

TO SIERRA WALDORF COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS:

Today the California Public Health Department and the Tuolumne County Health Department issued guidelines that state that all non-essential large events should be canceled or postponed due to the potential of spreading the COVID-19 virus. Unfortunately, our Auction meets these criteria and we are canceling this event. I've attached the new guidance, released yesterday, from the California Department of Public Health for your review. Tuolumne County Public Health has issued these same guidelines. This is the link. <http://www.oesnews.com/california-public-health-experts-mass-gatherings-should-be-postponed-or-canceled-statewide-to-slow-the-spread-of-covid-19/>

Here's an especially relevant quote from the guidance

"Changing our actions for a short period of time will save the life of one or more people you know," said Governor Newsom. "That's the choice before us. Each of us has extraordinary power to slow the spread of this disease. Not holding that concert or community event can have cascading effects — saving dozens of lives and preserving critical health care resources that your family may need a month from now. The people in our lives who are most at risk – seniors and those with underlying health conditions — are depending on all of us to make the right choice."

This is an extremely difficult decision since so much work has been put into the event and since the school is so dependent on the auction as a major revenue stream. The guidance coming from public health experts is that quick, decisive action now can mitigate the problems that will come within the next several weeks. The Board and the Development Committee will be discussing fundraising alternatives.

The good news is that the auction was already in an online format, and we will continue with that format. The auction will close on Saturday at 6 pm. This will include the live auction items as well, except for the car. If you would like to bid, you can follow this link <https://sierrawaldorfschool.schoolauction.net/auction80/>

Catalog Items will be available to view at the Motherlode Fairgrounds on Saturday, March 14th, noon-6 pm. On Sunday, items can be picked up on Sunday, March 15th from 10-2 pm. We will be moving class basket to auction items as we cannot legally hold online raffles. Our vendors have been amazingly gracious and have either waived their fees or only holding us to the deposit.

We are grateful to Caroline, Mike and all the auction committee members and volunteers who have already put countless hours into this event. We are all disappointed to miss such a great event and to have to cancel it so late. Despite this disappointment, we do appreciate the generosity of our families, sponsors, and the community. While we look forward to the auction each year, it is worth remembering that it is not only an evening to come together and celebrate; on a foundational level, it is a fundraiser. Please take this to heart as we move forward with ideas, and thank you for our understanding and continued support of Sierra Waldorf School in our 30th year.

With appreciation,
The Sierra Waldorf School Board
Marcia Williams, Administrative Director
The Sierra Waldorf School Auction Committee