



*New Discoveries*

*Montessori Academy*

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March 20, 2020

Dear NDMA Family,

I would like to give a shout-out to the many people at New Discoveries who have worked tirelessly this week to support the planning and implementation as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses. Their good humor, creativity, and dedication helped us accomplish more than I could have imagined in one short week.

I would also like to give a shout-out to our families for being patient and gracious as we navigate this process. Thank you for working with us. Thank you for your encouragement.



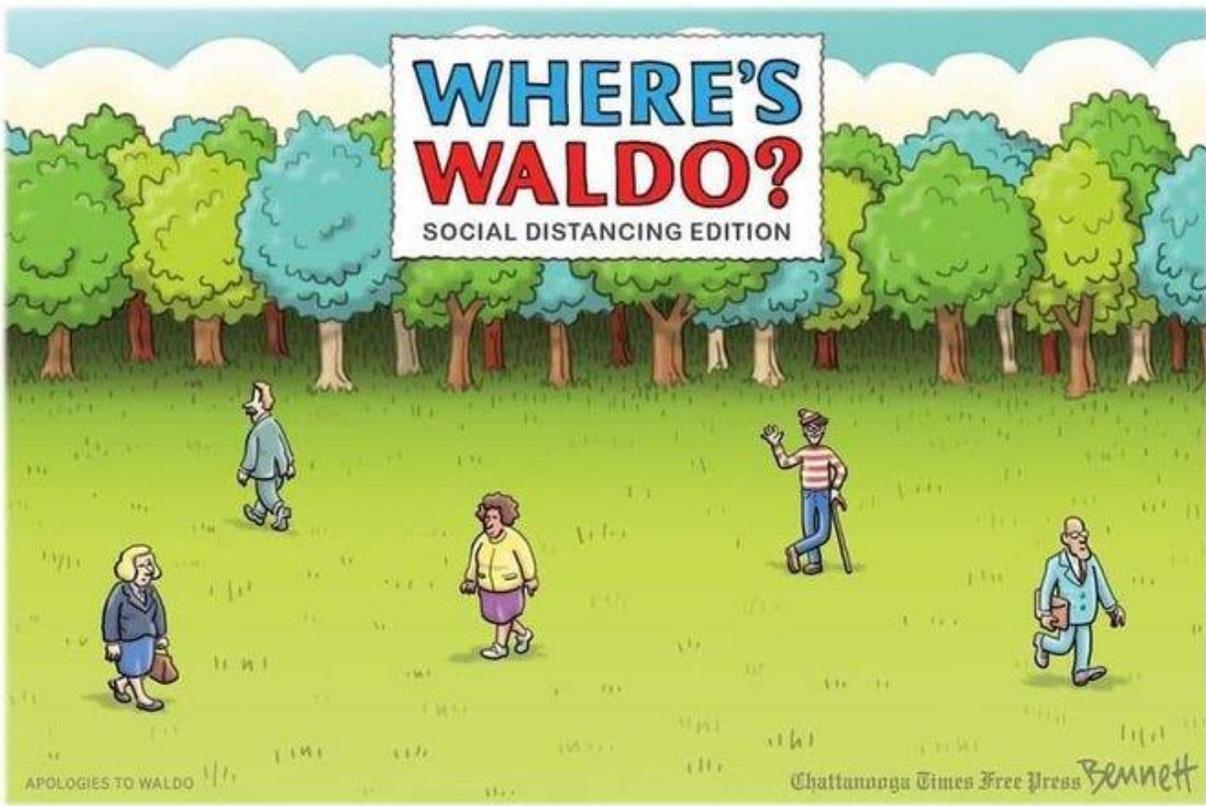


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Mrs. Kinzler said our work this week is like building sandcastles. After building all day long, we sit down for a conference call with the commissioner of education for updates and clarification. Just like the surf and the tide washing away the sandcastle, much of our hard work for the day is overcome by the updates, new mandates and/or clarifications we receive. The good news, though, is that we are not discouraged. We are grateful for the privilege to keep going, and to refine our work. The castle looks a little better every day.

United States Secretary DeVos announced this afternoon that students impacted by school closures due to the pandemic can bypass standardized testing for the 2019-20 school year. States need to apply for a testing waiver for this to happen. In response, the state of Minnesota announced today they *will* formally submit a request for a waiver so we will not have to participate in federally mandated testing requirements for the remainder of this school year.



If you have access to technology and internet, I would encourage you to do a virtual tour of some of the world’s most famous museums, zoos and/or aquariums. There are a couple of examples below (bullets 3 & 4).

Please consider some additional resources you may wish to access:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgBla7RepXU>, COVID-19 Informational Video
- [Department of Health and Human Services’ \(HHS\) FAQs for State Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) Agencies How to Protect Yourself](#)
- [https://twitter.com/shedd\\_aquarium/status/1239661654629023747](https://twitter.com/shedd_aquarium/status/1239661654629023747), Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, Illinois
- <https://youtu.be/selooitd85w>, Otter Cam, Monterey Bay Aquarium

If you live in the service area of Meeker Cooperative, and you do not have internet service, you may be eligible for the VIBRANT-U Education Program. You will find contact information below:

- **320-693-3231** or go online to <https://vibrantbroadband.com>

Dave Conrad  
Executive Director

Kerry Ward, of McLeod County Public Health offers the following advice:

As a social media influencer in our community, we ask that you help us spread the word about social distancing—and not to spread the virus—by taking part in the #StayAtHomeChallenge. Share the attached graphic to your IG story or post, as well as sharing your activities for this challenge.

