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## UPDATE TO PARENTS 5/15/20

Dear Families,

It is finally clear that spring has arrived with the warm weather that we have been waiting for. The change in routine of being home and learning remotely has provided time: time to notice the leaves and flowers budding and the grass growing greener, time to reflect on needs versus wants, and time to get grounded in the present moment. I find it is important to stop and be mindful of all that is around me and appreciate the things that I may miss.

I've had the opportunity to hear from families and they share various levels of stress, whether it's worrying about the health or loss of a loved one, concern for financial security, or the stress of balancing full-time teaching, full-time parenting, and full-time employment. I am in constant communication with our staff members who are also managing through those same struggles and want to do what is best for each and every student and family that they work with.

I want to provide a clear message that your well-being and your child's well-being must be prioritized at this time. There may be days where school does not take precedent and I want to assure you that while learning is important, so is the mental and emotional health of your family in this pandemic. I do ask that you communicate directly with your teachers and related service providers if you will not be logging in or participating in treatment for the day, so they utilize their time in the best possible manner. I also encourage you to look at learning activities online that may supplement what is being provided by Green Chimneys if that is something that would benefit your child. I have no doubt that there is alternate learning being done such as assisting with household chores, practice with taking turns, and caring for those we love.

Lastly, I want to assure you that when school resumes as normal, we will continue to work to meet your child where they are at, and support them to get where they need to be. Meanwhile, we want you to know we are here to connect and serve our students and families during these unprecedented times. If your family is finding that your child is experiencing challenges or needs support due to this disruption, please don't hesitate to contact me or any Green Chimneys staff member.

Jerry Newell  
Green Chimneys School Principal