

March 3, 2020

Dear Princeton Charter School families,

We are coming to the end of just over three weeks of remote learning, having closed school on March 11th which seems like an eternity ago. I want to thank the staff for doing such a great job with little or no time to prepare for remote learning as this crisis came to us early. We have come a long way in this time, and will continue to refine and improve. Speaking on behalf of the staff, we definitely need this break to recover, renew, and prepare for the return to school. Monday April 13th is on the schedule as a day off. (It has always been designated as a day that school is closed.) We will use this day for staff to plan and prepare for remote learning upon our return to school on Tuesday, April 14.

We appreciate the challenges this spring break poses for families given that so many "normal" plans—travel, outside activities, time spent with friends and family— are no longer an option. But understand, we simply need this time for our staff who are facing the same challenges.

In order to help families, especially with younger children, we recommend that over the break you plan out regular daily activities and projects especially ones that involve physical, hands-on, tactile engagement. Here are some suggestions and ideas. In addition we have included some online resources for families. Thanks to Mrs. Wilbur, Mrs. Eckstrom for helping to prepare materials and for all of the work that they have done over these past three weeks.

Create a daily Schedule that will include:

- a. Exercise activity 30-60 minutes a day.
 - i. Papp/Burd videos
- b. Reading - 30 recommend reading activities
 - i. Princeton Public Library online resources: [Just for Kids](#)
- c. Math activity:
 - i. See [Khan Academy](#)
 - ii. Princeton Public Library online resources: [Just for Kids](#)
- d. Art/Music - Daily projects - Ms. Diamond's websites
- e. Projects: Gail (creative play) ideas
- f. Service Projects:
 - i. Seek out local and statewide or national or Global service opportunities.
 - ii. See Mrs. Noyelle's mask making initiative

I admit that I have a very rosy and nostalgic view of my childhood growing up in Brooklyn, NY in the 1970s. But, I remember so clearly when a family on our block bought a new refrigerator or large appliance and the gigantic cardboard box was left on the sidewalk, the children on the block would play endlessly in the box. It was transformed by imagination into a cave, fortress, tunnel, dungeon, hideout, etc. It is now time to bring back the "Cardboard Box Philosophy." These are the most vivid memories because they involved self-directed, creative, and inventive play. Now is a time for our resourcefulness and creativity. It may require our restraint as parents from providing too much, in fact perhaps it requires that we provide too

little, by design, for our children, to force their own resourcefulness. This may also result in a welcome and much needed reduction of screen time.

Thank you all for your continued support and please be safe during the next week. Reach out to the school at any time if we can be of help or to keep us up to date with any news.

Sincerely,

Larry Patton

Spring Break Activities

Princeton Public Library (Resources in all areas of study)

The Princeton Public Library has done an amazing job pulling together resources for families during the Covid-19 Crisis. There are many many resources available . We are listing two pages:

The COVID-19 Resource page: <https://princetoncovid.org>

This site offers a number of resources for families generally on the COVID-19 crisis.

For **Language Arts** see the main library page: <https://princetonlibrary.org>

“Virtual Library” offers texts available for remote online access. There are also many other sections with a ton of additional sites/resources. I recommend looking at the Just for Kids section. ,

Simple Pursuits from Home:

Gail Wilbur has put together a list of simple and fun home activities (see attached).

Service Activity:

Sandy Noyelle: Grade three language arts teacher shared this service activity that her daughter found. St. Peter's Healthcare System in New Brunswick asking for mask donations. We will set up a drop off spot at school when we return. Mrs. Noyelle will then bring the mask up to St. Peter's Hospital.

<https://youtu.be/3mE-27211Pc>

Art

Ms. Diamond's Art Website:

<https://sites.google.com/princetoncharter.org/princetoncharterart/free-art>

Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems!

<https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems?fbclid=IwAR0uUsCHV5sN-ovxyS0F8PUo1MqpWH8oA4BIQCKKIJPTYAOkiXyCsTCZMwQ>

Writing:

For PCS students who love to write: here's a great writing program for the older kids to take advantage of! Recommended for ages 9 & up.

(Thanks to Megan Wurtz Parent grades 2,4 for this and attached virtual activities and tours.)

First Draft: The Cotsen Children's Library is delighted to announce the return of *First Draft*, our writing feedback program for kids! Simply submit your creative writing and personal essays via e-mail, and a Princeton University editor will offer comments and suggestions. For all the details, please visit our website:

<https://cotsen.princeton.edu/youth-programs/first-draft>

Mathematics

Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Many of you are familiar with Khan academy. It offers great learning videos. In addition see these webinars on structuring the day :

[Setting a daily schedule for young kids](#) ages 2-7

[Setting a daily schedule for elementary school students](#) ages 8-10

[Setting a daily schedule for middle school students](#) ages 11-13

The LaMont Sensory Walk:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkbaEabsMp0&feature=youtu.be>

PE

See the various videos that Mr. Papp and Ms. Burd have created in the Google Folders, Google classroom, and PowerSchool Unified Classroom.

Mr. Papp: Juggling Scarves:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_FUE5_qKlf_u5R7xQ52ijxPp1gb4BrqoEpXV0Kfk6CQ/edit?us