Wednesday, March 25, 2020

😊Wednesday Message from Susan Borst from my home office 😊

Hi ARK Parents,

Beginning today, we will continue Wednesday messages via email to all our families. We’d like to invite parents to visit the oakdale.church website for additional updates to COVID-19 virus, school closures, and operations for the remainder of the school year. When you hit the main page, look to the far right of the screen for the 3 horizonal lines, Click, and you will see a direct link to The Ark Children’s Center. Click on Stay Connected for COVID-19 Updates and operations information, Ideas and Resources for Parents, and weekly Sing & Celebrate Worship Videos.

Joanna will be posting on all class Shutterfly sites a direct link to this page so parents can reach this information directly from Shutterfly. Also, take an opportunity to familiarize yourself with our dynamic staffing team who so generously bless the ARK Community. Stay tuned… as more staff Bios will appear in the days ahead.

I’m sure all of you have heard from the Governor’s Press Conference today at 11 AM that MD State Schools will remain CLOSED until April 24th. We will comply with this mandate. State leaders will continue to collect data about COVID-19, its impact on the health and well-being of children and families and will re-evaluate at the end of this additional four-week closure. At this time, Maryland is committed to providing childcare for health and public service essential personnel. These critical caregivers should call 1-877-261-0060 or register at LOCATE.

**Other Announcements:**

1. FYI… Tax Filing Deadline has been extended to July 15th. Our Tax ID# is 52-2023785. Send request for 2019 tuition receipts to [arkoffice@oakdale.church](mailto:arkoffice@oakdale.church) and they will be emailed.
2. Outstanding March tuitions should be mailed to The Ark Children’s Center at 3425 Emory Church Road, Olney MD 20832.
3. Spring Clubs will not operate due to school closures. Spring Club Registration will be refunded to all participants via US Mail.
4. We are receiving and responding to emails to [arkoffice@oakdale.church](mailto:arkoffice@oakdale.church) and [sborst@oakdale.church](mailto:sborst@oakdale.church) so please feel free to reach out as needed. We are grateful to tech support who have been working very long hours to meet all the technology needs over the past two weeks.

I’d like to thank the staff for their efforts to stay connected to students and parents through Shutterfly Class Sites. You are awesome and I’ve so enjoyed your messages, video, and creative ways to reach your children! Our vision for these sites is to share a weekly message to students and to invite parents to connect activities they are doing during home schooling. Daily curriculum activities and abiding to our ARK class scheduling blocks is not necessary during this time of home learning. Have fun exploring all the wonderful ideas and resources that we will post each week and wondering about the many things you observe in nature. Also, stretch yourselves to think of ways to stay connected to vulnerable groups in this time of social distancing.

I hope you enjoy our first virtual Sing & Celebrate worship via our website, we will be posting new videos weekly. Let’s send praises to God for this time of family and celebrate the hard work of so many leaders who are working to serve others and make for a healthier state for all of us!

God Bless,

Susan Borst and The ARK Staff