

Message from Board Vice President, Diana Caracciolo 5-11-20

May 11, 2020

Hello again Everyone!

As I'm sure we are all doing, I have been trying to keep my thoughts positive. I really thought that another letter to you would not be necessary - that we would be back to "normal" and I would be seeing you all and able to deliver my greetings to you face-to-face.

But it's okay - we'll be okay – **we will continue to get through this - together**. I know this is difficult to believe when we hear and read of the sadness every day, especially when we learn of someone we know who is ill or worse, has left us. But we are fortunate in so many ways and have so much to be grateful for. Any feelings of anger or despair we feel about this situation are understandable; but the inconveniences we are experiencing are modest and, for the most part, we are able to handle them. We are safe; we are not starving; we have a warm place to live that is out of harm's way. Although we can't be with our extended family members and friends, we can call, Facetime and/or Zoom them to check on their health and well-being; they, too, can check on us. It is reassuring to know that love is reciprocal. Through this pandemic, we are connected to people around the world experiencing the same crisis and we are reminded of our common humanity.

I know your children miss their teachers and you should know that **our teachers miss their students!** They are working hard to be strong for them when they "meet" and "teach" them in new technological ways. I imagine it is not easy for them and I understand the difficult task parents are experiencing - you want your children to do well and it can be stressful at times – many times – but don't let it be. They'll be okay. We will make sure they are.

We are all going through similar life changes – **we are all in this together**. We must use this upheaval in our lives as a way to grow. We have to find purpose in it. I think we have all had time to reflect on our lives and become clearer about what is important and what is not. We realize we have taken some liberties for granted. After this passes, whenever that is, let's not forget how we felt during these times and let it guide us into the future.

We will continue to make progress – forge ahead. **We will be okay**, We will see each other soon. Let's think positive!

Diana Caracciolo, Vice President
Island Park Board of Education