March 15, 2020

Dear Keystone Community,

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 spread, our goal remains the same - honest, open, and transparent communication with every member of our community and the continued care of each Keystone student.  Please rest assured that each decision of the Keystone Administration and the Board of Directors is made with the best interest of our students and the entire community in mind.

Keystone’s Administration and Board of Directors met via conference call on Saturday, March 14th. The board voted to approve the initial Keystone school closure that was announced last Friday.

As of 4:00 PM on Sunday March 15, 2020, Governor Doug Ducey and State Superintendent Kathy Hoffman jointly announced the closure of all Arizona schools from Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, March 27, 2020.

The Keystone staff will meet on Monday, March 16th to discuss all scenarios to support our students and continue their learning during this closure. Your Guides will reach out to you by Tuesday to share information on how your children can carry on with their studies. We have been working diligently to create a plan for each level at Keystone.

The Keystone Administration and the Board of Directors will be meeting on Wednesday, March 18th to discuss the long term fiscal impact of the closure for Keystone and our families, the possibility of re-opening Keystone for child care as soon as possible for our working families pending approval from the State, and to determine best practices for the continued cleaning and disinfecting of our campus. We will also determine the best course of action for all upcoming Keystone events and gatherings, including the March community meeting, transition observations, class trips, and all after-school activities.  An updated communication to all families will follow with information on how we plan to move forward.

We would like to thank you for your support, words of encouragement, and your patience as we navigate these unchartered waters. Please know, we will continue to keep you informed  as changes arise. In a recent communication with the staff, I shared this quote and I feel it is appropriate for us all.

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in times of 'disaster,' I remember my mother’s words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in this world. - Mister Rogers

In Peace,

Laura Hertzler  
Head of School  
Keystone Montessori