



April 2, 2020

Dear Gooden Community,

Yesterday Governor Newsom announced that California public schools would implement distance learning and would be physically closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The Pasadena Area School Heads (PASH) agreed that community safety is the primary concern, and decided that we would continue with our distance learning programs as long as we need to do so.

In previous messages to the Gooden community, I have said that we will reopen for in-class and in-person instruction when it is safe and appropriate to do so. This remains true; if it becomes safe to return to classroom teaching, we will be able to pivot quickly. However, it now seems unlikely that our teachers and students will be able to meet together in our classrooms during the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. We remain hopeful and are looking forward to the day when we can meet together in fellowship and joy to celebrate what we have, as a community, accomplished together.

So quickly the world as we know it has changed and instead of encouraging gatherings that bring people together, we must stay apart. Our staff and students have been engaged in distance learning for just over two and a half weeks, as opposed to the up-close and personal norm they experienced in their classrooms. It has certainly taken a lot of work (on the part of our teaching staff), a lot of support and cooperation (from our parents), a willingness to make an effort to stay focused (by our students), and a commitment by everyone to make the best of this new normal. Thank you all!

Next week is Holy Week, the start of Passover, and Gooden's Easter break. I hope and trust that your families will be able to take some time to reflect upon the renewal that this season brings with it.

Salvete ! (Be well)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jo-Anne Woolner".

Jo-Anne Woolner
Head of School