

Letter from Trustee, Tara Byrne 5-19-20

I cannot believe that I am sitting here writing another letter to my community. When I wrote my last letter, I was hoping that things would be different by now. Looking forward to Memorial Day was what I've had on my mind for the last few weeks, it was my way of anticipating a happy ending, waiting at the LIRR parking lot to march in the parade, looking for my favorite T-Shirt I wear every year, and meeting my friends I connect with after the parade and making my way back home for a BBQ. I guess most importantly the enthusiasm attached to the whole day.

My world is still revolving around my dining room table as I continue working from home; as hard as I try, my daily routine still does not feel normal. Working with kids in the house, at any age is challenging. I have created a dedicated workspace where I have explained to my boys that they are not to touch anything, go on my laptop, or my most important request, do not change my music or complain about it. I have emphasized social distancing with them, let them know I understand the frustration they are feeling over not seeing their friends, practicing mindfulness, and encouraging healthy habits which for me is the hardest. Sleeping late and eating junk food have made their way into the Byrne Home, not proud of it, it's just kind of what happens the longer this goes on.

Over the last two months I tell my boys that this will all be over soon. The last time I told them that they looked at me with disbelief, and said I can't believe you still think that. That's the hardest part of all this, dealing with their emotions. I tell them instead of being negative do something that is constructive. I told Kieran to work out every day, start jogging so when you get back on the ice you will be ready and in great shape. J.J. was so disappointed that The Cystic Fibrosis Great Strides Walk was cancelled in June. I told him that he can still make a difference from home, and in true J.J. fashion he's all over it!

I know we are all facing similar issues, unprecedented hardships, concerns for our health and well-being, financial difficulties, fear and isolation amongst so many. We have to remember that we are all in this together, and we have to draw strength from one another. The Board of Education values our community, and will support you any way we can. I pray that my family and friends become stronger when we come out on the other side of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Stay safe, healthy and happy. And like the lyrics from my favorite song "Nothing left to do but Smile, Smile, Smile."

All The Best,
Tara Byrne