

Dear families,

In line with the Governor's proclamation today, and with our own sense of responsibility and care for the community, we are officially going to implement our Distance Learning plan beginning after Spring Break (Tuesday, April 7) through at least May 4. This Friday you will receive an overview of how our distance learning program will work.

Thanks to our many teachers and admin who have been making home deliveries (and relishing in the brief connection with students), we are hoping families are set up for distance learning. If there is hardware you still need, please email Shane at [shanez@fsmn.org](mailto:shanez@fsmn.org).

As most students are already engaging in more online activity than normal, we would ask your help in supervising and guiding them. We do not have the means to monitor their activity remotely, so we rely on you to make sure they are appropriately interacting with each other and the online world. On Friday we will include the tech policy that students have signed on to.

As promised, our team has assembled and filtered through some resources (thank you Hilary!) if you need them. It is not an exhaustive list, and there are more ideas for activities and organizations [in this document](#). The resources listed at the bottom of this email are also on our [website \(it is the first blog post\)](#).

I fancy myself a good writer, but I keep being moved by others who manage to capture the challenge, fear and beauty of this time. Christine Salomon's letter that we included in the plant sale announcement spoke for all of us, and the poem I'd hoped was going to bubble out of me instead landed in my inbox. The resources we promised are shared below, but first I want to leave you with "Today, When I Could Do Nothing" by Jane Hirshfield from the Shelter-in-Place already happening in California.

Today, when I could do nothing,  
I saved an ant.

It must have come in with the morning paper,  
still being delivered  
to those who shelter in place.

A morning paper is still an essential service.  
I am not an essential service.  
I have coffee and books,  
time,  
a garden,  
silence enough to fill cisterns.

It must have first walked  
the morning paper,  
as if loosened ink  
taking the shape of an ant.

Then across the laptop computer — warm —  
then onto the back of a cushion.

Small black ant, alone,  
crossing a navy cushion,  
moving steadily because that is what it could do.

Set outside in the sun,  
it could not have found again its nest.  
What then did I save?

It did not move as if it was frightened,  
even while walking my hand,  
which moved it through swiftness and air.

Ant, alone, without companions,  
whose ant-heart I could not fathom—  
how is your life, I wanted to ask.

I lifted it, took it outside. This first day when I could do nothing,  
contribute nothing  
beyond staying distant from my own kind,  
I did this.

May we continue to find inspiration and comfort, big and small, and from that  
place support our children and each other.

Rick Juliusson  
Head of School

See Blog Post *COVID-19 Most Updated Information* for the  
list of resources that were included in this email.