

KIEVE WAVUS

E D U C A T I O N

May 2020

Dear friends of Kieve Wavus Education,

Below is the message we sent to summer camp families on May 1st. This was one of the toughest decisions we've made in my 30 years as Executive Director but I know in my heart it was the right one. We're wishing you health and safety wherever you are. Please know that we and Damariscotta Lake are here for you once this pandemic is in the past.

With extremely heavy hearts, we are suspending Kieve and Wavus 2020 summer camp operations. We simply cannot risk the health and safety of our campers, staff and surrounding community posed by COVID-19. Our camp parents and children have been patient, positive, hopeful and inspiring throughout this process, and we want to offer you the most honest and timely decision we can about camp this summer. Our collective resilience and love for Kieve and Wavus will carry us through this difficult time together.

In late April, Maine Governor Janet Mills presented the state's plan to gradually and safely reopen businesses and summer programs. Her plan for [Restarting Maine's Economy](#) provides a slow and cautious approach for the months ahead. The guidelines require a two-week quarantine when arriving to Maine from out of state, and then a maximum group gathering size of 50 people. After further discussion with the Governor's staff, our camp doctor, and many other camp directors, we've sadly concluded that the camp experience we've known and loved on Damariscotta Lake for nearly a century will not be possible for the first time ever.

Summer camp families have the option to receive a 2020 tuition refund, roll tuition to next year, or donate it. Many folks are being extraordinarily generous right now - a real testament to how important this institution is to so many. We are a nonprofit organization and continue to serve our community during the pandemic by cooking and delivering thousands of meals to those in need. Some of those efforts are detailed in our [Spring Newsletter](#) that is about to arrive in your mailbox. These and all KWE programs are possible because of our community's generosity. We are forever appreciative and humbled by our wonderful friends.

We will make every effort to continue to engage and support our KWE family throughout this summer and beyond. Applications for 2021 will be ready soon. All 2020 campers are eligible to return next summer, regardless of age or grade in school. The summer of 2021 will be epic!

Sending strong hugs,



Henry R. Kennedy
Executive Director
hrk@kwe.org



COVID-19 RESPONSE

March 30, 2020

Kieve Wavus Education is keeping a close watch on COVID-19 updates and guidelines from state and federal agencies. In light of the recent extension of federal social distancing and discretionary travel guidelines as well as state mandates on the public facing operations of non-essential businesses, KWE has suspended all programming until at least May 1. We are asking all remaining programs still scheduled for the month of May to get in touch with their KWE point of contact about the next steps for their program.

While we will not be working with Leadership School participants in the coming weeks, our staff is cooking and delivering over 1,000 meals each week to those in need in our community.

At this time, we are planning to begin summer camp programs as scheduled on June 23rd.

KWE is a 100-year old institution with a history of acting responsibly and we will develop plans that prioritize the safety of all participants and staff as we continue to monitor this evolving situation. KWE will remain steady through this chapter. Please continue to check our website for updated information.



Thursday, March 19, 2020

Dear Friends,

These are crazy days. This week, Maine's Governor Janet Mills declared a civil state of emergency, the CDC is discouraging group gatherings, and Maine's Department of Education has recommended that schools cease classroom-based instruction for an indefinite period of time. In response to these recommendations, Kieve Wavus Education (KWE) has suspended The Leadership School's spring season and all retreats at least through April 20th. For an organization that exists to build community and "give people hugs," this was not an easy decision.

At this time, we are planning and hoping to begin summer camp programs as scheduled on June 23rd with the staff arriving June 9th. KWE is a 100-year old institution with a history of acting responsibly; we will follow evolving state and federal agency guidelines as we develop plans that prioritize the health and safety of all participants and staff.

During these uncertain times a lot of people in our communities will be suffering. We feel very lucky that over the years so many folks helped to put KWE on firm financial footing; we will weather this storm. While no students or other clients will be with us in the coming weeks, we are fulfilling our mission and practicing our values of kindness and respect in other ways. Our staff is collaborating with a number of local non-profits to help stock food pantries, prepare and deliver meals, drive people to appointments, and help in any way we can. We will keep a steady hand on the tiller.

Please continue to check our [website](#) for updated information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry R. Kennedy".

Henry R. Kennedy
Executive Director
Kieve Wavus Education, Inc.

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COVID-19 RESPONSE

March 16, 2020

At Kieve Wavus Education, we are keeping a close watch on COVID-19 updates from state and federal agencies. Maine's Governor Janet Mills has declared a civil state of emergency, the CDC is discouraging gatherings of more than 50 people and Maine's Department of Education has recommended that schools cease classroom-based instruction for an indefinite period of time. In response to these recommendations, KWE has canceled our Spring season of Leadership School programming.

At this time, we are planning to begin summer camp programs as scheduled on June 23rd. The CDC describes this as "a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available." We will follow state and federal agency guidelines as we develop plans that prioritize the safety of all participants and staff.

KWE is a 100-year old institution with a history of acting responsibly. We will remain steady through this chapter. While we will not be working with many students in the coming weeks, our staff will be looking to collaborate with a number of local non-profits to help stock food pantries, deliver meals, driving people to appointments and helping in any way we can.

Please continue to check our [website](#) for updated information.