Dear Cottage Lake Families,

I hope this email finds you and your families healthy and safe. I miss so many of you and your students! I have enjoyed seeing some students on the playground, but I also know so many of you are staying close to home in this uncertain time.

Each Friday, I will update our community with key community information and ways we are developing our online learning capacity within Northshore. Let me begin by telling you how much the Cottage Lake staff misses you all! We had an online zoom staff meeting this morning to discuss our next steps in supporting students and families within our remote format. I was able to check in with many staff and we are looking forward to connecting back with our students and families. At this time, we are developing a growth plan that will allow us to expand our capacity to serve students. A summary of our plan is at the bottom of this newsletter.

As I continue to provide information to you all and ensure you have the resources you need, I want to share some unique opportunities that I want you to be aware of immediately:

**NORTHSHORE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION UPDATE:**
The Northshore Schools Foundation is offering support for families that are in desperate financial need based upon the uncertainty of their current jobs and a lack of resources to financially provide meals for their families. If you feel you can benefit from this resource, please email me (jwelch@nsd.org) your contact information. After a brief conversation, I can submit a request on behalf of your family.

**COVID-19 DISTRICT UPDATES:**
The safety of our students and staff is our priority. NSD will provide updates and resources in an effort to help families reduce the risk in their home and community. Please access the link below for important health related information:
[https://www.nsd.org/covid19](https://www.nsd.org/covid19)

**IMMEDIATE RESOURCE LINKS:**
The two links below provide possible resources for families. Please access the links below for childcare and computer needs.
The first link is for childcare support. Our district has created space in five locations for our community partners to provide childcare. Thanks to the YMCA, there should be a space for students whose family is in need. In addition, the Northshore Schools Foundation has generously provided scholarships for families who would otherwise be unable to afford childcare. The community partners will practice social distancing at each location as instructed by Gov. Inslee.

The second link is for access to a laptop or hotspot device your family may still need. As part of our commitment to provide resources to families, you are able to ask for a device or hotspot, if your family needs one. The devices and hotspots will be handed out from our Admin district office in Bothell, but please click on the link below to share if you still need one of these tools. We are doing all we can to ensure each of our students and families are connected.

- [NSD Childcare Request Form](#)
- [Request a laptop and/or hotspot device HERE](#)

**FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES**
Our Food and Nutrition Services is working closely with our Transportation and Communication departments to make lunch available to all students. Currently, we are taking pre-orders for lunch pick-up at 33 locations…. and Cottage Lake is one of the pick-up locations. Cottage Lake’s delivery time is roughly 11:20 AM - 11:35 AM. Lunches for students, 18 and younger, are FREE for you and you do not have to have your student enrolled in the Northshore school district to access these meals. If you are not able to pick up meals at Cottage Lake, scroll all the way to the bottom for a home delivery link. Please know, these are your tax dollars put to very good use! We want to support you and your children during this time we are not in school. Please visit this link to access our FREE Lunch program for students.

**INSTRUCTIONAL EXPECTATIONS AND PLANS FOR NEXT WEEK**
For next week, the Northshore Learns link below provides classroom to cloud information, and instructions for students, parents/guardians, and educators. Many teachers will arrange a classroom meeting next week to check in with all students. These conversations will not include instructional and we will not focus on academics.
Our focus will be around the social and emotional needs of students (and families). In addition to the classroom conversations, some staff members will be calling a smaller group of families to determine what barriers and needs families are encountering as we shift to this new mode of online instruction/work. Staff may be calling from home and those cell phone phone numbers may be listed as private or unidentified. This is a way to keep our staff member’s cell phone numbers private, but still connect with students and families. :) Thank you for understanding.

For all students, the following link provides resources to support our shift from the classroom to the cloud visit www.nsd.org/northshorelearns. We are providing resources that you can use at home to engage your students in learning. Additionally, your teacher’s Google Classroom, SeeSaw, Class DoJo, or Microsoft Teams page is still available for resources for you and your student.

Two weeks ago, providing instruction online was new for staff, as was the acquisition of learning for our students. Additionally, online learning may have been new for many parents which resulted in your learning this new medium alongside your child. We value your willingness to give it a try, however we also recognize the challenges associated. The district is continuing to work with local, state, and federal leaders to review policies and procedures to help support each of our students. While this next week continues a pause on academic instruction, we are really looking forward to connecting with our students around their social-emotional feelings.

**IN A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO OUR 5TH GRADE FAMILIES:**

As we navigate this challenging health crisis, we’ve had to make changes to many of our annual events. To that end, we’ve made the difficult decision to cancel this year’s fifth grade Outdoor Educational Overnight Experience at Camp Cedar Springs. We know that camp is a highlight for our fifth grade students, who look forward to climbing the rock wall, building shelters and singing around the campfire. However, this decision was necessary for the health and safety of all students, staff, and community members.

We are working on possible alternatives in the event that we can provide students a modified camp experience based on when we are able to return to our regular school day. If these alternatives become viable we will share more details.

Families who have already paid for camp will be refunded in the coming days. There is no action required to initiate the refund. Payments made by credit/debit card will be refunded directly to the card account. Payments made by check or cash will be
refunded by check mailed from the Northshore School District. This process may take a little longer as it is dependent on available staff in the office. Mrs. McKinnon and the District’s accounting staff will work as quickly as possible to process refunds districtwide. If you have any questions please call your school’s main office and leave a voicemail. We will return your call as quickly as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

Please know that we miss you and are always thinking about our students and families. I am asking staff members to carefully monitor their own needs at home, during this time. Staff have been asked to use this time to ensure they are healthy, to learn new skills to serve our students, and to continue working as a team to understand the needs and opportunities for our families. As of tomorrow evening, our campus is officially closed to staff. In partnership with the district, we are asking that all staff work from home. Thank you for your support and understanding as we walk together through these challenging times together.

I hope to connect with you sooner than later, but in the meantime, I hope your family stays safe, healthy and enjoys new learning opportunities.

Take Care and I miss you,
Jennifer Welch, Principal