



Olney Friends School

April 9, 2020

Dear Members of the Olney Community,

Those of us on the Olney Friends School campus send you all the warmth and positive energy we can in this uncertain time. Though we try our best to forecast events and formulate contingency plans, an unexpected, disconcerting situation such as the current pandemic can still test our collective mettle. At Olney we may not have all the answers, but remain resilient and hopeful in the face of adversity. I will share below a sampling of recent observations about our community.

With student growth at the core of our mission, it has been heartening to see students and faculty alike engaged in distance and online learning since March 16, 2020. Classes are ongoing, homework is handed in, and discussions are held via online platforms. It took a few days for most of us to settle into this new approach to academics, but it seems we have decided to make the best of what we have available now. In time, we will be able to have our cherished face-to-face, in-person classroom experiences again.

Our students' parents have been especially understanding and collaborative during this time. They have acted as proctors during tests, ensured that homework is completed, and been a source of reassuring comfort for their students. Some families have hosted international students for over a month. We appreciate their generosity. Their hospitality has cemented the notion that we are indeed a welcoming community, both on and off campus.

Each passing day brings its own surprises. The donations you have been sending, while the entire world struggles with financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, continue to demonstrate your unwavering support of Olney. We know that you are sharing with the school what you have, with little certainty of what the future holds. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

Here are a few lines from a message I recently received: "You and the school are much in my prayers. We will come through this, however difficult, with some unexpected gifts. I've sent a small donation of support in the mail, knowing that the loving Spirit who has guided you and the School thus far (and has guided me and all your Quaker forebears), guides and cares for you still, and will show you the way." With that kind of encouragement, we can choose to be hopeful. I am hopeful for Olney Friends School, for you, for your families, for our entire community, and for humanity as a whole.

Once again, thank you for standing with us through all seasons. All of us at Olney wish you fortitude, good health, perseverance, and a sense of hope as the spring brings its new life and light.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Acemah".

Christian N. Acemah
Head of School