



Playa Vista Elementary

OSPREY NEWS



OUR MISSION IS HIGH ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE WHOLE CHILD THROUGH STEM

April 25th Gala Live Auction - See Osprey Backpack from FPVS

April 30th Room Parent Meeting - Information about the format coming soon!

Dear Playa Vista Family,

Our teachers continue to do an outstanding job with providing your child/children with classroom lessons, links to art lessons, computer lessons, music lessons, holding chats, optional zoom meetings, and more. **The LAUSD and UTLA (teachers' union) have come to an agreement** about the requirements for teachers during this unprecedented time. Under this agreement the zoom meetings your child's/children's teacher is offering are optional for students as well as teachers.

They are required to communicate with their students via *one* of the following methods: on-line instruction, printed instructional materials, phone calls, emails, text reminder applications, and other means of communication such as google classroom.

Your understanding and support for your child's teacher during this time is greatly appreciated. Just like you they are balancing family demands such as child care, supporting their children's learning, parent care, and all while working from home. There is an **article by Brené Brown following this newsletter**. Dr. Brown LMSW is a professor, lecturer, author, and podcast host. In her article, she speaks to the challenges that both teachers and parents are facing right now. It's worth the read.

This past week the question looming large on everyone's mind was answered. The @Home Continuity of Learning program will be in place for the rest of the school year while school facilities remain closed.

Here are some other questions that were sent my way this past week.

1. How will students pick up their personal belongings from school?

The same process that was used for packet pick up will be used to pick up your child's/ children's personal belongings. A new schedule will be sent out on Tuesday, April 21st with pick up days on Monday, April 27th and Tuesday, April 28th.

2. Are they're plans to open the school year early?

The plan at this time is for the school year to begin on August 18th.

3. In his address, Superintendent Beutner mentioned Summer Sessions. Are those available for all students?

The summer sessions are only available to high school students who need to earn credits toward graduation.

4. How are students being graded?





Playa Vista Elementary



A hold harmless grading policy is in place for the remainder of the school year. This means that students may improve the grades that they'll receive on the last report card of the year but not be given a lower grade than the one they received on their March report card.

Please remember that this is a district wide policy and is taking into consideration students within LAUSD who have yet to gain access to online resources and/or communication with their classroom teacher(s).

5. Will students be retained next year?

No. Students will promote to the next grade level in the 2020-2021 school year. Any discussion regarding retention, by district policy, had to have been initiated by the teacher/parent in February.

6. Students usually take the gifted assessment, the OLSAT, in second grade. Now that the school facilities are closed, when will this test be administered?

The Gifted and Talented Unit has not yet answered this question. The OLSAT must be administered in person as all of the directions are read out loud. Given these testing requirements, it would not be able to be given until the school facilities are open again.

When an official update is sent to principals, the information will be passed along to you.

If there are other questions you have, please give me a call during my office hours: Monday from 9-1, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9-2 or send an email to rebecca.johnson@lausd.net. Thanks!

Be sure and check out the silent auction that went live this week. All the information you need to know to participate in the auction can be found in the FPVS newsletter, the OSPREY backpack!

Take care of yourself as you take care of the ones you love!

With the warmest of regards,

Mrs. Johnson
Principal



Collective Vulnerability, the FFTs of Online Learning, and the Sacredness of Bored Kids

March 21, 2020 | 7 min read
By Brené Brown

Search

[EMAIL](#) [SHARE POST](#) [Return to Blog](#)

These are anxious times. I hope you are well, taking care of yourselves, and finding a way to connect with people you love.

If you are a healthcare worker, social worker, counselor, first responder, store employee, food delivery person, or anyone out there on the frontlines: Thank you. You are our heroes. We owe you so much. If you are someone who loves a frontline person: Thank you. We also owe you so much.

On Friday, we launched the [first episode of our podcast, Unlocking Us](#). It's all about FFTs (effing first times) and how hard it is to be new at things – from small things to global pandemics. When we have no relevant experience or expertise, the vulnerability, uncertainty, and fear of these firsts can be overwhelming. Yet, showing up and pushing ourselves past the awkward, learner stage is how we get braver.

One of the biggest responses we've received about our first episode is from teachers who are all saying some version of: FFT! OMG. YES. Teaching online! Distance learning!

I thought I'd reach out to all of our brave, incredible teachers to share my thanks and a few of my tough key learnings.

First, I get it. I started teaching online about two decades ago. I was the first in my college to try it, and it was a total FFT. But I also fell in love with it, and I still teach online. There are people with way more experience than I have and way more formal education on the process – but here's what I know.

The bad news: It will be a total FFT for you, your team, your school, and your district. The wheels will fall off. It will NOT go as planned. And, for those of you asking students to get dressed and sit in front of the computer for 8-10 hours, as if they're in class . . . I hate to have to tell you – that is NEVER going to

happen. Neurologically – it’s screen time. Have you ever been in the same room with someone who has played Minecraft for 4 or 5 or 6 hours? Non-human.

Here’s the good news: If you’re someone who is driven to show up for your students and connect, if you’re willing to be a learner, if you’re willing to stay curious, if you’re willing to change course (478 times in one semester or one week), **YOU WILL TOTALLY CRUSH IT!**

After 20 years, every online class I teach is still a partial FFT for me. You can take all the classes on distance learning and get a Ph.D. in distributed pedagogy, but here’s what I know: Sometimes it works and sometimes it does not. And, it mostly works if you can be nimble and change course.

My three big key insights for distance learning are:

1. Use the first few days to build a container. **NO** content teaching. Just set up the ground rules together in a way that lets students experience some of the functionality of the classroom. Practice raising hands, keeping yourself on mute, changing how you see each other. “Let’s work together to create a space that feels brave, safe, and connected. This is new and awkward for all of us – including me. We can start with a list of what’s ok in here and what’s not.” Maybe you can even start with a check-in: Give us one word that describes how you’re feeling about school being online? Great practice of speaking and muting and following along. Anxiety shows up in weird ways when you’re teaching online. And, people don’t understand the norms. Set the norms so no one takes their computer to the bathroom. (It happened. Twice.) We want everyone to be seen and belong, and that means setting norms and expectations that are co-created with the class. **THIS LEARNING ALSO APPLIES TO TEAMS WHO ARE WORKING TOGETHER ONLINE FOR THE FIRST TIME!**
2. Do not assume every student has the same attention span, the same level of wi-fi, access to private space, and the same number of supportive people in their homes. I teach grad students who have to use their phones as hot spots and log-in between jobs or in closets. We have to check our expectations and privilege. We want everyone to be seen and belong.
3. Small chunks. No more than 30 minutes online. You can meet up several times a day, but the best teachers in the world can’t hold attention longer than that. Think about the research that went into TED setting an 18-minute limit for their talks. That’s all we can take sometimes. You can break kids into small groups for a lengthy assignment, but for the big classroom they will start to drift after 20 minutes. After 30, they’re gone. Heck, I’m gone.

TEACHERS – we love you! In person. Online. Thank you.

And a note to parents.

I get how hard this is. In the podcast, I talk about hiding from my family in a tuba. It's overwhelming. Some of us are very ready for virtual school to start up and some of us are scared. However weird the experience may be, we need to partner with teachers to try to make this work. LOTS and lots of grace.

There's a growing movement of "We're opting out of homeschooling or participating in the online stuff." That's your call. But here's one thing I would say: **Watch screen time.** Limitless screen time during an emergency that's going to last for weeks is not reducing anxiety. It's throwing gasoline on it. Let them read or do nothing.

Whether we're onboard for online or we're opting out, we should all do our kids a huge favor right now and let them experience boredom.

But, we must be ready. Boredom will be an FFT for a lot of our children who have TikTok, memes, and games at the ready, 24 hours a day.

Just as we can come out of our skin during hard first times, they will too. It will take hours of complaining about feeling like they're dying before they settle into that strange place that's rarely visited by today's children – their imagination. We don't need to entertain them, we need to model vulnerability for them and support them in this FFT.

Boredom is sacred. We shouldn't deny our children this holy experience.

As we all try to put one foot in front of the other, my team and I are committed to getting relevant content to you via the podcast, social posts, and the blog. Sometimes serious, sometimes not serious at all. We need it all right now!

Once we're on the other side of this pandemic, we'll release podcast episodes every Wednesday. Right now, we're dropping bonus episodes – some COVID-19 related and some not. Please join us!