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March 22, 2021

Dear Kentfield School Community,

This morning marked the start of an exciting new era in the Kentfield School District (KSD) and was a day of gratitude and unity felt across our entire community!

We want to express our sincere appreciation to our committed team of educators for the successful transition today to full class size, in-person instruction and new enhanced schedules at Bacich and Kent. This transition would not have been possible without our amazing teachers and classified support staff including paraprofessionals, custodial and maintenance teams, technology support and site and district office staff; and our stellar administrators Bacich Principal Mary Ann Spitzer, Kent Principal Grant Althouse, Assistant Principal Wendy Holmes, and Superintendent Raquel Rose. We know that it took an incredible amount of time, flexibility, creativity, and hard work over many months to make this milestone possible and we are beyond grateful to this dedicated team.

We also want to acknowledge and appreciate the phenomenal support, patience, and ingenuity of our parent community, particularly the leadership of KSPTA and KIK, over this past year. Finally, we want to appreciate our extraordinary KSD students who showed impressive resilience, willingness, and adaptability in a truly challenging school year like no other in our lifetimes.

While we fully expect that there will be some bumps and unexpected new learnings in these initial weeks of transition to full, in-person instruction and a new distance learning program, we hope that everyone in our community feels a collective sense of gratitude, pride, and accomplishment in this major milestone of bringing teachers and ALL of our students who are ready to come back to campus safely together in the midst of a pandemic.

Finally, please know that our priority continues to be the emotional well being and physical safety of our students and staff. We are well aware of the sobering reality that this has been an incredibly difficult year for so many of our students, families, and teachers, particularly related to mental health concerns. We are so fortunate as a district to have counseling staff available at both [Bacich](#) and [Kent](#) to support our students and families. You are not alone; please do not hesitate to reach out as needed.

For those of you who were unable to attend last Thursday's excellent meeting on school safety with two KSD parents and prominent physicians (Dr. Shilpa Marwaha and Dr. Ted Ruel), School Nurse Laurel Yrun, and our Superintendent Raquel Rose, we strongly encourage you to [watch the recording](#) ([Spanish version](#) [Portuguese version](#)) to learn more about all of our district safety measures and protocols currently in place.

In closing, we feel compelled to acknowledge and denounce the ongoing acts of violence against Asians and Asian Americans in this country. In the wake of the recent attacks, it is more critical than ever that we continue to stand up together to foster a culture of inclusivity and acceptance of all members of our community. Our Superintendent sent a [letter](#) to our community last week with links to educational resources on how families can engage in age-appropriate conversations about Anti-Asian American violence, discrimination, and hate crimes.

Also, at our next monthly school board meeting on April 13th, our board will consider passing a resolution along with other California School Boards entitled “Stand Up for Asian Americans and Lead Students in the Fight Against Racism”. As board members, we pledge our commitment to continue working with all of our district stakeholders to uphold the beliefs and goals of our [District Strategic Plan](#) with empathy, good will, and a steady focus on what's best for all our students.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact our Board President, Heather McPhail Sridharan at hmcphailsridharan@kentfieldschools.org or our Superintendent Raquel Rose at rose@kentfieldschools.org. As always, feedback is welcome and valued.

With deep gratitude,

Heather McPhail Sridharan
Davina Goldwasser
Sarah Killingsworth
David Riedel
Annie Su