



# HERONFIELD ACADEMY

February 23, 2021

Dear Heronfield Families,

One of my favorite moments each week actually occurs twice each week. On Tuesday mornings, we gather for our Community Meeting, and Wednesdays bring Sanctuary. While both occur through Zoom these days, it is wonderful to see our whole student body and faculty all together as we tell and hear stories, celebrate one another, and learn a little bit more about the world that we all live in.

Community Meetings are a bit lighter, by design, providing time to talk about campus events, to tell of our life experiences, and to connect over topics of shared interest. Most teachers have presented at a Community Meeting this year, with topics ranging from Ms. Berton guiding her dog through an illness to Ms. Slavitz' experience with Teach for America. On occasion, a faculty member will suggest a relative or friend whose story might be meaningful: Kirsten Johnson's brother Erik joined us from Minnesota, where he is a cartoonist and graphic designer, and just this morning we welcomed Kari Schmitz' brother Casey, a fashion designer based in Paris, who talked of the challenges of his teenage years and his work as the creative director of a fashion house that leads with kindness and empathy.

Our Wednesday Sanctuary sessions have a different flavor and rhythm. Rob Thomas begins by playing a song that often captures the mood of the moment, and Ron King leads us all in greeting one another and in reciting the school prayer. Sanctuary speakers come from our own faculty, our Board of Trustees, and the wider community, and each one encourages us to consider new perspectives and ideas. We have welcomed leaders and speakers from a number of different religions, realizing how each differs in its practices and yet how they all center on key values of respect, kindness, and compassion. Our faculty speakers share from their own experiences, often weaving a reading with their own history to help us consider a greater lesson. Tomorrow we will be joined by Flo Magdalena, grandmother of one of our seventh grade students; she will share her work as a spiritual healer and help us explore the connection of mind, body, and spirit.

In the coming weeks, we will begin letting you know of upcoming speakers for Community and Sanctuary meetings, and I hope that you will ask your children about these sessions and the messages they take away from them. I hope I can seek your understanding in a related topic: from time to time, some parents have asked to join these sessions via Zoom, and we hope that these gatherings that begin our school day might remain a time for our students and teachers, a space for young people to consider how what they hear relates to what they believe and feel is important in the world. We equally, hope, though, that these sessions will encourage interesting and thoughtful conversations at home.

We close each Sanctuary with the call '*Let us go forth*' and the united response '*To let our light shine!*' These meetings are indeed among the many shining lights at Heronfield.

Warmly, John

We had a few items left after our skating party last night. Do these belong to your child?



### **SPIRIT WEEK**

Keep the spirit going...

**Wednesday** - Black. Pajama Day

**Thursday** - Green. Clash Day

**Friday** - Blue. Heronfield Spirit Day-wear that HA gear!

### **GAME TIME, AND MORE!**

Mr. Jordan will continue to host Game Time after school from 2:15 to 3:15 on most Thursdays and Fridays through mid-April. In addition to the activities in the Field House, Mrs. Clark will also be offering a variety of outdoor options, weather-permitting. This might include snow shelter construction, campus walks, and possibly fire building. Any students who would like to join, should bring snow pants, a warm jacket, hat, gloves and winter boots.

### **COMING SOON: *As You Like It* PREMIERE**

The seventh grade production of *As You Like It* is being presented as a full-length movie this year. All of the scenes were filmed in December, and the editing is almost complete. Students in all grades will enjoy a premiere screening during the early afternoon of Thursday, March 4.

### **From the Development Office**

We are very grateful to those who have volunteered, sponsored and donated to our Spring Fundraiser Event. Your support is greatly appreciated! We are actively collecting all donations now and hoping that everything will arrive into the front office by the start of March break (Friday, March 5). If you have any questions regarding volunteering, donations or sponsorships, please reach out to your solicitation volunteers from your child's grade. Additionally, you may contact either Jennifer Gray, chair of the event, at [jgray@marketstreettalent.com](mailto:jgray@marketstreettalent.com) or to Kerri Singh at [ksingh@heronfield.org](mailto:ksingh@heronfield.org).

### **Important Dates:**

Thurs, Feb. 25: Game Time 2:15-3:15pm

Fri, Feb. 26: Game Time 2:15-3:15pm