



HERONFIELD ACADEMY

March 2, 2021

Dear Heronfield Families,

Do you remember the days of watching *Sesame Street* and learning at the very end of the episode that it was 'brought to you by the letters O and T, and by the number 7'? Sometimes I think the days at Heronfield are powered in their own unique ways also, not so much by letters and numbers but by more abstract qualities like *kindness*, *curiosity*, and *determination*. While these are on display every day, a few other concepts especially come to one's mind this week as we anticipate the chance to see the seventh grade's (fall!) production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*.

Early in the year, English and drama teacher Ron King recognized that a traditional stage production was out of the question, and *flexibility*, *collaboration* and *creativity* all came to the forefront as he began shifting his plans toward filming a movie version instead. TEA teacher Jeff Demers and music teacher Rob Thomas soon became involved, and they were joined by my daughter, Graley, who is both an aspiring filmmaker and a college student on a gap year. Throughout the fall, Mr. King worked with the students as they developed their parts and learned lines, working out the staging and blocking of each scene. Costumes soon followed, with matching masks designed for each character. As the colder months set in, an ambitious schedule emerged, with most of the filming in a busy two week stretch just before winter break. A big early snowfall added beauty to several outdoor scenes, but snow is quite cold and wind even colder - and some days the filming simply moved indoors through the magic of green screens and video editing. All in all, nearly every seventh grade student was featured in the production, and many gave up their free time to hold boom microphones and adjust lighting stands while their classmates acted. What the pandemic took from them in a stage production, it provided in equal measure as they found themselves in the middle of their very own movie set!

In the last couple months, Mr. Demers and Graley have teamed up to edit all of the many scenes into a feature-length film, and they've made ready use of music developed and recorded by Mr. Thomas' music production club. The students, faculty, and staff will be treated to a premiere screening on Thursday afternoon in the Field House, and we'll be sure to soon share a link for those who might like to see it online. Hooray for our seventh grade and their experience! And a cheer for the many adults who brought this special project forward for them! I'm sure we'll see all of their names in the credits, and we should remember to give a special nod to *flexibility*, *creativity*, and *collaboration* as well.

Here's to a good finish to the week, and a wonderful Spring Break to all!

Warmly, John

Travel During Spring Break

Just a reminder that guidelines for travel outside New England remain the same in the state of New Hampshire as over winter break. While a 14-day quarantine remains in place for anyone who travels outside of the New England region (defined as ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, and CT), the state has added the provision that a person may 'test out' of the remainder of the quarantine "*with a negative SARS-CoV-2 test on day 7 (must be a molecular test to detect active infection, such as a PCR test)*". Please keep in mind that the test must be taken on **Day 7** and that it may take a few days to receive the results and for the student to thereby be cleared to attend school in person.

Music Department

Due to the Accepted Students Reception, there will be **NO House Band** practice on Wednesday, March 3.

End of Year Dates

An end of year calendar of important dates is attached.

Important Dates:

Thurs, March 4: Game Time 2:15-3:15pm

Fri, March 5: Game Time 2:15-3:15pm

Sat, March 6-Sun, March 21: Spring Break

Mon, March 22: School resumes back on campus