

Dear Families,

I hope this finds you well! It's hard to believe that it has been over a month since we were teaching your children in a physical classroom. We miss your children very much. I am so happy that I got to visit the front of your homes this week and wave at some of you through a window! For those I didn't get to see, thank you so much for sending pictures of your children. **Being able to connect with all of you, in the midst of everything going on, was the highlight of my week.**

If you missed the zoom lessons last week, I posted a link. I have never recorded myself doing a lesson before, and was extremely nervous! I powered through because I want to do everything in my power to make learning equitable. I know that all of us are dealing with different stresses and demands, and want to do everything in my power to make things feel a bit more manageable! I will work to overcome my discomfort and post lessons earlier for those of you who are unable to attend zoom lessons.

We will be emailing you a link to sign up for a Bedtime Story slot. This is optional! If you choose to host, your child picks the book to share. Your child or someone from your family may read the book, or you can ask me to read it. I think these stories are a nice way to help our children feel connected. For some, it might make this new way of life harder. I know that both of my girls have mixed feelings about engaging with their class on zoom. Although they are happy to see their teachers and friends, it reminds them of how much they miss their school and everyone in it, and I see a major change in their personalities for a couple of hours after sometimes. **I want to encourage you to do whatever is best for your child and family at this time.**

I have attached a survey and am hoping that you can take a few minutes to fill it out. You do not have to answer all of the questions, but I wanted to create a quick way for me to see if there are additional ways I can support your student.

We were brainstorming other ways to help our children feel connected with their peers, and are offering a weekly pen pal program. If you would like to participate, your child will be matched with a different member from the class each week. They will write each other a letter or draw a picture for their classmate. We also have families who are willing to donate postage. I will make sure it gets to you if you indicate on the survey that it would be helpful.

I hope that you have a wonderful week!

Melissa Spiegelman, M.A.Ed.
Nationally Certified STEM Educator

Shared with permission from Melissa Spiegelman, MA, Ed by the DMH-UCLA Prevention Center of Excellence