

5/10/20

Dear Champlain families,

If you read the Superintendent Obeng's latest update email you will have already learned that our last day of (distance) school remains June 12th. We will continue to provide learning activities, adjusting as we learn more about how to do distance learning, and most importantly--connecting with students and families. Your Champlain teaching team has been problem solving some of the challenges that this end of year holds.

Our excellent fifth grade team met this week to discuss how Champlain will create a fly-up ceremony for our soon-to-be sixth graders. We talked about ways to make it as special as it can be. We are meeting again this week, and if you have ideas please be in touch with your classroom teacher.

A district level team met this week to talk about setting the environment for when school reopens, and how we get students from their current grade level to their next one. This is a vital conversation and will keep in mind the social emotional needs that students will have been challenged with on top of academics. We have learned that part of our future curriculum will include instructions on functioning in a distant/digital classroom, so that if we find ourselves in this mess again we will be more prepared.

This coming week we will begin to create plans for:

- *summer learning opportunities
- *students entering the building to collect items
- *library book and device returns
- *report cards for the third trimester

Throughout the whole craziness of distance learning your teachers have noticed how flexible our students have been. This generation of learners has developed a skill that we couldn't have taught in the classroom, and through all the Google Meets and hangs we continue to be inspired by the smiles, sharing, and joy that your children bring to us each day. We felt very appreciated this week--thank you for thinking of us.

My mother, Mary, never lost the opportunity to teach me a lesson. She patched up all of my wounds, and showed patience for me even when I didn't deserve it. My mother worked hard her whole life, and modeled the idea that: hard work pays off. With everything that I do I continue to try to make her proud. Mary never had to do distance learning for my sister and I. I am sure that she would have done an amazing job. To all of the moms reading this though, I thank you for all that you are doing for your children. We want you to watch us crash on our bikes, get frustrated

with math, make a huge mess, and hug us to make it all better. We love you for it. You are doing an amazing job.

Happy Mother's Day.

Love and respect, Joe

Here is a [social story](#) to share with children when the time comes to get back to school.

[The 33rd Annual Children's Art Exhibit](#). Please take a look for some amazing student work. Ms. Sammut and I are very proud of all of our artists.

You may need to copy and paste the links in a new tab. Either way I will post them on The Champlain Community the Facebook page.