

Dear Khalsa Families:

You are receiving this email as your child(ren) is/are registered for the upcoming summer session. We have spent many hours planning for our summer sessions and devising new safety protocols and procedures. While the other sessions have been canceled we have decided to proceed with the final session.

In all of the coverage regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, little attention has been paid to the negative effects of the extended quarantine on children. Humans beings are social animals and children are uniquely affected by restricted social circles. Khalsa believes in holistic education and the importance of social interaction and emotional connection for all children. Children need to play and dig in the sand with one another. They need each other and we as a community need to support all of us through this unprecedented time.

The elementary orientation has been a tradition at our school for over twenty years. It has provided students who join the lower elementary level an opportunity to become familiar with the procedures of their new environment as well as new friendships. Primary students have also used the summer to transition into their new program and its expectations.

This decision comes at a seemingly inopportune time. However, Khalsa believes this is part of the solution to the pandemic. It meets an unmet need in a population that is not affected to the same degree by the disease as other age groups. We have a unique opportunity to support each other in order to keep all of us safe. The Promise that is attached to this email describes the commitment we will make to each other.

There will be a Town Hall Zoom Meeting next Thursday, July 2nd at 4:00pm-5:00pm to answer questions about the operational plan for summer which is attached to this email. [This Town Hall](#) will address summer program concerns. Another Town Hall Zoom Meeting will be scheduled to discuss the fall operational plan once it is released. I will continue to provide weekly updates and open conversations about decisions regarding reopening.

The well-being and safety of the children, families, and staff of our school community are of utmost importance. We need a path forward to create our new normal that is not defined by fear of this disease. This summer session is an intentional choice to create the normal that is part of the earth, each other, and based in love.

Blessings of health and wellness,

Karen Paxton