

4-9-20

Dear Spaulding Families,

It is hard to believe it has been four weeks since we have been all together at Spaulding School. We have had some challenging times as we all adjust to distance learning, but there have been some bright spots in all of this. Our staff parade on Tuesday was a highlight for many staff members and we're hearing from families who were able to enjoy the parade that it was a happy part of their week as well. We had many photos and videos shared with us and are working on making a video to share with everyone.

**Spring Break:** The Board of Education voted on Tuesday night to maintain April break next week. We hope all families take some time to enjoy each others' company and spend time appreciating the little things in life with all that is going on in this world.

**Typical School Day:** Many families have shared the need to adjust their children's school day based on parent work schedules. As we have shared previously, families should develop a school schedule that works for your family. Our instructional coaches have put together a sample schedule that may help you map out your child's school day. This is just a suggestion - as we know family dynamics and needs vary greatly right now, with for some, evenings and weekend time being utilized for school. We've also shared that if the workload is more than you can comfortably navigate right now, focus on literacy and math.

[Suggested school day schedule](#)

**Interactive Time with Teachers:** Although we have been providing students with daily work there is no replacement for face to face time between teachers and students. This past week many of our classrooms have held interactive meetings to bring everyone together virtually. Our goal is when we return from vacation all Prek-2 Teachers will begin some interactive meetings and instruction. When we return on Monday, April 20th all families will be provided with directions for accessing live interactions between the teachers and students.

**Teacher Feedback to student work:** As our teachers are assigning tasks in Seesaw they are doing their best to provide students with feedback. Your child may receive a recorded voice message or a written comment. Teachers are trying to have this feedback be similar to what the child would get in the classroom.

Comments regarding fixes or trying something different are meant to provide your child with a means of noticing corrections or revisions needed to help with the learning process. It is not intended that every feedback leads to the assignment being resubmitted. It's okay to navigate the corrections with your child solely for them to learn from their mistakes. As we progress, teachers may need to limit their feedback to those assignments we designate as more indicative of a student acquiring the necessary knowledge/skill for the concept being taught.

**Mindfulness Corner:** We have two weeks behind us, and April break just around the corner. Congratulations families, staff and students! You sure have been working hard. We certainly hope you can spend the next week engaging in activities you enjoy, away from the computers, and hopefully out in the sunshine. Please take a look at our newsletter below.

*Mrs. Malanson & Dr. DeMichele*



**Mindfulness Activities:  
How to incorporate mindfulness activities at home**

We have two weeks behind us, and April break just around the corner. Congratulations families, staff and students! You sure have been working hard. We certainly hope you can spend the next week engaging in activities you enjoy, away from the computers, and hopefully out in the sunshine.

In our past January and February family newsletters, Mrs. Malanson created a Mindful Corner where she shared information on what mindfulness is, why it is important for students and families to practice, and how we are planning to incorporate a mindfulness practice here at Spaulding School. Although this plan has been put on hold due to the current circumstances, we still hope to grow our mindfulness community through providing activities, information and resources here on our newsletters, and through a google classroom that is currently in the works. Please stay tuned as we continue to develop this plan as we believe now, more than ever, incorporating a mindful practice at home is a tool that can get us through these uncertain times.

For now, we hope you can explore the links provided below and enjoy some of the activities provided. Mrs. Malanson created a mindfulness bingo you can either print at home or copy down on a blank piece of paper for you and your family to play. Think of a fun reward for when you get four in a row, or possibly fill the whole page! Maybe a family movie night with popcorn, or family sleepover in the living room. Get creative, have fun, and most importantly, we hope you can enjoy some mindful moments together, and some well-deserved downtime.

We always LOVE to hear from our families. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Malanson or Dr. DeMichele and share how your mindfulness activities are going at home.

[Mindfulness for your Child](#)

[Mindfulness Activities at Home](#)

[Mindfulness Bingo](#)

### Reminders:

- If your student is having technology problems with a school provided device, please use this [technology link](#) to make our technology department aware of the issue. This link is always available on the district website.
- Lunches/breakfasts will be provided during vacation week on the regular Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule. You don't need to sign up again if you have already done so. If you have not previously signed up and would like to, please use the following link and fill out a form for each of your children. [food sign-up link](#).
- Our Class of 2033 Kindergarten Screenings scheduled for April 9, 22, and 23 have been cancelled. We will be in contact with our incoming kindergarten families in the future with revised plans. Please continue to submit registration paperwork to Jamie Neilson in our district's Central Office. If you have any questions regarding registration please contact Jamie at [jneilson@suffield.org](mailto:jneilson@suffield.org)
- Our Continuity of Learning will resume on Monday, April 20th. Please stay safe during our April break.

We miss you all!



Sincerely  
Roxanne and Kris

