May 1, 2020

Dear Families,

Earlier today, Governor Cuomo announced that schools throughout New York State will remain closed through the end of the school year. So, with great sadness, I am writing to confirm that Saint Ann’s will not reopen our buildings this spring. We will complete the school year through distance learning, as I outlined in my note earlier this week.

I know that, even if expected, this is not the news any of us wanted to hear. Nothing can replace the joyful exuberance of closing out another year of Saint Ann’s with one another in person. We long to dance in the preschool big room, watch new plays spring to life in the theater, sing on the Red Stairs, and simply be together. Those dreams we now defer.

Nevertheless, in collaboration with our seniors, we are hard at work planning a new, virtual celebration for June 9th, one we hope befits the spirit of everything they have accomplished during their years at Saint Ann’s. The high school office will update families and faculty as the plans for virtual graduation are confirmed. We are also making plans for an in-person ceremony and celebration of the class of 2020 to follow in the fall.

This week we also surveyed families of younger students about your interest in an online version of our summer program. We did not have enough interest to merit running an online camp this summer, so anyone who registered for onsite camp will be refunded in the coming weeks. Paul Benney at summer@saintannsny.org is available to answer any questions you may have.

If your child needs to retrieve essential items from our buildings before the end of the year, the appropriate division offices will be in touch in the coming weeks to explain our procedures for that.

In spite of all this, I am unshaken in my belief that we remain a genuine community, capable of reinventing itself, committed to the idea even in this difficult moment that education is a celebration of life.

Love,

[Signature]

Vincent Tompkins
Head of School