday and Friday for all in our community who observe Passover and Good Friday. Happy Passover and Happy Easter to all who celebrate!

I hold all in our community and our world in the Light.

Sending you warmth at this time,



Crissy Cáceres
Head of School



One-Stop Virtual BFS

The Division Heads are sending e-mail communications to families once a week or more as needed to provide direction and elicit feedback on the virtual learning experience of students. To help manage the flow of information coming from the school, the content of these communications is archived on the BFS website. Please keep these links at hand for your reference:

- [Virtual BFS Hub](#)
 - Instructions and Resources for online learning, by division
 - Support from Our Counselors and Psychologists
 - Afterschool Schedule
- [Creative Ideas and Resources for Home](#)
 - Curated listing of resources for parents and children by topic: Art, Music, Reading, STEM, parenting, motivation, coping in a crisis, etc. (*Suggestions welcome; reply to this e-mail*)

UPDATED INFORMATION

Meetings with the School Counselor/ Psychologists

The BFS Counselor/Psychologist Team has set up an online form for community members to request a meeting. Once you submit [this form](#), the counselor/ psychologist will respond to you via email to schedule a meeting, to take place from Monday-Friday between the hours of 8am-4pm. Expect a response within 24 hours. If you have a concern that is immediate and cannot wait, reach out to the leader of your division via email.



Connecting through communityshare@brooklynfriends.org

It was such a treat to see our community's scaly and furry friends last week! Check out the BFS pets featured on our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#). We hope that these and other photos from our BFS family will bring us closer together during this time as Virtual BFS. Please keep the photos of the pets of BFS coming, and share any photos of your family engaging with Virtual BFS. Send them to communityshare@brooklynfriends.org. Remember, #WeAreAllInThisTogether!

NEWS YOU CAN USE

[GO HERE](#) to register for a free webinar from the Enrollment Management Association on **Navigating Parenting and Learning in a Remote Environment**. It takes place on Tuesday, April 7 from 7:00 to 8:00pm. Featured topics are:

- Developing screen time rules and creating balance
- Staying current without becoming overwhelmed
- Modeling healthy habits and boundaries
- Mentoring children on technology and social media
- Dealing with social isolation, anxiety, and depression

[GO HERE](#) to find a location near you for the New York City **grab and go** free meal program available to **all students** in the city, not just public school students. Family members may pick up for their children; there are three meals a day, and neither registration nor documentation is needed. The hours are Mon-Fri, 7:30am to 1:30pm.

[GO HERE](#) for resources on ways to ameliorate the impact of COVID-19 on the community through a **service learning and civic engagement lens**.

Let Us Hear from You

With the theme, **We're all in this together**, the School encourages your questions and feedback. Just as your children are connecting with teachers on virtual platforms, we would like to reach out to parents. Preschool is taking the first step with Zoom Coffee Hours this week, and more opportunities will be forthcoming soon. As always, [reply to this e-mail](#) and we will get back to you promptly. Thank you!

Guided by the Quaker belief that there is a Divine Light in everyone, Brooklyn Friends School cultivates an intellectually ambitious and diverse community that celebrates each individual's gifts. We challenge our students to value and embrace difference as they develop critical thinking skills and apply their knowledge and intelligence both in and out of the classroom. In this rich learning environment, we inspire all members of our community to voice their convictions, to discover and pursue their passions, and to seek truth. Our graduates are compassionate, curious, and confident global citizens who let their lives speak in the spirit of leadership and service.

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