Dear Family,

Daffodils blooming and the slowing greening grass remind us we are rapidly approaching the midpoint of this most different spring trimester. I share this update with our current families as well as welcome those new families who have just begun to imagine their Proctor experience. Collectively, you represent 350 students!

On campus, our faculty continue to work alongside students (and parents) to deliver a remote learning experience encompassing not only academic classes and the arts, but advisor/advisee relationships, afternoon program offerings, and access to our counseling team. We are stretching ourselves as educators, learning much about what works and what does not in our current mix of synchronous and asynchronous classes. Simultaneously, we have begun the critical work of planning for our return to campus in the fall.

**Start of Year Information:**
Here in the Blackwater River valley, we remain optimistic about Proctor launching our school year in late summer/early fall. While the national landscape remains somewhat unsettled and regions and states have dealt with significant outbreaks, New Hampshire’s COVID-19 infection numbers have been relatively stable. We know this could change, but we also take solace in our space; 2,500 acres of trails, woodlands, streams and ponds keeps us grounded with nature during this time of uncertainty.

We all long for answers to the persistent unknowns, each day scanning headlines for some clue as to how this will all unfold. And yet we simply do not know. We can make educated guesses. We can study predictive models, but we simply do not have answers to the tough questions we know you want answered: Will we open as planned in the fall? Will campus be safe? Will off-campus programs run? Will we have interruptions to the school year as we did this spring? While these unknowns persist, what we do know is that our goal is to return in the fall to establish and re-establish relationships with our students and to engage fully with all facets of Proctor’s educational model.

**Future Contingency Planning:**
“Normal” will be redefined for all of us over the course of the summer. In order to ensure Proctor is prepared for various situations we may face, our work will explore how we best prepare to handle scenarios that may require:

- Alternative starts to the school year.
- Shifts to the school calendar.
- Potential midstream interruptions to on-campus operations.
- Adjustments in programming due to risk mitigation.

Critical to our planning around each of these scenarios is our need to be flexible and agile in our approach to the 2020-2021 academic year, while maintaining fluidity of program and prioritizing the health of our community.
**Scenario Planning Work Groups:**
The following work groups, comprised of our Administrative Team and faculty/staff, have been established. Each group (listed below) has begun to brainstorm and map the potential impact of different scenarios on Proctor.

- **Safety and Public Health:** Led by Proctor’s Health Director Sue Norris and Campus Safety Coordinator Rachel MacDuffie, this group will work to research and plan how Proctor must adjust daily operations across campus to ensure our community’s health and safety.
- **Programming:** Led by Academic Dean Derek Nussbaum Wagler, Director of Athletics Gregor Makechnie ’90, Dean of Faculty Karl Methven, and Director of Learning Skills Jennifer Fletcher, this group will explore potential academic schedules, curriculum design, delivery of the Learning Skills program, afternoon programming options, and off-campus programs for each scenario.
- **Student Life:** Led by Assistant Head of School Karin Clough, Student Health and Wellness Coordinator Megan Hardie, Dean of Residential Life Kyle Tremblay, and Dean of Students Drew Donaldson ’92, this group will explore the impact of different scenarios on dorm life, meals, the advisory program, and travel logistics for domestic and international boarding students, as well as day students.
- **Finance and Operations:** Led by CFOO John Ferris and me, this group is working on budget alternatives for each scenario and how recommendations from other work groups will impact the school’s operations and budget. Each budget scenario seeks to allow the school to deliver on the promise of our programming, while being fiscally responsible.
- **Communications and Community Relationships:** Led by Director of Communications Scott Allenby, Director of Enrollment Chris Bartlett ’86, and Director of Development Keith Barrett ’80, this group will synthesize the work of other groups and share information with both the internal and external constituencies.

Each of these groups is actively engaged in this planning work and will take counsel from Proctor’s School Physician Dr. Sarah Lester and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, while also consulting recommendations from Governor Sununu, the CDC, other infectious disease experts, and the Federal Government.

**Additional Opportunities for Engagement:**
As this spring unfolds and the realities of our return in the fall come into focus, we will share the work of our contingency planning with you. Our goal is to be as transparent with our families as possible, and we will communicate any alterations to our calendar or educational program as soon as we make those decisions. Additionally, we have the following opportunities to ask questions and engage further in these important conversations:

- **Town Hall with School Leadership:** This event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29 at 7:00 PM. Sign up to join this event [HERE](#) and join this open forum with Head of School Mike Henriques and other school leaders. This will be the first in a series of forums with faculty and administrators this spring and summer.
- **Contingency Planning Update:** We will update the community on our planning process and additional clarity on start of year information in mid-May.

As difficult as it has been to navigate this COVID-19 induced situation, it has sharpened our focus on who we are as a school and the critical role we believe we can play in young people’s lives. We feel privileged to partner with your family in your Proctor journey.