



# Shalom School

SACRAMENTO'S JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

April 21, 2020

Dear Shalom School Community,

I hope this finds you healthy and that you had a peaceful and meaningful Passover. I continue to be so moved by the many expressions of gratitude and positive feedback we have received from our families and students. I also continue to be so proud of and grateful to our teachers for their incredible work and leadership. They have come back from break ready to resume distance learning with tremendous enthusiasm and energy. Many of you have noticed our increasing focus on synchronous learning and the use of Zoom and other technologies to create real-time instruction, enrichment, and connection. We will continue to cultivate opportunities for students and families to connect to our community and each other, and we hope you will provide additional feedback through our regular surveys.

As we continue on with distance learning, I know many of you are yearning for a sense of when things might return to something resembling 'normalcy,' and I think we are all very anxious about how uncertain the future still seems to be. We continue to monitor communications and information from the governor, local authorities, and health experts.

Here is our current response based on that information:

- It is clear that for now, the safest course is to continue to keep our campus closed.
- We are aware that Governor Newsom has shared his sense that public schools are unlikely to open before the scheduled end of the school year, and it may well be that we, too, are unable to reopen before mid-June. However, we do have more flexibility in scheduling and facilities than many public schools, and we continue to explore as many contingency plans as we can.
- Should it become possible to manage small gatherings in a safe manner prior to the end of the scheduled school year, we would want to explore any option that would allow us to reopen our campus, even if only in limited ways.
- We will continue to gather information and make and share decisions based on the safety and well-being of our students and staff, and we will let you know as soon as we have additional news to share.

We are working hard to manage the many financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on our school. We have applied for a small business loan through the CARES act and are hopeful about receiving it. We are also very, very grateful to a generous anonymous donor who has made a wonderful gift of \$50,000. The donor shared that our school's mission and the service we provide to families is so vital to our community that they wanted to support our ability to continue operations, maintain staff, and be able to reopen as soon and as seamlessly as possible. While we don't know what the full financial implications will be in the long term for Shalom School, we remain committed and optimistic. We also hope that this lead gift, along with several other generous gifts that have been made specifically to help support our school through this difficult time, will help motivate others who are in a position to help to give generously. We anticipate that we will have greater need than ever as we absorb the financial losses due to the pandemic, find ourselves in need of additional funds for tuition assistance, and see some of our regular sources of fundraising strained. If you are in a position to support our School, please

know that your gift means more than ever in this challenging time.

I wish that I could offer you more specificity and certainty about how and when we will be able to return to campus. For now, even though we don't have those answers, I can promise you that we are all working as hard as we can to plan for the future, to keep our students learning and connected to their teachers and to one another, and to maintain and nurture our community.

As always, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me with any questions or concerns.

L'shalom,

Nancy

[www.shalomschool.org](http://www.shalomschool.org)

