



BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS COMMUNICATION

- Roll-out of Seesaw Platform for K-4
- Zoom Schedule for Next Week
- Working Toward Sending the Schedule on Sunday Evening
- Staying Connected as a Lower School Community: Upcoming Coffee Hours and Parent Connections
- Patience, Resiliency, and Holding Each Other in the Light

April 8, 2020

Dear Lower School Families:

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as your child has engaged in lessons, activities, and class Zoom meetings. All of this is new and has required enormous energy and patience from us all. **We write to you today to share with you important information about Seesaw, a platform we will be introducing over the next two weeks.**

We are excited to begin using Seesaw to support a greater student/teacher connection and vehicle for feedback between your child and teachers. Seesaw allows for teachers to share lessons and activities with your child in one application. Your child is then able to share the work that they create directly back to the teacher. Think of this as a digital portfolio (Seesaw calls it a journal) that houses lessons, instructions, and student work all in one place. It's child friendly and accessible on multiple devices.

On Monday, April 13, you will receive a PDF with important information about how to download the Seesaw app. **On the PDF, you will also receive instructions and a personal code for you to enter so that you can log-in to your child's journal.** Once you are logged in, you do not have to enter the code again. **You will then find a practice activity for your child and you to do as you explore Seesaw's features.**

On Wednesday, April 15, our Specialist Teachers and Kate Minear, 3rd and 4th Grade Math Specialist, will begin "pushing" their assignments out to your child on Seesaw. (Kate's assignments will only go to third and fourth grade children).

We plan for Classroom teachers, Learning Specialists and Jonathan Edmonds, K - 2 Math Specialist, to add their lessons and activities on Seesaw the following week. We are rolling Seesaw out slowly so that families and teachers can gain familiarity and confidence using this new platform.

Once we have fully implemented Seesaw, you will continue to receive a post from your child's teacher with an outline of the week, but all lessons and activities from specialists and classroom teachers will live in one location (Seesaw).

We want to acknowledge that families have asked that we send the schedule of the week on Sunday evening. We are working toward that. The full implementation of Seesaw will help us address this need.

Please note, classroom teachers will be engaged in professional development next week. They will Zoom with the children on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at their regular Zoom time, but not on Tuesday and Thursday. **We (Katie and Jackie) will be offering a special Zoom Storytime for kindergarten and first grade children on Tuesday afternoon, April 14 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and another special Zoom Storytime for second through fourth grade children on Thursday afternoon, April 16, 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** We will be sure to send you an invitation through your classroom teacher's post.

Note too, that we will be providing a forum for your continued feedback and parent coffee hours to support all of us as we navigate this new way of teaching, learning, and parenting.

As we end this week and enter into religious observances for many, let us all remember to be patient with ourselves, each other, and our children. We are in awe of our teachers who continue to work late into the night, and on weekends to reimagine units, provide age-appropriate and meaningful lessons, games, moments of laughter and connection. We are in awe of our families too.

At Pearl Street, our teachers model making mistakes for our children all the time. We talk about mistakes that are made because we take a risk or stretch ourselves. It's difficult to fathom a time that we (parents and teachers) have ever stretched ourselves more; that we have ever been more challenged to think differently as parents and educators; that we have ever been more worried or anxious as we experience loss and grief. Our needs vary greatly. Here, at virtual BFS, we will continue to reflect and refine as we learn and grow with you. Let us continue to model compassion and understanding. Let us continue to hold one another in the light.

In friendship,

Jacquelyn Condie, Head of Lower School
Katie Banks, Assistant Head of Lower School for Academics