



# The Pelham Press



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Upcoming Events	October Events
9/16 Remote learning begins for Grades 1-6 9/16 Early Release, 1:20 PM 9/16-9/17 Kindergarten Screening 9/18 Remote learning begins for Kindergarten 9/25 <a href="#">Principal Community Coffee</a> , 10:00 AM 9/28 Early Release, 1:20 PM	10/1 Phase 1: in-person learning begins for Grades K-1 10/12 Indigenous People's Day, No School 10/14 <a href="#">Family/Staff Book Group</a> , 7:00 PM 10/21 Early Release, 1:20 PM 10/30 Early Release (Conferences), 1:20 PM

Dear Families,

Today is [International Dot Day](#), which celebrates the picture book, *The Dot*, by Peter Reynolds. This unofficial holiday has grown popular in schools over the past few years, as the book highlights the journey of trying something new, infusing it with creativity, and believing in oneself. [Here's a short video of me reading the book.](#)

It's hard to believe it, but...the first day of remote learning for students in grades 1-6 is tomorrow, Wednesday, September 16th! **The day will begin at 8:45 AM and end at 1:20 PM.** We'll meet the new Kindergarten friends at Kindergarten screening on Wednesday and Thursday, then they will begin their remote learning on Friday, September 18th. We will be taking time over these first few days to get to know each other, explore digital learning tools and platforms, and get into the routine of remote learning. Our IT Director, Jerry Champagne, sent a message this afternoon for folks who need a device to access remote learning. Please let me know if you bump up against any barriers or if I can help in any way.

As part of our work to foster an antiracist learning community, all classrooms will share monthly All-School Read Alouds this year. The PTO generously purchased a set of ten titles for each classroom, all of which feature authors and/or characters who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Our hope is to read, discuss, and celebrate these books during class meetings, reading buddies, assemblies, and community events. By doing so, we hope to provide students and families with entry points for conversations about race and identity. Thank you again to the PTO and our partners at High Five Books for collaborating on this project. **Our first monthly All-School Read will be [Islandborn by Junot Díaz](#), which coincides with [National Hispanic Heritage Month \(September 15-October 15\)](#).**

I hope you can join me for our next Principal Community Coffee on Friday, September 25th at 10:00 AM, on [Google Meet](#). You are welcome to submit questions beforehand [using this form](#).

I've decided to go by "Ms. Leigh" with the students. It certainly feels like a new time to be an educator, so I figure a new name suits the moment. You are welcome to call me whatever makes you comfortable.

As we embark on this school year together, I offer you all the same advice I've been offering to the staff: breathe, go slowly, hydrate, take screen breaks (outdoors if you can), let yourself savor the joyful moments. Please ask questions and let me know how I can support your family.

All the best,  
Leigh Whiting-Jones