May 15, 2020

Dear Members of the Ransom Everglades Community,

Yesterday I experienced it. The exhilaration of seeing so many of you who drove by the middle school to wish me a happy birthday, and the need to maintain strict social distancing guidelines during a time in our lives that is fraught with peril. Maintaining distance hasn’t been easy: hangouts, Zoom, texts and emails are no substitute for human contact and interaction, especially when we are feeling out of sorts and fragile. Or just plain happy about another trip around the sun. But we have done it, and must continue to do so until this situation corrects itself. We have been apart for more than two months, and our community has stayed remarkably healthy and our connections have never been stronger. Of that I am exceedingly proud and relieved. I hope you are, too.

Today is the last day of classes for seniors. In prior years, they would have burst out of Ludington and Cameron, run past the senior deck, jumped into the pool and crowded as many onto each floating pink flamingo as possible, hugging and hanging onto each other for the entire afternoon. The Class of 2020 can’t do that. They will have to resist all those natural celebratory urges in order to keep themselves and their families safe. They cannot allow excitement to overtake them, and they will do it. I am exceedingly proud of them as well.

I look forward to Sunday’s Senior Send-Off drive-through, and I will again wave and say thank you from six or more feet, mask and gloves in place. (Register here to join the remote send-off celebration that begins at 2 p.m.) Watch your email next week for announcements about our summer enrichment programs, a parent survey about REmote School, and end-of-the year reminders. As the school year winds down, we are already in full preparation for next year, evaluating what we have accomplished and making plans for what needs to be done.

Don’t forget to tune into the next Paul Ransom Digital Podium on Tuesday at 7 p.m.; we are fortunate to be able to hear from Lourdes Lopez, Artistic Director for the Miami City Ballet, and Jessica Goldman Srebnick, who has led the transformation of Wynwood as CEO of Goldman Properties; they will talk about rebounding from COVID-19. (You can register here.) And also remember to send your stories and reflections to For the REcord; use your own prompt this time.

No cannon photo today. The spray paint is in the hands of school president Preston Edmunds ’20, and we will be sure to send you a picture of her message when she finishes. In the meantime, please take a walk around our extraordinary virtual museum of our middle school students’ art. I promise you will be amazed.

Thank you for a beautiful and unforgettable birthday – there are indeed silver linings – and stay safe and healthy.
Honor and excellence,

A glimpse inside our middle school virtual art museum

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