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## VERY IMPORTANT: Wheeler's COVID-19 Update March 13

1 message

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**Allison Gaines Pell, Head of School** <wheelercommunications@wheelerschool.org>

Fri, Mar 13, 2020 at 3:12 PM

Reply-To: wheelercommunications@wheelerschool.org

To: "Laurie P. Flynn" <LaurieFlynn@wheelerschool.org>



March 13, 2020

Dear Wheeler Community,

We go off to Spring Break at a strange time, no doubt. Some have been asking if we are actively planning to close the school, and I wanted to be sure we are clear that we are proactively planning for two scenarios. One in which we return with some self-isolation and/or quarantine of community members after travel if applicable; one in which Wheeler is closed for a period of time and transitioning to online learning. As with schools nationwide, we are putting plans in place for that scenario, and communicating with you, our families, so that we — and you — are prepared.

Today we learned that Rhode Island will be closing all public schools next week as part of a mitigation effort. They are also asking for all Rhode Islanders to adhere to recommendations for social distancing and large gatherings. As of now, Wheeler will also follow that schedule and those [State recommendations](#), and all programs at Wheeler School will be canceled or postponed, including Vacation Camps. Per the RILL, athletics events will not take place and the spring sports season will be delayed. Of course, we will update you if we are required to extend that period of time.

We understand that we are all living with more uncertainty than usual which is challenging for us all, but please trust that we will be in communication with you with as much advanced notice as possible in the event of a building closure and transition to online learning. We do advise you to consider various scenarios for your family in the event of an extended closure. We hope that will not be the case, but we want everyone to consider it at this point as a real possibility. To that end, we are also in the process of adding resources to our [COVID -19 resources webpage](#) about activities at home to create routine and keep families calm and productive over the break.

As I said earlier this week, please take care of one another, your friends, neighbors, and the elderly. Eat well, sleep, wash your hands and try to get some fresh air and exercise.

Signing off, you know I love poetry, and here's a springtime favorite that seems particularly relevant today.

**Instructions about Not Giving Up** by Ada Limon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Gaines Pell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allison Gaines Pell  
Head of School

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