May 4, 2020

Dear Parents:

I hope that you and your family are healthy and safe during this public health crisis. We wish you continued health during this difficult time.

I know that all of us are looking forward to the day when we can relax some of the stringent measures that have been taken to ensure public health. And while it does seem that some of those measures will be relaxed soon, it is unclear how programs will re-open in a manner that protects our health.

Over the past two years, the YWCA Greater Newburyport has built a phenomenal summer program for elementary school students. The success of the program was based primarily on the strength of our staff. But it was also based on our ability to provide creative experiences for students to enjoy.

It is becoming clear at this time that YWCA Greater Newburyport will not be able to provide a program of similar quality to what we provided last year. Therefore, we are sorry to announce that we will not be offering a summer camp program this summer.

This decision was based on several factors:

1) It is unclear at this time what social distancing requirements will be imposed to ensure safety.
2) It is clear that transportation will be a problem given social distancing requirements.
3) We are unable to coordinate activities with vendors as they are all closed.
4) YWCA does not own facilities that would provide a wide range of experiences to students.
5) We understand that you need to make plans for your summer. Given our inability to design a quality program at this time, we wanted to be fair with you so that you will have the time to plan your summer.

YWCA Greater Newburyport will focus its attention on re-opening our School Age program in the fall coinciding with the public school. We will be working both with our licensing agency, the Department of Early Education and Care, as well as the Newburyport Public School Department to ensure that when students return to us, we are able to provide engaging activities that support their growth and development without risking their health.

We are optimistic that during the summer of 2021 we will be in a position once again to offer you an exciting summer program and hope that you will consider choosing us at that time.

Sincerely,

John Feehan
Executive Director