Dear HWE Families,

As we complete our third week of virtual classroom instruction and move into Spring Break, I want to thank you for partnering with us through this unknown and difficult time. Knowing that we are not going to be physically together in school is heartbreaking and difficult to imagine. There are still many questions in the air yet with processes and such, but we do know that at least we get to be together virtually for the rest of the school year! I use the phrase "get to" because as I shared in January, there are some very subtle differences in how we use language and saying "get to" versus "have to," makes things feel a bit more like a gift than something forced upon us. I have had to practice this type of wording quite a bit over these last week as things change rapidly and we have to take precautions that we may not want to, such as staying at home and avoiding physical connection with people that we love. I have had to tell myself and my kids that we get to help keep the world safe by staying home and we get to be intentional with our communication by planning times to FaceTime or Zoom with family and friends that we haven't seen for some time. These are things that we don't always have the gift of doing when we jump into the busy lifestyle that we maintain typically. It's a troubling time to work through both cognitively and emotionally, but if we can maintain connections and be intentional in our language to support a positive thought process, we will get through this together!

Although our virtual classrooms are closed for the next week, we have a couple of fun activities that you can do with your kids over this vacation:

- Time Capsule activity
- Lift Someone's Spirits
- Reflective questioning/Journaling

When we return from break, Miss Bigi and I will be hosting Zoom lunch sessions for any kids that would like to virtually come and eat lunch with us. We will be sending more information with the links for the Zoom sessions the day before each session, but check out this flyer to put the date and time of your child's lunch on the calendar! After this first session, we will determine how to best continue these lunches. We will also be reading books on Monday and Wednesday, celebrating birthdays on Fridays, and have some special guests saying the HWE pledge daily in the HWE Google Classroom (join code: 23knbn3). We hope that you will check into these events each day/week as you are able.

We have been invited by the Novi Rotary to take part in the Feed the Need program for families that are seeking an avenue to receive support with daily food items this upcoming week. Additionally, there will continue to be food distributions from WLCSD on Monday, April 6, despite the vacation. If your family has developed a need over this closure, please reach out and let me know how we can help. If you are able, please complete our family check-in survey.

April 4, 2020
and we will do our best to respond within a day or 2. Please see this smore newsletter for further information on support services in WLCSD and throughout Oakland County.

Be safe and be well,

Patricia

IMPORTANT DATES*:

- April
  - 4-10 - Spring Break
  - 6 - WLCSD Food Distributions 1:45-3:00 p.m. (see smore newsletter above for more information)
  - 13 - Lunch with Miss Bigi and Mrs. Chinn (see flyer above), WLCSD Food Distributions 1:45-3:00 p.m.
  - 14 - PTA Meeting (held virtually at 7:00 p.m.), Lunch with Miss Bigi and Mrs. Chinn (see flyer above)
  - 15 - Lunch with Miss Bigi and Mrs. Chinn (see flyer above)
  - 20 - WLCSD Food Distributions 1:45-3:00 p.m.
  - 27 - WLCSD Food Distributions 1:45-3:00 p.m.
- May
  - 4 - WLCSD Food Distributions 1:45-3:00 p.m.
  - 5 - PTA Meeting (held virtually at 7:00 p.m.)
  - 11 - WLCSD Food Distributions 1:45-3:00 p.m.
  - 18 -WLCSD Food Distributions 1:45-3:00 p.m.
  - 25 - WLCSD Food Distributions 1:45-3:00 p.m., Memorial Day - No virtual school for all students
- June
  - 1 - WLCSD Food Distributions 1:45-3:00 p.m.
  - 2 - PTA Meeting (held virtually at 7:00 p.m.)
  - 8 - WLCSD Food Distributions 1:45-3:00 p.m.

* Please note that dates will be added as other "events" are scheduled.