May 25, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. As we continue to work towards the reopening of the Children’s Campus for children and families, I wanted to provide you with several updates. Over the last two weeks, the Children’s Campus Leadership Team has participated in a number of meetings, gathered additional information and has continued work towards outlining our path moving forward. We have received new information as well as several opportunities that are important for you to be aware of, as they directly impact the Children’s Campus and our timeline to reopen.

- The Child Care Stabilization and Recovery Grant was announced through the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) and is available to all licensed centers, with the Children’s Campus eligible to receive up to $32,000 to help support staff salaries as well as other expenses incurred during our closure.
- An application was submitted to extend our current Child and Adult Care Food Program to offer summer meal options for all children under the age of 18, enabling the Children’s Campus to establish itself as a summer meal site for the UNM Community.
- The Kindergarten Jump Start Grant was announced by the ECECD, enabling the Children’s Campus to apply for and potentially extend our current PreK program through the summer for children in need of additional supports before transitioning to kindergarten. This grant would be a part day program with a maximum capacity of 10 children.
- New guidance was provided by the ECECD, requiring that staff receive COVID-19 testing prior to re-opening for children.
- While performing maintenance, our facilities staff identified water damage in our preschool building. Remediation is underway and will need to be completed before the classrooms can be made available for staff and children.

As you are aware, it was our hope to begin a phased reopening of the Children’s Campus for children and families on Monday, June 1, 2020. Unfortunately, our target date for reopening will need to be pushed back and is currently on hold pending the items listed below:

- Receipt of official notice from UNM Leadership enabling us to ask staff to return to campus as outlined in the President’s most recent guidance, Bringing Back the Pack dated May 22, 2020.
- Notification by the ECECD regarding the status of our Kindergarten Jump Start Grant application.
- The coordination of COVID-19 testing for all Children’s Campus staff prior to re-opening.
- Completion of remediation due to water damage identified in our preschool building.

While we do not have a firm reopening date at this time, it is our goal to open our doors to children and families no later than, June 15th, 2020. Please keep in mind that this date could once again be extended based on decisions made by the Governor, UNM Leadership or based on the information received from participation on the COVID-Safe Practices (CSPs) Subcommittee for Early Childhood.

Upon the reopening of the Children’s Campus, a number of things will be in place that will be different from how we typically operate. Here are a few changes that are important to highlight.

- The Children’s Campus will be operating under a modified schedule through the summer semester in order to ensure that we are able to fully disinfect and sanitize the facility daily (Monday – Thursday from 7:00 am – 4:30 pm; Friday from 7:00 am – 12:30 pm). There is a possibility that this modified schedule could be extended beyond the summer.
- Drop-off and pick-up times will be staggered to minimize the number of parents on-site at any given time.
Contactless drop-off and pick-up will be required. Classroom capacities will be lower. Temperatures and well checks will be conducted of all staff and children as well as anyone entering the facility. Access to the Children's Campus will be limited only to Children's Campus staff, children and those with an essential business need. Face Coverings will be required for anyone over the age of 3 entering the Children’s Campus. All field trips and events are cancelled until further notice.

We are still working out many of the details regarding the reopening of the Children’s Campus. Information regarding all of the modified Children’s Campus protocols will be provided to families as we move closer to reopening.

On a separate note, our PreK Class of 2020 Parades will take place this Saturday, May 30, 2020 with Room 10 at 9:00 am; Pioneer at 11:00 am; and Room 12 at 1:00 pm. Here is some helpful information and a few things to keep in mind in order to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all participants:

- Only one vehicle per graduate will be allowed to participate in the parade. Guests in additional vehicles will be asked to park in a designated viewing area.
- Families are encouraged to show their creativity and decorate their vehicle for the parade.
- The vehicle that the graduate is riding in should enter the Children’s Campus parking lot from Camino De Salud and line-up behind our Gem Car.
- We ask that the graduate be located on the passenger side of the vehicle during the parade.
- Guests should enter the Children’s Campus parking lot from the entrance past Camino De Salud and closest to Indian School. They will be directed into the designated viewing area.
- Everyone MUST remain in their vehicle at all times. DO NOT exit the vehicle to take pictures. Our staff will be on hand to photograph the event.
- Families will be able to listen live to each graduation via Zoom. The link will be sent out directly to families via email prior to graduation. Be sure to check your email.
- Last, but not least, don’t forget your graduate’s graduation cap and tassel!

This is sure to be a fun and memorable event for you and your soon to be kindergartener! We hope to see you there!

As always, thank you for your continued support and flexibility during this time. I assure you that we remain committed to reopening as soon as it is safe to do so, and will continue to provide you with timely updates. We hope to all be back together again very soon!

We wish you well,

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