



May 15, 2020

Dear Japhet Families and Friends,

What I've come to understand is that life is a roller coaster ride of change, innovation, and adaptation. As we embrace change and acknowledge that it provides opportunity for growth and progress, we become more secure in our ability to move forward. As you know, the need for social distancing has provided many opportunities to view the planning of activities through a different lens. So it is with Spring Sharing -- our long-standing tradition of lively musicals presented to the community. This year, Spring Sharing comes to you in the form of a heartwarming tale written and illustrated by our preschool through eighth grade students. The common thread between our stage productions and this book is that every student is represented and has a voice. This is an outstanding example of the desire to continue a tradition under difficult circumstances and finding a delightful manner in which to accomplish it. Bravo to Betsy Stecker for her receptivity and desire to bring her idea to fruition. The result is a joyful journey in book form that will bring you happiness, a respect for friendship, and appreciation for the abilities of our students. You can read the book here: [Across the Distance](#). Happy page-turning!

I also must share with you the passing of Jay Schmitt -- a man who lived his life filled with character and in devotion to God, his family and Japhet School. Jay was a strong advocate for Japhet School for many decades, currently serving on the Board of Trustees, as treasurer and as chairman of our Finance Committee. He made Japhet School stronger by his commitment to its mission and always sought ways to make Japhet's future brighter. He will be missed. His family has designated Japhet School to receive contributions in his memory. If you would like to contribute, please visit our website at <https://japhetschool.org/support-japhet-school/>.

In closing, I'd like to share a quote from Rodolfo Costa, *"Learn to adapt. Things change, circumstances change. Adjust yourself and your efforts to what is presented to you so you can respond accordingly. Never see change as a threat, because it can be an opportunity to learn, to grow, to evolve, and become a better person."*

With gratitude for your continued support,

Kerri G. Vizena
Head of School