

Friends and neighbors,

Today marks the beginning of our 8th week of distance learning and the days just seem to be blurring together. But whether you embrace the science fiction feeling of this surreal time and chronicle the days like Kirk in a Captain's Log or just relive each day over and over like Bill Murray in "Groundhog's Day," we all have one thing in common: we're ready to be done with this.

Now that the schools have officially been closed for the academic year we at least have some certainty in our new world where not much else is certain. We know that our teachers will continue to adapt and adjust and provide the best educational experience possible for our kids under difficult circumstances. We as parents have accepted increased responsibility in this partnership and stepped up to do what is necessary but, again, we're ready to be done with this.

But as we see the finish line and summer approaching, and cabin fever escalates to new heights, we need to remember how we got to this point and not let it slip away. We need to finish strong and not let our guard down. Our goal is to be able to provide some form of commencement experience to our transitioning and graduating students, but without lessened restrictions our plans will be just that - plans. The signs honoring graduates that have popped up all over Island Park are great, but it would be wonderful to get these kids back together one more time to honor their accomplishments - I think we owe them that.

We're really not sure what lies ahead for us once instruction is over next month, summer plans for everyone are up in the air. Hopefully, we'll have the ability to safely venture out and allow our kids to enjoy time with their friends in some way. Each bit of progress we make is a step toward the resumption of in-school instruction in September, which is a goal I'm sure we all share. Again, we have no certainty what the new "normal" will look like, but it has to be better than what we are experiencing now. Let's do our part and stay safe, keep our kids safe, and hope that by the time September rolls around, we are ready to start a new school year at Hegarty and Lincoln Orens.

Stay well,

Jack Vobis, President
Island Park Board of Education