



## Pearl River School District

EVANS PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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**Peggy Lynch**  
Principal

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June 11, 2020

Dear Evans Park Families,

As I write this thirteenth weekly message of remote learning, I am happy to say that we have just a few days left of this school year. Make no mistake, I'm really never thrilled to send the boys and girls home for the summer; school is school by virtue of their presence. Making our way through this significant challenge over more weeks than anyone anticipated has been difficult at times, exciting at others. The early photos of children working at your kitchen tables, at desks in their rooms and on the floor were so encouraging; you and they took this seriously.

As time went on, along with the awareness that this is how we would finish the school year, motivation seemed to waver a bit. Students and staff were clearly missing one another; school life had changed too much. They persevered, however; teachers increased contact time, added videos and meetings and a clear communication that students and families ask for help anytime they needed it. During Poetry Month in April, we read and wrote more poetry than we typically do, posting our efforts for all to see. Our fourth graders began giving the morning announcements they so look forward to at school. As an elementary (ELF) community we added a few activities that would link Pearl River youngsters; participation was notable; the many photos of *Spirit Week* were proof! We “sang” to the students, *Try Everything!* We got over the hurdle and continued as learners do, participating and completing activities. Our recent *Virtual Field Day* motivated the children to try some fun and silly challenges as well.

I have, many times throughout these weeks, expressed my pride in the Evans Park students and staff. You have too; we have appreciated your kind and encouraging words. We leave for summer knowing that we did our best, students, staff and parents. We will no doubt debrief our work carefully over the summer and into the

next school year. Your surveys, emails and conversations will be part of that work.. Though our reopening plans are uncertain to date, we will be ready for whatever will be. I close once more with a request that you bring your children near and click on this message to them. Afterwards, tell them Ms. Lynch said to give themselves a really big pat on the back!

Have a peaceful, healthy and safe summer. I look forward to seeing our community back together soon. Thank you.

Peggy Lynch