

Dear Khalsa School Families:

We hope you are well and staying safe. Yesterday, the Governor announced the closure of schools until the end of the school year in the morning and in the afternoon declared a Stay-at Home Order. We have spent the last week and half adjusting to this new reality and working together as a staff to provide support and remote resources for our families and their children's growth. We are committed to continuing to provide on-line resources, virtual experiences and zoom class meetings to our students throughout the closure. While this educational approach does not replace the experience of in-person instruction, it is the best available medium given the continuing restrictions. Almost all our staff are working from home utilizing their talents to stay connected and offer support to our families. Further, this time apart has reinforced how much we miss the children and look forward to seeing them again.

Khalsa Montessori School has continuously operated for 49 years. As a school community we have weathered many challenging times and have never faced such a unique situation. We continue to remain committed in our mission to serve our students, families and staff through the Montessori Method which is both an educational approach and an aid to life.

The Khalsa Montessori Elementary School (KMES) is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit which is publicly funded as a charter school. It will continue to receive state support and will be funded until the end of the school year. Khalsa Montessori Primary School (KMPS) is a separate 501 (c) 3 non-profit that is privately funded through tuition. Although the charter school contracts with the private school for kindergarten student services, this contracted funding is a very small part of KMPS' budget. We are primarily supported by our parent community through tuition. Seventy percent of the school's budget goes directly to salaries for staff. Despite the uncertainty and lack of guaranteed funding, the KMES/KMPS School Boards and the administrative team have committed to continue to pay our staff throughout the closure. We deeply believe in the value of human capital and are committed to supporting our staff through this unprecedented crisis with financial stability. Your continuing financial support assures the continuity of staff and programing that makes our school and community special.

The speed with which the Coronavirus has upended our lives has many people feeling anxious and fearful. We have offered our private school families several choices regarding their tuition so that they can make the best decision based on their own situation. We now ask our charter school families to consider a donation to the private school, KMPS. Your consideration and gift will give us the greatest flexibility for future success. Please know that we recognize that your decisions have been made with careful thought and personal sacrifice.

Have your experiences at home with your children led to an appreciation of the excellent staff that Khalsa Montessori School has? We hope that we can count on you to continue your support for Montessori education now in this unprecedented moment of need. We wish you and your families good health and safety during this time of crisis. We look forward to seeing you both virtually and in-person when instruction resumes.

Sincerely,

Karen Paxton and Keerat Giordano