

Dear Parents, Families, and Community Members,

In this unprecedented time, the PAW Board of Directors has unanimously decided to move Performing Arts Workshops to a virtual model for our 9th season. We realize this isn't ideal, but due to a plethora of concerns and uncertainties, we will be moving our workshops online for PAW 2020. You might already have a ton of questions, so please let this email serve as a resource to (hopefully) answer all of your questions and concerns.

PAW 2020 Virtual - Registration will be open from May 27th to June 17th.

If this news brings some sadness, please know we absolutely understand. At PAW, we always make it work! We adapt. We always have. We will make the best of this summer! Watch [this video](#) if you'd like to feel better about this whole thing.

You might be wondering, what does virtual PAW even look like? Our team is more dedicated than ever to bring you the best experience we can with the resources we have available. Please visit our website [here](#) to read more about each workshop this summer.

IMPORTANT: All students, whether registered previously or not, **MUST** re-register. Due to the many changes, this is the best way for us to proceed. Think of it as a whole new offering of workshops, because it will be. Our workshops have been changed and adapted to fit this 2020 virtual model.

Because of the nature of virtual possibilities, the following changes will be made to our 2020 Programming:

- PAW Prints (Ages 0-5) will be offered as a free online video series
- PAW Cubs (K-2nd grade) will be offered as a free online video series
- PAW Musical Theatre Experience (6th-12th grade) will not be presenting *Legally Blonde Jr.* Instead, we are pleased to announce that we will be presenting *The Big One-Oh, MTL's First Ever Zoomsical!* This workshop will now be limited to students grades 6-12 due to the demanding nature of technological skills and limited spots.
- PAW Musical Theatre Experience Crew will not be offered this summer. We look forward to revisiting the possibility of this workshop for 2021.
- The prices of PAW Jr, PAW Sr, PAW MTE, and PAW Selects will be reduced based on the number of hours and the nature of the workshop.

Every family with funds in their PAW account will receive an email from Associate Director, Carly Tyran, on Thursday, May 21st telling how much is in their account. This will include money earned from fundraisers, deposits, and scholarships. These funds may be used for workshops, tickets, events, merchandise, and future trips. They will not expire except for scholarships that were specific to 2020.

In addition to our workshop offerings, PAW will be hosting a series of **PAW Flashback Fridays!** They begin Friday, June 5th and lead up to the commencement of our workshops. Each weekend, we will livestream a past performance of a past PAW production. These will be FREE to the community. We will be humbly accepting donations for these free community events. We hope this provides an opportunity for students to watch simultaneously with family and friends and reminisce on PAW Family memories.

Questions and Answers:

What happens if we already paid for 2020 workshops?

The only payment that has currently been accepted toward 2020 workshops is the \$10 deposit made at registration. If you choose not to participate in our virtual offerings this will be refunded or can be used as PAW credit, depending on which you choose.

What if my student(s) received scholarships this spring?

If your student received a scholarship this spring, you will still receive scholarship funds up to the amount that your students can currently use. If you received scholarship funding for a workshop that is either cancelled, free, or that your child is no longer eligible for, they will no longer receive that scholarship. Otherwise, scholarships will apply to our current workshops. If your student received a scholarship that is more than the new price, they will only receive scholarship funding up to the price of the workshop.

Do you still have scholarships available for this summer?

Yes! Please apply when you register. We know the financial impact of COVID19 has been devastating to many families. It is still our goal to offer high quality arts instruction to any student who wants to participate. Scholarships are available so that we can fulfill this goal.

If I already registered, do I have to register again?

Yes! Due to the nature of the many changes, we need a clean slate to move forward.

What if I don't want to participate in virtual PAW?

We completely understand. Every family will make the choice that is best for them. We would love to see you, but we know this is not ideal. We hope to be back to normal next year!

Are there number requirements or limited spots for these workshops?

Yes. Each workshop must meet a threshold of enrollment in order to run. However, there are also limited spots available compared to regular years. In order to provide the best experience, we must limit these numbers.

What will my child need in order to participate in virtual PAW?

Your child will need a functioning desktop device, internet access, and a space where they can work independently. The desktop computer or laptop must be able to operate and run Zoom/have a video and audio capabilities. Earbuds or headphones are also needed.

Are there any materials, costumes, supplies beyond the device and internet?

Every student enrolled in PAW will receive a PAW Virtual Supply Box delivered to their home. This will include a special 2020 Virtual PAW T-Shirt and any other supplies your student might need for their workshops. PAW MTE and Selects may require students to find certain items at home that they can wear, but you should not need to buy anything.

Who will be staffing the virtual PAW?

Most of our originally hired instructors will be teaching virtually! There are familiar and new faces on the team who are working hard to create this experience for you. As always, we are proud of our highly skilled, experienced, and passionate instructors. They have agreed to take on this challenge for you!

What if my student was enrolled for PAW Prints or PAW Cubs?

We will be providing a FREE video series specifically designed and created for these younger age groups. These videos will be available for you to watch with your children at your leisure.

Can I get a 2020 T-Shirt for myself or for a student in a free workshop?

Yes! We will have a place for you to order extra t-shirts online. If you have already ordered and paid for an extra t-shirt, we will provide this to you, unless you request a refund.

Please let us know if you have any other questions, comments, or concerns. We are here to help! We look forward to navigating this unique challenge, and we hope to see you this summer!

Sincerely,

August Garritano, Lena Miles-LoRusso, Carly Tyran, and Danny Ferenczi
PAW Executive Team