

2021-2022 THE YEAR OF RECONNECTING



During the pandemic it became more difficult to maintain relationships which are at the foundation of good education. This included relationships between teachers and students, between teachers of different grades, between students even within a grade—but especially across grades, between families, and most notably relationships between families and school. While everyone tried to keep the lines of communication open, many expressed feeling disconnected from what was going on at school. Even though we continued doing many of our favorite activities and events within school, albeit in a restricted or modified form—such as class plays—the parental experience was just not the same.

We learned that while the main reason you send your children to Progressive School is for their experience, you also send them to us for your experience! And you, the parents, are our greatest asset. We missed the smiles, help, and positive feedback that stems from your experience.

So as the 2021-22 school year started we chose the theme of reconnecting with the idea that we would make every effort to resurrect and repair all our relationships and experiences. Ah, the best laid plans of mice and men. No sooner did school start than wave 3 of the pandemic hit, causing us once again to withdraw and isolate.

Nevertheless, we made heroic efforts to combat this continued disconnection, always pushing the envelope of what was possible without creating safety risks. Examples of this were in-person Quiet Time, in-person conferences, bringing in Art volunteers, and the Halloween Trunk or Treat.

As the Covid finally evolved into an endemic disease, we were able to end this year on a positive “reconnecting note,” with multiple events such as the Engineering Fair, Math Estimation Fair, Science Fair, Invention Convention, Influential Women’s Tea, Dino Museum, Field Day, World Day, School Shows, Graduations and Graduation Trips, and the Final Day Picnic. We were able to restart the Art Club, and hopefully all the clubs will be back in the fall of 2022.

I, your humble Director, also suffered during this disconnection phase. I found it baffling to get reports that I didn’t want the return of many events and activities. Since I spent much of my life creating these events, I couldn’t understand why folks might think I was looking to avoid them. This is what happens when relationships, communication and connection break down.

So, whatever next year’s theme will be, we will continue our efforts for reconnection, because it is important work that has only just begun to repair the damage done by the Pandemic.