

March 27, 2020

COVID-19/Coronavirus Community Update

Dear Families,

We're looking forward to reuniting students and teachers in the digital classroom next Monday with D Block schedule. Ms. Cooper, Ms. Walker-Oakes and Ms. Kimble will be sharing details for integrating art, PE, advising and college counseling over the next week. Once again, I thank faculty, administration and staff for their heroic efforts on all fronts.

"Not till we have lost the world do we begin to find ourselves."

Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

I have been walking around my neighborhood regularly, often under atmospheric clouds, and paused the other day before a house that I had breezed by for years. Instead of five seconds, I spent five minutes taking it in; framed by a gigantic oak forest climbing a hill, it is meticulously landscaped with roses surrounded by stones, leading to a porch with an inviting bench. I caught myself deliberately experiencing a house I had previously ignored and thought of Thoreau: "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life."

In 1845, Thoreau retreated to a cabin in the woods by Walden Pond in Massachusetts and recorded his two-year experience in his book, *Walden*, discussing walking, reading, solitude and each detail of the coming spring period. He once described his time as an "experiment in essential living." On the day I studied the house, I began writing a journal of this time in our lives, when streets are empty and time seems suspended. My own Walden.

What if we were to create a "Prep Walden" together? Any student, teacher, staff or parent who wishes can submit a Walden moment from our current retreat: the walk, the friendship online, the family meal, your pet, the old board game found in the cupboard. A unique moment that has resulted from our current circumstances.

If anyone is interested, please submit a paragraph, from 10 to 200 words detailing your Walden moment, to pbachmann@flintridgeprep.org. I will record them and

periodically share them in my announcements. We might even end up with a communally written book, a memoir of our time in the woods.

Enjoy the weekend,

Peter Bachmann
Headmaster