



CATE SCHOOL
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Dear Cate Families,

As we conclude another energetic week on the Mesa, our minds are on a great many things. Close to home there are CIF playoff games, Valentine's Day celebrations, Black History month presentations, the Junior Retreat, and the Freshman trip to Bee Camp. Farther afield we are watching along with the rest of the world the spread of the Coronavirus and its impacts on so many communities on our planet.

We are trying to respond appropriately to the actual threats. And our thoughts are very much with all of those whose lives have been turned upside down either by the virus itself or the efforts to stop its spread. Our own expectation, as we articulated in our most recent letter, is that Cate students refrain from traveling to China, Hong Kong, and Singapore over the break. We are deeply grateful to the families directly impacted by this decision for their understanding in making alternative arrangements. It is a significant imposition, we know.

Our challenge, candidly, concerns our own capability to manage or contain the coronavirus and protect this entire community should it somehow reach Cate or should a member of this community somehow become infected. The standards of care promoted by the Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization involve screenings and, if necessary, quarantine environments that we cannot accomplish on campus. That is why we have focused on avoiding travel patterns and destinations that pose the greatest potential risk to our students and our community.

We have been using this [resource](#) from Johns Hopkins University to track the cases as they unfold. You will note on the website that there has been a recent uptick in cases outside of China. There is also a disturbing pattern of infection arising during the course of air travel. To mitigate further potential risk, we would encourage families planning travel to South Korea, Japan, and Thailand to develop a back-up plan in case the situation in these countries changes. We will be monitoring developments closely and, of course, will communicate with you when or if any changes in policy or practice seem merited.

Most important, we stand ready to support families and students impacted by these restrictions. Many Cate families have already come forward to host students. We hope others who would like to help will do the same.

Rarely do we know the challenges that will confront us in a given year. All we can do is our very best to keep everyone safe. I remember noting after the Thomas Fire the comfort we all felt in finally casting aside the worry and returning to familiar rituals. We trust that such a reprieve awaits all of us in the coming months and that this crisis too will pass.

Servons,

Ben



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