



Tamarack Waldorf School

Dear Tamarack Waldorf School Community,

How quickly our lives have changed in the course of two weeks. My hope is that you are all doing well and have begun to find some comfort in the new daily rhythms we find ourselves in. I do however understand that each family has its own unique set of circumstances to navigate as we move through this pandemic. Please know that the faculty, the board and leadership team are all here to support you, so please reach out to any of us as needed.

As you know, the COVID-19 situation is continually unfolding. On March 18th, Governor Evers extended the closure of all Wisconsin public and private school indefinitely. This order will last through the end of the public health emergency declared by the Governor on March 12th, or until a superseding order is issued. Tamarack must follow this order to keep the school building closed until further notice. However, this order does not eliminate our delivering of Waldorf curriculum to our students through distance learning during the closure.

Last week's distance learning packet pick up day showed the support and determination our families have in wanting their student's Waldorf education to continue even under these unprecedented conditions. I ended last week with such appreciation for the work and love the teachers put into the distance learning plans and felt such warmth in knowing all families were able to collect these materials for their students.

Monday, March 23rd marked the start of our distance learning program that has been put in place by our class teachers and specialists. All students should all be engaging in the work and experiences that were developed for their class. I have heard many appreciative comments as families have begun to explore this work. But I also understand how some families could feel overwhelmed. Please know that the lessons teachers have provided are offered in a way to nurture the soul of your student and allow for a sense of routine and connection to the classroom. I know that the teachers are committed to connecting with each family individually and collectively, and it's our hope that this will help relieve any burden you may feel in helping your student with their daily work.

Our school spring break is set to take place the week of April 6th and the board, leadership team and faculty agree that this time off will be honored. We suggest that students take the time during the break to rest, get outside, enjoy family time, and come back refreshed and ready to continue with the third week of distance learning on Monday, April 13th. This time off will also give teachers a bit of rest and allow for the needed time to prepare the next set of distance learning packets that will go out to begin on April 20th. One of most heartening parts of the last few days has been the number of emails I have received full of concern and worry for the faculty and staff here at the school, especially

our part-time staff. It was wonderful to see how quickly your thoughts turned to them as we all face this situation together. To answer the concern, Tamarack Waldorf School is committed to paying all our employees their regular pay for as long as we possibly can, as they are the lifeblood of the school. Any financial support you can offer to Tamarack during this closure will be fully appreciated.

This morning the faculty and I gathered in a zoom call to check in and share how things are going from our remote locations. Everyone shared that even in these unusual circumstances, the ability to connect with students and families brings warmth and joy allowing for a deepening and strengthening of class and school community.

Wishing you all good health and comfort of family,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lora Poulos". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "L" and "P" being notably large and stylized.

Lora Poulos
Administrative Director