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August 14, 2020

Dear PRES Families,

I know that these days leading up to the school year are highly charged with stress and uncertainty. We are right there with you, as we navigate uncharted waters and solidify our plans for our return to school in September. Here are some important upcoming events and school-related information:

- **Parent Forum & PRES Parent Coffee:** Next week, we are hosting two more parent forums to further discuss our re-entry plans and answer your questions, as it relates to the elementary schools. After these elementary forums, we will send you a building-level survey for you to complete in order to make a firm commitment to an in-person or remote model of learning for your child for September.
  - **Wednesday, August 19th at 12:00 pm - BCSD Elementary Town Hall:** Join parents and elementary principals from all 5 elementary schools to discuss how the re-entry plans will be implemented at the elementary level. You should have received a communication from Dr. Joel Adelberg with a BCSD [August 14th update on Re-entry](#). Please reference this document for links to our elementary parent forum and a document for submitting your questions in advance.
  - **Thursday, August 20th at 9:00 am - PRES Parent-Principal Coffee:** Please bring your own coffee and join me for a “virtual” parent-principal coffee when we can discuss the re-entry plan at the building level and answer your questions as it relates to PRES. [Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/zsa-qubv-aze>].
- **New PRES Families (grades K-5):** We are looking forward to welcoming all of our new families to Pound Ridge Elementary School. On **September 9, 2020**, we will host our Kindergarten Meet & Greet (morning) and Grades 1-5 New Family Orientation (afternoon). An invitation to these events will be sent separately. Until then, please enjoy this “Welcome to PRES” video we created to give you a taste of some of the special programs we have at PRES:
  - **WELCOME TO PRES VIDEO LINK:** <https://vimeo.com/443862941>
  - **PASSWORD:** pres
- **Outdoor learning spaces:** We are very excited to share that our end-of-year gift from our 2020 fifth grade class will be a revitalization of our **outdoor benches and picnic tables** near our upper playground. At one time, these were outdoor classroom spaces used frequently by PRES staff and students. We look forward to refurbishing these outdoor classrooms to use throughout the year. When weather permits, we plan to hold classes outside to continue learning and enjoy the great outdoors of Pound Ridge. Thank you, PRES class of 2020!



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- **New Secretary to Principal:** I am pleased to announce that **Ms. Adriana Pace** was appointed to the position of PRES Secretary to the Principal at the August 7, 2020 Board of Education meeting. After a lengthy search, Adriana clearly rose to the top as our strongest candidate. Adriana has worked for the Town of New Castle for the past 4 years in a variety of roles. She is a master multi-tasker, with a strong work ethic, and excellent communication and interpersonal skills. I have no doubt that Adriana will make a wonderful addition to our PRES office staff and larger school community. Please join me in welcoming Adriana to PRES. She will begin this new position on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Please also join me in thanking Sabina Shapiro and Susan Reiner for doing an extraordinary job keeping the PRES office running this summer.
  - **Student Supplies:** At this time, your PTA pre-ordered supplies have arrived at PRES and will be distributed to students on the first day of school. There will be no communal supplies. If you are new to PRES, or you did not pre-order your supplies in the spring, please plan to purchase the grade level specific supplies listed on our [2020-21 supply list](#). Students should plan to bring their supplies on the first day of school. You can find a link to our supply list under “PRES News” on our school website homepage.
  - **Summer Mailing:** Normally, we would be sending our summer mailing mid-August with schedules, teacher assignments, transportation and more. This summer, our planning has been anything but typical. With so much still changing and evolving in the coming days, we will plan to send a summer mailing by the end of August.
  - **First week of School:** Here are the District’s plans for our first week of school:
    - Sept. 2 and 3 – Supt. Conference Days (no students)
    - Sept. 8 – Supt. Conference Day (no students)
    - Sept. 9 – Orientation Programs – K, 6, 9 and new students\*  
*\*We will hold our Kindergarten Meet & Greet and New Family Orientation (grades 1-5) on Sept. 9. Times TBD. No other students will attend school that day.*
    - Sept. 10 – K-2 All-In; 3-12 Cohort 1 in-person; Cohort 2 remote
    - Sept. 11 – K-2 All-In; 3-12 Cohort 2 in-person; Cohort 1 remote

I will be in touch on a regular basis as we get closer to the start of the school year. The reopening of school is still a fluid process based on feedback from parents and teachers and guidance from the Governor’s office. It seems things keep changing in a New York minute! I look forward to “seeing” you in the coming days for our parent forums. Please feel free to email me at [afishkin4396@bcSDny.org](mailto:afishkin4396@bcSDny.org) if you have any questions.

Best wishes,  
Amy Fishkin  
Principal