August 18, 2020

Dear Families,

We were excited to see so many of your faces over zoom last week for the virtual Town Halls with Principals Cara McCarthy (Lower School), Khoi Tau (Middle School), and Jahmeelah Bai-Grandson (High School). If you were unable to attend the meetings, recordings are available here. In them, you will find valuable information about sample schedules, technology platforms, our emerging plans for outdoor community building activities at the start of the year (if weather and public health allow), and other information about reopening.

Many of you have already filled out our most recent survey which is about in-person community building and technology needs. If you have not already done so, please fill it out, especially if your child(ren) will need a Chromebook or tablet for the upcoming school year.

I’m extremely proud of our Neighborhood House team for how much has been accomplished this summer, and yet there are still some crucial milestones ahead of us to ensure that we are ready to start in September. By now you’ve likely seen that the Boston Public Schools and many other districts have delayed their start dates. I’m writing today to let you know that we will be pushing back our start to Monday, September 14th. There were a number of reasons for this decision:

1. We want to give our school based planning teams more time to be as thoughtful as possible about preparing for reopening.
2. Despite placing an order months ago, we are also uncertain about the timing of an important shipment of Chromebooks. With equity as one of our core principles, we must ensure that all students have access to technology before we begin remote teaching.

Over the coming weeks, you will hear more from your children’s Principals about the start of the school year, including an invitation to virtual orientation sessions. Despite the challenges, we are working hard to ensure that this year will be a successful one filled with learning, connection, and growth. Thank you for your trust and partnership.

Warmly,

Kate Scott
Executive Director

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