Monday, March 30 Letter from Principal Kim Kubisch

Dear Families,

It is my sincere hope that you are all doing well and staying healthy during this unique and challenging time. I am so grateful for all of your efforts to support remote learning for your children recently. It has been amazing to see the photos and hear about connections you have supported with your child’s teachers. Know that I will reach out to you via Aspen email every Monday. You can also check the District website at www.npsk.org to find District communications and updates. Under Parents and Students on the District page, there is a drop down menu of resources for remote learning. In addition, when you are on the District website, you can click on schools, Nantucket Elementary School, for further NES specific information. We also regularly update our NES Facebook page with fun pictures and videos of students and staff!

We will be moving from supplemental and optional schoolwork to required remote teaching and learning. This transition is being worked on and planned this week for roll out next week. The packets we provided on 3/17 were to assist you in this time from 3/17 - 4/3/20. In addition, beginning last week and into this week our teachers are reaching out to all families to connect kids and staff, share books, ideas, morning meetings, snacks, and other ideas for your students. Teachers and staff during this time have also been doing professional development to learn how to use technology and plan together for what teaching will look like going forward. You may be getting multiple calls and emails asking you for information. This is necessary to help inform our planning for future work. Patience and tolerance is certainly appreciated.

We value your role as your child’s first teacher. In this time, you have really been put on the spot to do this work in an additional way without having your children in school. We are all trying to be respectful of this learning curve for you and for ourselves. We know that families may want a schedule for each day and other families may want lists of ideas to schedule themselves for their families. We are building a balance of both. We have a responsibility to teach curriculum and we are being guided by the Commissioner of Education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in regards to remote teaching. Soon enough, you will have a regular schedule of meetings to connect with teachers directly and Padlets where there will be information that you can plan to do at any point during the day.

I thank you again in advance for your patience and understanding as we all navigate through this history making time. Know that we recognize so many of you are trying to raise other children, potentially working from home, possibly trying to figure out how to get through this time with people being laid off from jobs, and knowing some folks only have one device or no devices in the home. I trust that you know we are doing our best, and I know you are too. We will get through this together with the best of intentions by all of us, patience by all of us, understanding and cooperation by all of us.

We learn the best at NES because of our amazing staff, our wonderful families, and those beautiful, smart children who we are all missing so much!! Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at kubischk@npsk.org. Take continued good care of yourselves and your children!

Warmly,

Kim Kubisch