May 15, 2020

I want to start my Friday Letter this week with a message of appreciation for our seniors, as today was their final day of classes. One of the more joyous tasks I have as head of DVFriends is to hold one-to-one conversations with every senior in the weeks leading up to graduation. I have met with several of them and have some more to go, but I have been touched by the deep connection that each one of them has to their teachers, to one another, and to the DV community as a whole. They know themselves as learners and they are proud of the growth and achievements they have demonstrated in their time at DV. The Class of 2020 has bravely navigated both disappointment and accomplishment in a way that none of us could have anticipated. I am so very proud of them and they will always hold a special place in our collective DV hearts, long after COVID-19 has become a memory.

As the school year begins to come to a close, please keep in mind the following important events:

- Community Fun Day - Friday, May 22, 9:00 - 11:30 AM
- Sports Awards - Thursday, May 28, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
- Prom (Not-Prom) - Friday, May 29, 7:00 - 9:00 PM
- Lower School Awards - Wednesday, June 3, 10:15 AM
- Middle School Awards - Thursday, June 4, 9:30 AM
- Upper School Awards - Thursday, June 4, 11:30 AM
- Seniors/Senior Families/Faculty/Staff Meeting for Worship - Friday, June 5, 4:00 PM
- Graduation - Monday, June 8, 10:00 AM
- DV Summer Programs:
  - One-to-one Orton-Gillingham for DV students starts Wednesday, July 1
  - Small-Group ELA and Math (mostly non-DV students) starts Monday, July 6

I would like to draw your attention to a special fundraising campaign that is launching on Sunday, May 17 celebrating the SPICES -- the Quaker principles that guide our community. Look for an email every morning next week highlighting a different testimony: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship. This campaign will replace Lighting the Way this year, and supports tuition assistance for DV families. We hope you’ll follow along and participate!

Finally, the DVFriends Virtual Talent Show is live online, and I invite you to tune in using the link below to experience a wide range of submissions from our talented community.

**Watch the Talent Show**

Have a great weekend and enjoy the warmer weather!

In Friendship,

Kirk Smothers
Head of School