



March 12, 2020

Dear Maplewood Community,

In the past couple days, as expected and predicted, there has been an increase in cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. I'm sure you have heard that in the last 24 hours, colleges, conventions, and even nationwide sporting associations have made major cancellation decisions. While these decisions were not easy, it's clear that they were made in the hope of mitigating the spread of the virus. And while recent CDC guidance has reinforced the idea that the risks to healthy, young people are generally low, we also know that people with chronic medical conditions, immunosuppression, or those of older age remain vulnerable.

This has naturally left us asking the question "What can we do in the foreseeable future at Maplewood to minimize social events and gatherings in order to lessen the spread of COVID-19?" After meeting and discussing our options, we have decided to cancel our Monday and Thursday morning kid's weekly events for the remainder of March and for the month of April. In addition, we have decided to cancel our Birthday parties scheduled for March 21st and April 4th.

We take great pride and delight in offering the Monday and Thursday morning kid's weekly events for youngsters and their caregivers where they can experience the joys of Maplewood in a group setting. Likewise, the marking of birthday milestones with celebrations for so many children, their friends, and relatives, is a special part of our programming throughout the year. And yet, we understand the complexities and scope of this spreading virus has left us with more questions than answers at this time. Our ongoing commitment to do what's best from a public health standpoint is what propelled us to make these decisions. If you have scheduled a Maplewood Birthday for March or April, we will be contacting you in the next couple days to arrange for refunds or to discuss rescheduling.

Please note: As for the rest of our **school year programs** including preschool, afterschool, weekday classes, and our enrichment classes, we will remain open and continue to follow all protocols mentioned in prior emails regarding COVID-19. As for future program cancellations, we will continue to assess the situation on a day-to-day basis. We continue to receive guidance from Easton Board of Health and other local and state agencies.

We wish you and your loved ones health and peace as we navigate the next few weeks and even months. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call us at (508)238-2387.

Warmly,

Lee and Sue