

***“The 20 Mile Mark”*** A Letter from Gabe Burnstein, Head of School

Dear CRS Community,

A long time ago, in a galaxy far away, (translation: before I had children) I ran the San Diego Rock ‘n Roll Marathon. I distinctly remember thinking at the 20 mile mark: *there really is a finish line to this thing*. I couldn’t see the finish line yet, but I could feel it.

For our Otters, April is the 20 mile mark, and they are starting to feel the finish line to the school year. Looking at photos from September, we can see the staggering physical growth of our children. Remember, a year in childhood is not like a year for an adult. A school year for a seven-year-old turning eight or twelve-year-old turning thirteen comes with enormous change. Lost baby teeth are replaced with big new teeth and growth spurts mean that some students are now even taller than their Stanley Cup water bottles.

And like real otters, our Otters don’t hibernate. They work and play all winter long and emerge stronger in the spring. Students have acquired new intellectual pursuits and passions including Greek mythology, coding, environmental sustainability, speaking a new language, and the ukulele just to name a few. April and May provide opportunities for students to showcase their academic growth, skill development, and new passions through culminating projects.

PreK/K students will publish a book of fairy tales with each student contributing an original story and illustration. Parents will be invited for a “book release” celebration and read aloud.

Fifth graders will present at a sharing assembly in front of the entire school on the topic of the Harlem Renaissance. Students will share their projects in their own creative styles - poetry, dance, music, and more.

And after a mock trial for Aaron Burr and performing together in *The Little Mermaid* this spring, our eighth graders' culminating experience will be their overnight trip to New York City to see *Hamilton* on Broadway.

At every grade level and developmental stage, there are opportunities for families and caregivers to take part in the celebration of learning and to cheer on our students as they make the final turn of the 2023-24 school year.

June will be here before we know it. Soon, students will be peeking ahead to next year’s marathon of learning and growth, and the Class of 2024 will take to the graduation stage in a CRS rite of passage that serves as the ultimate sharing assembly. Before our children get to this year’s finish line, let’s make sure to take a few deep breaths this spring and enjoy the opportunity to watch the flowers bloom.

Best,



# April



**CHARLES RIVER**  
SCHOOL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	AHOS Finalist #2 Meeting w/ parents: 8:15am in Dining Hall or 2 12:15 on Zoom	3	AHOS Finalist #3 Meeting w/ parents: 8:15am in Dining Hall or 4 12:15 on Zoom	5 Grades 3 - 8 Gaming Event 3:30pm	6
7	8	8:30am PA Meeting Zoom 5:30pm Rainbow Families Event	10	11	12	13
14	School Not In Session Patriots' Day Compass Event 15	16	17	8:15am Specialist Curriculum Coffee Dining Hall 6:30pm G7 Parents High School Info Session in MS 18	19 8:30am Sharing Assembly in Foster Hall	20
21	Grade 8 Parent Yearbook Notes Due 22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

