

Dear KSDS Students and Parents,

Passover is the ultimate Jewish symbol of trying to put order into an experience of turmoil, difference and change. We ask questions - even more than four of them - specifically about the differences that we notice on this holiday from our regular routine. We impose a strict order (the very name of the ritual - in Hebrew, "order" is "*seder*") to bring pattern, ritual and stability to the retelling of the story of major change as our people moved from slavery to freedom.

In this current time of uncertainty, real and virtual isolation, fear, and major change to routine and life norms, we too are at a moment that cries out for order. As human beings, we crave control and predictability. Being left to the whim of fate, nature or unpredictable forces is difficult for our psyches. But we have all been here for each other, supporting each other, connecting with each other, and reminding each other that things will be okay.

We are so grateful to the teachers at KSDS for providing a general sense of order and structure for our children's daily lives over the past few weeks. We are grateful to the parents and students who embraced this opportunity, immediately creating new routines and adjusting to new realities. We hope that the structure provided has helped as a touchstone through our current uncertainty and unsettled times.

As we head into Passover break, we have heard the request from families to have a chance to still maintain some balance between vacation and structure, balancing the relaxation of break, along with some ongoing opportunities for schoolwork during a time of an imposed "stay at home" practices. In Middle School, students will hear from teachers about some reading or long-term projects that we would like them to spend some time working on during Passover - both for their own learning, and to continue to bring a bit of "*seder*" (order) to what otherwise could be a time of unsettled openness. In Lower School, please look [here](#) for a compilation of resources and suggested activities for young families.

It is our hope that all of our seders this year bring us some sense of calm, control and order, even though they will be "different from all other Passovers." Peoplehood, belonging and ritual can occur even with physical distance and different situations. That is the resiliency of the Jewish people and that is the resiliency of the human spirit.

Chag Sameach,  
Robyn Blum and Wendy Gelber