

**Arlington Central School District
Noxon Road Elementary School
4 Old Noxon Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
(845) 486-4950**

Kelly Murray Principal

Melissa Tirado Assistant to the Principal

Dear Noxon Road Families,

Happy Friday! Today marks the end of the 7th week of online learning. Throughout this process I have heard words of gratitude, support and praise from our families and community. In summary, our families have been appreciative of the following:

- Specific, consistent and ongoing feedback from staff in terms of their child's completed assignments
- Willingness by staff to adjust expectations based on family circumstances, putting social-emotional needs above academic learning demands
- Efforts by our school to keep our community connected through Trivia Nights, BINGO Nights, YOUTUBE morning announcements, Speedy Deliveries, Teaching Assistants letters/cards home, personal phone calls, sharing of student recorded videos, etc.
- Support from our District Technology Department (Jo Ann Kraus and her staff) in terms of chromebook distribution, HELP desk support and staff visits to families places of work to assist with explaining/solving technology/google classroom issues
- Ongoing focus on academic content in terms of practice opportunities for previously taught skills and new lessons in the form of interactive programs such as ZEARN & continued focus on social emotional learning through Habits of Healthy Kids and highlighting of cultural celebrations taking place "from a distance"
- Continued opportunities provided for students by staff through CLUBS such as Babysitting Club, Crochet Club, Student Council, Intramurals, etc.
- Office hours and accessibility to staff, met with care, support and a willingness to talk through differences in perspective and/or challenges

Appropriately, I have also processed through conversations with our community about topics such as fear of student regression, anxiety over preparedness of students for the next grade level as a result of the perceived loss of learning time, concern over how end of the year milestones will occur during this time and all of the "what if's" related to the inevitable change that this pandemic will have on schools moving forward. Many of those conversations do not end with a definitive answer or a concrete plan that can be put into place at this time, however, all of those conversations have ended with mutual listening, willingness to consider another perspective and agreement that despite the uncertainty, one thing is for certain and that is that our school will continue to work with our community to do everything we can to provide the best for our students. Here are some things to look forward to as we move forward:

- The District is working to finalize plans for community pick up of materials from student desks. At Noxon, this will involve a carline and assigned times by grade level, much like our student work packet pick up in March.
- The 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony will take place virtually, in conjunction with Mr. Livermore and the PTA. We will be sending a letter to 5th grade families next week, outlining the event, what we need from students and the associated due dates. We anticipate a student focused, rich and meaningful virtual ceremony that will highlight our students, their accomplishments and the many reasons why we know they are ready for this next chapter in their lives.
- Mr. Harrison is working on a Virtual Field Day! Check out his message:
“June is right around the corner and that is going to be an exciting month for us. We will have our "virtual field day" throughout the month of June. Field day activities will be shared in the same way and format as our p.e. activities have been shared. We will have some special guests demonstrating some of our weekly field day challenges. Look for members of our faculty staff, our students & families as presenters for our field day challenges. And most importantly, each of you will have a chance to share video of yourselves performing the weekly field day challenges. So get READY!”
- Mrs. McMorris and the Student Council are working on a fun opportunity for our school!
“We'd like to set up three separate Google Meets on Friday, May 29th. (K/1 at 1:00, 2/3 at 1:45, 4/5 at 2:30). Each meet will be 30 minutes and start with a quick inspirational video (from Student Council) then participants will have a scavenger hunt (again, created by Student Council) and ending with information and encouragement for students to participate in an "Honoring our Heroes" activity with Student Council! The link on Friday May 29th for participation will be shared in that day's Friday Family Letter!”
- Our next Family BINGO Night will be next week, Thursday, May 28 at 6pm!

On the next page, please enjoy an uplifting example of how we are supporting our community during this difficult time, as well as an opportunity for you all to support the work of Marc Provost and Megan Murphy at Arlington High School with the Gift of Hope! Have a great weekend and we'll see you on Tuesday during Morning Announcements

Warmly,
 Dr. Murray



Suzanne McRae (Library/Media Specialist) worked with students and other librarians to support The Students Rebuild Hunger challenge that was brought up by Janice Rifenburg in one of her weekly library meetings. Every year, The Bezos Family Foundation invites students to respond to a specific problem affecting young people somewhere in the world. This year the focus was on world hunger. The Bezos Foundation partnered up with organizations such as UNICEF, Mary's Meals, Global Nomads Group and many more to bring awareness and raise money for the cause. In addition, the Foundation is identifying additional opportunities to support hunger due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

How it worked...students were asked to create an art based recipe. For every recipe that our students submitted, the Bezos Foundation makes a financial donation to a respected community-based organization serving youth. The donation started as \$3/recipe. However, because of COVID, they doubled the donation to \$6/recipe. Mrs. McRae set up a team site for Titusville/Noxon on the Rebuild Hunger website. Students upload their artwork to Google Classroom, I then upload their work to the team website. The organization keeps track of the submissions and how much they will be donating on our behalf, so far, we have raised \$600! See the link to our team page: <https://www.studentsrebuild.org/teams/23DFB98H94TG>



As you may know, The Gift of HOPE was started by Marc Provost in 2007 to raise scholarship money for graduating seniors in our district that have lost a parent during their education. Since we were unable to have our Gift of HOPE faculty basketball game this year (which raised \$10,000 last year); the fund took a big hit on donations and has set up a GoFundMe page where all donations are being directly deposited into the Gift of HOPE account.

If you are interested in supporting this GoFundMe, here is the information and remember, even if you can't donate, please help spread the word!

https://www.gofundme.com/f/gift-of-hope-scholarship-fund?sharetype=teams&member=4397100&utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_na+share-sheet&rcid=0726961c84f54fceb0391ce4ab944fe7

