



May 19, 2020

Dear Families,

By now you should have participated in your spring parent-teacher conferences. As both a parent and an educator, I want to express my huge and heartfelt appreciation to our incredible teachers for their tireless efforts in preparing for and leading these conferences, all the while modifying their lessons and teaching in new and challenging ways. Of the many things I love about Bank Street, the care and attention that our faculty give to knowing each child well, as human beings and as learners, is at the top of the list. We are all stretched and stressed during this COVID crisis, and yet our teachers once again rose to the occasion in a profound way.

Thanks also to the 130 of you who attended the Town Hall meeting on Thursday evening and the 110 who attended on Friday afternoon. At these gatherings, Shael, Doug, Laura, Trustee Sandra Pinnavaia, and I shared the latest thinking about plans for reopening Children's Programs for the 2020-2021 school year, and we answered a number of questions from the audience. For those who were unable to attend, recordings of these events can be accessed via the [Parent Portal](#), and you can also listen to a follow-up conversation, where we addressed additional questions from the community, via the weekly [Monday Memo Podcast](#).

One of the questions that emerged in the Town Halls pertained to the [Key Dates for 2020-2021](#). In this document, which is subject to change based on the ongoing impact of COVID, you will note that the first day of school is slated for Wednesday, September 9, right after Labor Day. We also recognize that in a community devoted to equity and inclusion, the calendar does indicate days off for certain, but not all, religious traditions. Like other independent schools in New York City, we continue to evaluate how to maximize the school year in terms of teaching and

learning while also being mindful of the vast diversity within our community. To this end, you will notice that other major religious celebrations will be noted on the SFC Parent Calendar next year.

In addition, here are some highlights and happenings for the week ahead:

- This week's [Bank Street Connects](#), on Tuesday, May 19 from 4:30-5:30 PM, features Bank Street alumni parent Keith Hickman from the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP), an organization with which the School for Children has partnered since last summer. In this session, Keith will provide a brief overview of restorative practices and the use of effective questions to have a restorative dialogue when conflict arises among family members. These questions can be used one-to-one, in small group conversations, and in formal conference settings. The aim is the same, which is to focus on the behavior, not the person, have respect for all involved, find solutions, understand harm causes, and help family members repair that harm.
- Come by with or without your kids for [Jed's Virtual Lobby Duty](#) on Thursday morning from 8:15-9 AM. This week we will be doing fun virtual puzzles!
- As a reminder, the final Child Development meeting for the school year is this Thursday at 10 AM, and will feature psychologist Dr. Adelia Moore, who also presented at last week's Bank Street Connects. Additional information on the meeting can be found [here](#) and a recording from last week's presentation is also available [here](#).
- There will be no school on Monday, May 25 in honor of Memorial Day.

As we amble toward the end of the school year, please know that we remain as committed as ever to ending on a positive note, albeit while physically apart. Thank you for your partnership during these final few weeks.

Missing you--

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jed."

Jed Lippard  
Head of School

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