

We regret to inform you that IVNS will be closed beginning Monday, March 16th through March 28th (at earliest).

As many of you may have anticipated IVNS has had to think long and hard about whether we would stay open during this time when all public health organizations are encouraging people to stay home and not congregate for any reason. We already have had a few families electing to stay home over the past few weeks, and the low numbers at our Dad' Day celebrations were another strong indicator that our families are taking necessary precautions.

We had anticipated following the course of action taken by Washoe County Incline Schools, but they have chosen to stay open (as of now), while Lake Tahoe School, Tahoe Expeditionary Academy, Kings Beach Elementary (and the entire Tahoe Truckee Unified School District), and South Tahoe School District will all be closed as of Monday. However, our final decision is based on the temporary closing of St. Patrick's Church. Since their campus is used by multiple community organizations and accommodates many elderly members as well as small children (us), they have made the decision to close St. Patrick's building, and have asked IVNS to discontinue our program at least until March 28th.

We understand that our temporary closure affects families and children in many ways, and we do apologize for the major inconvenience that this may create for some of you. One of our topics of conversation has been how tuition payments will affect our families when we close on Monday, and many of our families may be out of work. We hope to alleviate any additional stress during this crazy time, and we will be forgiving all tuition payments for the tuition period between March 15-April 15th. Your next tuition payment will be due on April 15th. *No tuition will be due on March 15th.* Those families who have already paid March tuition will either be reimbursed, you can apply to April, or your check will be shredded. Don't worry – we will still be paying our teachers during this time period as well, and they'll be able to work from home on portfolios and taking required annual course hours online. Thanks to our fruitful past few years of the Pumpkin Patch we are able to offer these benefits to our families and staff during this time of economic uncertainty.

We know that staying home for this long period of time with small children seems daunting, but we also hope to help with some resources to keep busy at home. We've attached our family rosters to this e-mail so you can reach out to each other if you need help with childcare and can plan some small play dates if you're all healthy and feeling good. Many of our parents are stay-home parents and may be able to help some of our families who have to go to work (we do have families who work in the health care industry and they definitely will need help with child care). Please reach out to us at ivns@ivns.org if you need contacts for babysitters, or can help with babysitting and we'll put together a list of phone numbers. We will also send out an e-mail next week with some links for online learning resources to help keep your little ones busy at home. Visit the library *now* and check out books before they have to close too (and then wash your hands thoroughly)! Our best suggestion to staying home is to set a reasonable routine for your family during the day so that your child still has some structure they can rely on without our school routine. There are already homeschooling routines popping up online that are mostly helpful with this idea (we're little guys though...no need to go overboard), but kids definitely will thrive more and whine/tantrum/break down less often with daily routines in place. Most importantly *please limit screen time.*

Thank you for your support to us and to each other during these times of uncertainty, and we hope that you'll reach out to us if you have any concerns or questions during our closure. We will be available by e-

mail daily at ivns@ivns.org. You can also reach our Board President, Molly Meyer at mollyebmeyer@gmail.com.