

To my beloved school community,

It has been so nice to see many of you around the school visiting with your teachers! A teacher told me today that one of her students reported feeling excited and ready for school, but only after meeting her teacher. There is way more uncertainty than any of us would like right now, but one thing that IS certain is that the power in teaching and learning comes from the strong connections teachers and students build between each other. The connections between us are the foundation upon which we build ourselves, and there's no stopping that power. As long as we are safe, building and nurturing those connections is the most important thing we can do.

Many of my NYC colleagues held children in their arms as they ran from my old school in downtown Manhattan on September 11, 2001. I know they are sitting alone in their classrooms now, holding both the terror of that memory and the impossibility of this moment in their bodies as I write. While they are decidedly different situations, I know for sure that a school community can come together beautifully to make it through a mess. Our connections to each other are more important than ever. Let's work together to prioritize and nurture them, and we will be stronger and better together on the other side.

Here's a [bit of musical beauty](#) to take you into the weekend.

Love,

Lauren