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## VALENTINE'S DAY DURING COVID-19

January 22, 2021

Dear PRES Families,

We hope you are managing through these winter months and seeing a light at the end of the tunnel as vaccines become available to our healthcare workers, teachers, and frontline workers. We look forward to the days when we can, again, have parents in school joining us in celebrations, serving as our Kindergarten mystery readers, and collaborating with teachers on special classroom activities.



With Valentine's Day approaching, we wanted to let you know how we plan to celebrate this holiday in our classrooms, while keeping within the COVID-19 guidelines:

- Since Valentine's Day falls during our winter recess (February 13-21), some classes or grades may not be celebrating Valentine's Day in school, or may choose to have a small celebration in the classroom. Teachers will contact you with more information.
- **NO food and NO candy** from home will be allowed in school.
- If you choose to send in Valentines for your child's class, please send in **paper Valentine's Day cards (no food, candy, or gift bags)** for all members of your child's class.
- All valentines (K-2) must be in school by **Monday, February 8th**, in order for them to sit untouched for a period of at least 48 hours before being distributed to classmates.
- For grades 3-5, all fully remote students, and students in cohort 2, should drop off valentines by **Friday, February 5th**, so they can sit untouched over the weekend. Cohort 1 students should bring in valentines by **Monday, February 8th**.
- In the [BCSD Reopening Plans](#), it indicates that children's books and other paper-based materials are not considered high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection. Preliminary research suggests that the virus can only survive on surfaces for 2-3 days and on paper/cardboard for 24 hours. We feel that the time allowed to let the Valentines sit untouched will keep us safe, while allowing our students to enjoy this special holiday.

We are allowing Valentine's Day celebrations to take place because we believe it will bring some sense of normalcy and joy to our students. It is a way to celebrate friendship, community, gratitude and generosity. **Additional store-bought candy, chocolates, or gift bags will not be allowed in school**, in order to limit the amount of sharing and touching of materials. We look forward to creating a safe and accessible space for all students to participate in this holiday of friendship and love. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support.

Amy Fishkin & PRES Faculty & Staff