

Dear PCS friends,

Take what delights you and leave the rest.

1. **Never underestimate the impact you have on others.** Today my neighborhood UPS driver offered to help me carry a heavy delivery into my house. Turns out Carson is one of our fabulous PCS parents and he made my day by introducing himself and letting me know that these emails have impacted him. What I failed to tell Carson at the time was that he has made my day on many prior occasions simply by sharing his friendly wave and smile from his UPS truck. He seems so genuinely happy to share his joy and it always touches my heart. Many other parents, family members, students and staff have reached out and made my day in a similar fashion. Thank you! You never know when some small gesture you make might make the difference in someone else's day. It can be so simple. A wave. A smile. Looking someone in the eyes at the grocery store, asking them how they are, and truly listening to the answer. I challenge you to find a way to delight someone today.
2. **Starfish.** I swear to you I cry every time I tell this story... A little girl is walking on the beach with her grandfather where thousands of starfish have washed up on shore. The girl runs along in the sand picking up the starfish and throwing them back into the ocean where they can survive. The girl's grandfather gets the girl's attention and says sadly, "Honey, I'm sorry, but it's no use. You can't save them all." The girl scoops up a nearby starfish, holds it up to her grandfather and says, "No, but I can save this one!" and flings the starfish back into the ocean.

Every little thing we do matters. You may not be able to help everyone, but maybe you can help this one right here in front of you. That is enough.

3. **Celebrate every win.** You may be feeling pretty defeated these days especially when it comes to academics. I have heard from teachers that they are feeling like they can't do enough to help their students. I have heard from families that they are struggling to feel like competent home school teachers. I have heard from students that they are challenged to keep up and excel academically. But I want us to shift our focus to what we are doing *well*.
 - a. Our school **staff** is working so hard and actually teaching students in the classroom *and* at home and providing the opportunity for students to socialize and learn from the teachers and one another *in person*. Many schools are still doing full-distance learning. We are making this work!
 - b. You **families** are supporting your students and helping them get their work done, have social lives, and be as normal as possible. You are providing love, encouragement, safety and stability. And still working and running your households. Amazing!
 - c. And you **students** are adapting and working hard and being flexible. You are preparing yourselves for an unknown future and proving every day that you can handle anything. You are asking for the help that you need. You are staying connected with your friends and reminding us grownups that having fun and being alive are important!

We should all be pretty darned proud of ourselves! We are doing our best and keeping everyone healthy and safe. And hopefully finding joy along the way. :)

Thank you all for being your beautiful selves. We are in this together and I'm so grateful we have one another.

Warmly,
Becky