

Dear Friends School community,

I am very sad to share that the Plant Sale Committee and School Committee have decided that we will not hold the Plant Sale in any form this year. The Plant Sale Committee worked night and day to find some way of adapting the sale in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, aware of the heavy impact this will have on our students and community for whom the sale is such an important event. For the many reasons shared below, the only responsible action is to focus on reducing the most significant financial loss that our school has ever faced, and also mitigating the impact on our valued growers.

The challenges that led to the decision to cancel the Plant Sale include:

- We cannot ask any of our volunteers or shoppers to risk their health
- The State Fairgrounds are closed for all events through May
- The idea of an alternative curbside sale created insurmountable safety, logistical and financial risk factors, especially with the likelihood of continued social distancing or shelter-in-place
- Our growers needed to be notified immediately to mitigate losses

Our school was founded on and is sustained by parents, caregivers, dedicated staff and faculty, and community volunteers who give of themselves in time, talent and treasure to keep our school's mission relevant and accessible. The 2020 Plant Sale was projected to raise \$450,000 to provide tuition assistance and support our progressive education programs for all FSMN families. This financial loss is especially significant now, at a time when more families may need financial assistance.



At this unprecedented time, our school is in need of extraordinary financial support. If you are in a position to do so, [please consider a special donation](#) now, and reach out to your families and networks for support. The world needs the type of hope, skill, understanding and creativity that our school instills in our future world-changers.

Thank you for your ongoing support. By working together, we are confident that our school community will survive and thrive through this

difficult time. We know that many families and businesses have been hurt by this pandemic, and we are so sorry that the plant sale cannot offer the ray of hope we could all use at this time. We look forward to coming back together in full bloom at next year's Friends School Plant Sale.

In partnership,

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