



A Message from Head of School Ben Williams

Dear Cate Families,

We lost power today. Actually, the entire Carpinteria Valley lost power from early morning until late afternoon. In any other year, that might have been a real problem. All those classroom lights, computers and projectors, flat screen TV's, and HVAC units would have been useless. But this year the outage was a non-event. Classes went on as usual with mother nature providing all the light and power we need. Booth Commons, with its built-in reserve generator, provided all the food we wanted, and the electricity has returned just as we transition to our afternoon activities. It's almost as if we planned it all perfectly. Not the case, obviously, but it's nice when things go well despite the unexpected.

Update on Athletics

As you may know from your children or the [Parent Q&A on Wednesday evening](#), we have continued expanding the afternoon and evening opportunities available to our students. Our athletic program has begun sport-specific training. Cross country has been underway for several weeks, but now our football, volleyball, and water polo teams are scheduling practices. While the governing body for high school sports in California, the California Interscholastic Federation, has announced no plans for the resumption of athletic contests, we are pleased at the prospect of getting our kids back on the fields or in the pool or the gym to prepare for whatever opportunities might present themselves. Besides, the camaraderie of working with a group of teammates toward a team goal is just the thing we all need in this time.

Residential Life Adjustments

We have also made adjustments to allow students greater autonomy on campus after dinner and into the evening. In-dorm times have been adjusted, movie screens are going up around campus, talk of a coffee house is brewing (no pun intended), a few dorm barbecues are in the works, the Blue Ewe and the mailboxes are open to students, and on Sunday we will serve our first meal from the Servery in Booth.

Fall Family Fortnight

Much is going on off-campus as well. After a wonderfully successful week of programming from the

College Counseling Office, we transition tonight into the first of our [Family Week events](#). For the next two weeks the opportunities for those off campus to connect with the faculty and students on campus and to learn about the work of the community on the Mesa will be conspicuous and plentiful. Historically, Family Weekends reveal this community and the extended Cate family at our best and most authentic. Surely we can accomplish the same in a virtual experience as well. I want to draw your attention in particular to the [virtual Booth Commons Grand Opening ceremony](#) next Tuesday featuring architect and Cate alumnus Li Wen '78. Li is a fantastic student of spaces and he'll share the unique vision that led to the construction of the facility we are so enjoying today.

Alumni Communication

You should know, too, that we emailed a letter to all of our alumni today offering support to any who found themselves victims of adult misconduct in their time as students. This letter is the work of a committee of our Board of Trustees, called the Committee on Community Accountability, formed to respond to moments in the past when the School did not meet our standard of care. [The letter is available here](#) and should be self-explanatory. We trust it demonstrates Cate's commitment to all of our students – past, present, and future.

Thanks to all of you who were able to join our collective conversation on Wednesday night and for your great support as we navigate the unpredictable waters of 2020. It feels, candidly, like we are beginning to find our stride here on the Mesa and the traction to keep building our collective momentum.

Have a great weekend.

Servons,
Ben



www.cate.org

If you do not wish to receive these emails you may [unsubscribe here.](#)