



HERONFIELD ACADEMY

January 26, 2021

Dear Heronfield Families,

I'm still thinking about the stirring appearance of National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman at last week's inauguration ceremony in Washington. Majestic in her yellow coat and red headband, Gorman became just the country's sixth inaugural poet as she read her original piece "The Hill We Climb". If you haven't seen her performance, or are keen to revisit it, just click this [link](#).

What really stands out, though, isn't what we saw on Wednesday, but rather all that we didn't see, as recounted in this *New York Times* [article](#) and shared in this [interview](#) with Anderson Cooper. As an educator, I appreciate how so many elements came together in this moment: a parent who supported her child and helped her grow; teachers who nurtured a student's love of words and their power, but who also taught her so many things about history, people, and values that she would one day draw upon. Gorman's poem includes echoes of so many who came before, whose words and cadences influenced her work. In her younger years, though challenged by a speech impediment, Gorman built her confidence in public speaking and presentation. She knew the power of reaching out to mentors and then made great use of their advice. Early drafts of the poem showed promise, yet she continued to revise it as new ideas, new messages, and new moments came forward. And finally, she knew how important it was to rehearse and practice until she had it just right.

While great education occurs at all types of schools, it's notable that Amanda Gorman attended an independent school in Southern California. While Santa Monica and Hampton Falls are a continent apart, I can imagine that many of the elements that added up to her moment last Wednesday have their roots in her schooling years, where the right mix of teachers, classes, and experiences helped her grow her mind, her confidence, her spirit. As we walk the halls of our own campus, we see much of the same occur for our own students as they build positive habits, absorb and evaluate new ideas, and develop ways to share what they know. They explore creativity, test new thoughts and build certainty in their skills and their processes.

Our middle school students, each one of them, are works in progress, and it is a joy to see them grow and to encourage them as they continually become new versions of themselves.

If I recall, one of the former presidents noted that Amanda Gorman “more than met the moment” with her poem last Wednesday. It is a rather simple bit of praise, but isn’t it in the end what we all want to be able to do: to meet the challenges, the opportunities, the moments when they come? We won’t entirely know what our students will need and when, but it’s something to consider how the right experiences will add up at just the right time.

Fondly,
John

Admissions Department Update

The Admissions Office would like to remind families that it is time to apply, or re-apply, for financial aid consideration for the academic year 2021-22.

The deadline is January 30, 2021!

To be considered for Financial Aid, please submit a Financial Aid Application at SSS www.solutionsbysss.com. **Along with requested documents:** Parents’ Financial Statement (PFS), a copy of your 2020 W2 and Federal Income Tax Return (IRS 1040), and any additional material. Our school code is 4572.

If you have any questions, please contact Kari Schmitz at kschmitz@heronfield.org, or 603-777-1336.

“State of the School” Webinar

Please mark your calendars and make plans to join Head of School John Turner for an online “State of the School” presentation at 7:00pm on Thursday, February 4. Mr. Turner will both share perspectives on the current school year and provide insight as the community plans for 2021-2022.

Registration information will be provided soon.

Important Dates:

Thurs, Feb. 4: State of the School Webinar 7:00pm

Mon, Feb. 15: **NO SCHOOL** - President’s Day