

Board's Message of Hope: April 6, 2020

Hello Everyone,

I would never have thought that in my lifetime, yet even in my children's and grandchildren's lifetimes, that I (we) would come face to face with such a serious health crisis in this wonderful country of ours. Events such as this, or Super Storm Sandy or past catastrophic events before that, weren't supposed to happen to "us." More and more these days I think of my parents and my grandmother and mother telling me how they protected themselves from the bombings in Sicily in shelters underground. **I know that this is an extreme comparison but the feeling of helplessness is the same.**

But then I think of my beautiful grandchildren and the happiness I feel when I can hug them and kiss them – constantly! We are fortunate in that they live around the corner from us so we have been able to see them everyday from the time this pandemic began. Seeing them and my children reminds me that **we must have hope**, for them, for my husband, for all of you in our Island Park community, and, of course, for our country.

I never thought that I would miss taking that hour drive to work everyday. Working from home has perks, of course. I can work in my pajamas! But I look forward to seeing my co-workers and getting more done there than can at my desk at home.

Thank goodness for my son and daughter who still live with us and who are also working from home. It's nice to have a full house. I'm proud of them - my son is diligent in his work and also provides us with laughs as he has a great sense of humor. We need to laugh a lot now! My daughter, who is a teacher, has been 'teaching' her students through the great technology in place, as have been all teachers in Island Park and I think most of the country. I can hear her sometimes in a 'Zoom' meeting or on audio with her students. They are happy to hear from her. She senses their frustration and tries her best to help them through it.

My other daughter, the mother of my grandchildren, is luckily still on maternity leave but fears the day she must return to work since she works in the Nassau County Department of Health and is an 'essential worker.' My son-in-law owns an auto body shop, which has been deemed an 'essential business' so he continues to work every day with many precautions in place. Yes, I worry about them, but **still, I have hope.**

I see **Hope** in the beautiful presentations posted on our Website by our teachers and administrators from Hegarty and Lincoln Orens Schools – and I thank them sincerely for that. I see **Hope** on FaceBook in the positive postings from my friends and family. I see **Hope** in my grandson's face when he recites the Pledge of Allegiance while having a 'Zoom' Circle Time with his teachers and classmates from Little Seashell School. **We must all have Hope.**

Spring is here and with it comes Hope. As Jack said in his message to you last week, the Passover and Easter holidays coming up share their messages of freedom and rebirth, respectively, and we must continue to look forward to better times when this crisis is over and done. Let us be grateful for our freedom and we will be 'reborn' as better and smarter people.

I can't tell you enough how much I look forward to seeing you all again in our schools, at our meetings, on our fields and to seeing and hearing the happy voices of the children playing in our playgrounds. Please continue to be cautious, healthy and safe, but always keep laughing, and **please, please don't give up Hope.**

Diana Caracciolo
Vice-President, Board of Education