



May 9, 2021

Dear families, friends, teachers, neighbors,

Spring has sprung! The cherry blossoms, daffodils and expanding rollout of COVID vaccinations have me more enthusiastic than usual about this season of new beginnings. There is light at the end of this pandemic tunnel.

As we start to emerge, I've been reflecting on the past 14 months. In a year (plus) filled with a *long* list of things we *couldn't* do, I find myself grateful for this school community and this PTA in particular—because it provided me, and many of us, opportunities for what we *could* do.

Thanks to the generosity of this community and the tremendous dedication of many parent volunteers,

- our **COVID Response Fund** helped make sure families struggling the most had food on their tables, access to the technology to ensure their kids had access to distance learning and emergency vision and dental care through our COVID Response Fund;
- we nearly **doubled financial support for our teachers**, making sure they had support in preparing their teach-from-home space, as well as refreshing classrooms as they returned to school;
- students participated in grade-specific **virtual field trips, assemblies and more than a dozen free hands-on virtual activities during our Spring Break-a-thon**, supplementing their regular distance learning;
- families could let loose and **create new memories** from the comfort of home through a Fabulous Fall Fundraiser Dance Party and part deux: a Valentine's Weekend Dance Party;
- we have installed two new **Little Free Libraries in the Chirilagua** neighborhood to provide easy access to Spanish language books for kids and families; and
- our advocacy helped ensure our family's voices were heard by the School Board as they planned, and continue to plan, for **healthy, safe return to school policies and practices**.

While we missed many of our traditional activities and events this school year, we also embraced the opportunity to be creative. We hope to carry forward some of the best ideas into the new year.

Volunteering for the PTA has been an absolutely bright spot in a tough year. I've met so many compassionate, caring, creative people to share this ride with and I am grateful for the new friendships I will carry forward. Please consider raising your hand for a role in our PTA in the new school year. In addition to finding your own bright spot, it's a great way to get out of chores sometimes ("sorry, I can't help with the dishes tonight, I have a PTA meeting").

To all parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, caregivers, nannies, mannies and neighbors who have supported our kiddos this year, thank you. It really does take a village—and we are so glad to be a part of this one.

With one final wish today to all the mama bears out there—Happy Mother's Day! You are absolutely amazing. Thanks for being you.

Warm regards,  
Kelly

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