Dear Campers and Parents,

I hope this update finds you all safe and well!

As you can understand there is a huge degree of uncertainty as to whether it will be safe to proceed with these programs. We are hearing two key themes from Campers and Parents as we work through various options. These themes are:

a. Both Campers and Parents are desperate for high quality, engaging and hopefully in person education opportunities. Everyone is feeling the deficits of connection, personalized instruction and educational progress.

b. No one wants to put anyone else at risk.

As always, student safety is our first concern and we continue to monitor the rapidly evolving COVID-19 response and related guidelines from Washington State and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Currently, Camp BIOmed is still scheduled to run at all three locations (Spokane, Seattle and Bellevue) per the original dates. We are also making contingency plans if it is decided that it is not safe to run camp.

If Camp BIOmed does run, we will be making the following changes to the way we run camp so as to maximize safety:

- We will be limiting camp size to 10 students per camp.
- Like laboratory scientists everywhere, students and staff will wear full protective lab gear including gloves, masks and lab coats. This gear will be provided by NWABR.
- And, of course, strict hand-washing and other recommended safety protocols will be followed at all times.

One of the great things about the Camps is that they run in College science labs so the adherence to the above protocols is only a small step up from the way that the Camps have traditionally been run.

Parents have also asked up that if we need to cancel the in-person Camp experience then they need to have at least a month’s notice of this so that they can make alternative plans.

We will continue to monitor the guidelines and will make a final decision on May 4, 2020 on whether to proceed with camps.

Should it be necessary to cancel camp we will send you all an immediate notification and also provide you with details regarding online classes that you may be interested in (a form of Camp Lite) as well as refund information.
In the meantime, we hope you are practicing safe science and following all the recommendations for staying healthy during this outbreak!

For any concerns or questions, please contact –
Ken Gordon, Executive Director
executivedirector@nwabr.org

Mansi Kaushik, Camp BIOmed & Technical Manager
camp.mansi@nwabr.org

Wendi Russac, Education Programs
education.wendi@nwabr.org