Dear Webutuck Families,

I hope this letter finds you safe, well and enjoying family time. Each day we advance further into this pandemic, I am in awe of the amazing accomplishments we continue to achieve as a community. I thank everyone from staff to families for doing their part during this very difficult time.

This past weekend, I sent a letter out to the Webutuck community informing everyone that we would be having our “spring recess” beginning Monday, April 6 through Monday, April 13 and returning to our Online Distance Learning on Tuesday, April 14. As we have seen daily through this pandemic, information is ever evolving and that includes for the educational setting also. Since writing that letter, Governor Cuomo has issued an Executive Order requiring ALL districts in New York State to remain open and continue online learning throughout the originally scheduled spring recess. In discussions with the New York State Education Department, I lobbied for a much needed “breather” for all. Each of my conversations were met with an understanding of my request, but followed with, “We have to follow the Executive Order.”

I realize that our staff and children, as well as our families have been working vigorously to continue the educational process and everyone could have used the spring recess to recharge our batteries. The District was on top of delivering online learning and beginning this form of learning immediately upon school closure, however the Governor’s Executive Order gives us no choice but to continue our online distance learning program throughout spring recess.

Next week, staff will continue to provide learning instruction and opportunities for our students. Students are responsible to complete and submit the work that our teachers will be providing. We will be using Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13 as “Catch Up” days in order to give students time to catch up on material and assignments they may have missed or have not completed. On both of these days, teaching assistants will be available in their Google Classroom in order to assist our students in any way needed. Further information will be provided by your teachers.

Respectfully,

Raymond Castellani
Superintendent of Schools