



10/23/20

Dear Khalsa Community,

We have successfully completed ten weeks of school. We have had extraordinarily little illness, no flu cases, and no COVID-19 cases. We have had some near misses as people expand their orbits of safe activities. Let's acknowledge COVID Fatigue and accept that all of us want it to be over. Unfortunately, it is not. Every action matters for ourselves and our community.

We are continuing to rely on everyone's compliance with our Fall Operating Plan including outside activities beyond our school environments. Handwashing, mask-wearing, healthy distancing, and extra cleaning on all campuses continue to serve us well. Our collective choices are the driving force behind mitigating the risks for all of us.

Fall festivities both at school and in the larger community have begun. As the holiday season begins the basic human instinct is to gather in celebration. I would request caution. I love Halloween, sitting by the front door with my husband, the only day of the year that I hand out candy. We love to see all the costumes and talk with children of all ages about their characters. We won't be doing this beloved activity this year. Our front porch light will be off as we choose to pass this year's "Trick-or-Treat" event.

In the last month, the State of Arizona has experienced [consecutive weeks of increasing cases](#) as well as increasing positive percentages of those tested and increasing numbers of patients in the Emergency Room who are [positive or suspected positive for COVID-19](#). The [John Hopkins Corona Virus Resource Center](#) is showing Arizona with a fourteen-day moving average of increasing positive cases. This data continues to trend in the wrong direction.

The Maricopa County Public Health Department [recommended metrics for schools](#) shows our zip code in the red for substantial community spread. The overall trend has not met all standards in Maricopa County. There is a new [FAQ](#) for parents and caregivers that is available here for families interested in learning more about recommendations and our county's response including available resources for quarantining and isolating at home.

Khalsa Montessori School is actively planning for the spring semester and our intention for Distance Learning students to return to In-Person classrooms. We are assessing new risk mitigation strategies that will create safe learning environments for students and staff.

All of us must continue our vigilance in wearing masks, washing hands, and keeping healthy distances from others. It is hard, and for now, we need to continue these practices. A meaningful school year is blossoming. Our evenhanded approach will guide us through this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Karen Paxton
School Director