

Superintendent's Message 5-12-20

May 12, 2020

Dear Members of the School Community:

Just as the number of cases and deaths from COVID-19 were on a steady decline and something for us to celebrate in New York State, the media began reporting on cases of children suffering with pediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome (PIMS). Though the chances of a child becoming infected with this potential link to the virus is still extremely rare, it adds measurably to our concerns for our children and their well-being. It is encouraging to know the Rockefeller University Genomics Resource Center is conducting research focused on understanding what PIMS is and how we can prevent children from getting sick. I remain optimistic the mystery surrounding this will be solved soon.

As parents and teachers, we try to learn as much as we can to keep the children we love safe, healthy, and happy. I remember that when my son first started walking, he would make a beeline to the staircase in the living room. This climb to the top was something he could see himself accomplishing. On one of his many attempts, my grandmother (who was about eighty-eight years old at the time) picked him up and sat him in the playpen. He let out a bellowing cry of disappointment. Before I could even think of rescuing him, she turned to me and said, "Better he cries than you cry." I got the message. If he fell down the flight of stairs I, would be crying the loudest. In that moment my grandmother taught me there are times parents must take precautionary measures, find alternatives, set boundaries, or say "No." We have a responsibility to anticipate that which is foreseeable and do our best to keep our children safe.

Children fill our lives and challenge us to live new experiences every day that we are with them. Because of this, we miss them terribly when they are not around. Such is the case now as I walk into Hegarty School to deliver a package or I walk into Lincoln Orens to hang a cafeteria Building Permit. The children are not here and they are missed; but, the Board of Education, administrators and I are always thinking about them, planning for their learning, and working to ensure a brighter future for them. More information regarding our plans for keeping children safe when we reopen schools will be forthcoming. In the meanwhile, however, visit the CDC for resources on how to:

- Take steps to protect children and others from getting sick;
- Keep children healthy (mind and body);
- Help children continue learning; and
- What to do if children have mild symptoms

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children.html>)

There is also a series of videos you may find helpful:

- [ASL Video Series: Tips to Keep Children Healthy While School is Out](#)
- [ASL Video Series: Answers to Questions from Children about COVID-19](#)

- [Essentials for Parenting Toddlers and Preschoolers](#)

A belated Happy Mother's Day to all our Moms and Grandmoms! Thank you for all you do to keep your children and grandchildren healthy, happy, and learning!!

With fondest regards,

Rosmarie T. Bovino, Ed.D.