

Monday, April 20th, 2020

Dear Parent,

I'm so pleased to be able to start this letter with reports of another amazing weekend at IJGA Bishops Gate. This time it was the start of a double-header of "Ryder Cup" weekends, with students divided into four teams, and with the demand for spots, being restricted to playing in only two or three of the four match events. We started with eighty students competing in the Alternate shot format and the camaraderie / happiness on the face of the students was something special. Playing for each other rather than just for themselves took them to another level. One pairing, with an average handicap of four between them, ended up five under for the day, something that they will never forget. Another aspect of this team event that surfaced is the realization amongst the students of just how many quality players there are at the golf academy, which they came face to face within their matches. When we worked through the handicaps of the students in each team everyone had single figure handicaps and one quarter were "plus" handicaps, better than "scratch". After a rain delay yesterday, we did the Better Ball today, with a Scramble next Saturday and Individual next Sunday to look forward to. Scores are close at the end of this weekend, with two teams on 25 points and two teams on 23 points!

Now into our sixth week of "lock-down" I'm relieved to report that our students are all in good health as are our golf coaches. The golf coaches, catering staff and housekeepers who travel in each day continue to wear masks and gloves and keep their distance from each other as well as from our students. Although Florida now has 25,000 cases, two thirds are in the Miami / West Palm Beach area, 1,000 in the Orlando area and 204 in our Lake County, which is rural and remote. With the measures taken by the state of Florida to lock-down from April 1st we are still hopeful that we have reached the apex and that the risks will become reduced. However, with unemployment rising in the country there are pressures on re-opening the economy which we hope that the decision makers are careful and responsible over. We will continue to do our best in being vigilant in enforcing the measures we have put in place to protect our students.

In this difficult time the mental wellbeing of our students is, as always, our priority. Although the students from Old Carolina were brought down to Bishops Gate so that they could continue to participate in a golf program and be in a safer community, it has turned out particularly well in introducing new friendships to both of the communities. Three weeks since their arrival you would not now be able to distinguish the Old Carolina students from the Bishops Gate students in the social settings, both have come together so well. The only difference continues in the different golf groups and schooling groups where they are still separate, as well as in their

housing. Both sets of students have adapted to the new golf schedule which has a stronger playing component to it and less technical instruction, partly because of the distance the coaches have to keep from the students. On the education front we are closely monitoring the students' grades and are pleased to say that for the most part they are staying strong. We have reintroduced evening Study Hall for those that are struggling and I love to wander through the classrooms in the evening and see between ten and twenty students completing their assignments with four of our Seniors volunteering their time as tutors to those students that need help.

Hopefully, you will gauge from this letter that I am truly impressed and proud of our students, whose spirits remain positive despite being locked-down in Bishops Gate and also missing their families. But the weeks go by and it is amazing to reflect that we are just over three weeks away from what should have been graduation for our seniors. On the expectation of no formal school graduation, we are planning to enact our own Graduation ceremony for our seniors and to host a Prom for them, letting them dress up and have a party to remember.

As always, special appreciation to our wonderfully committed Golf Coaches, Residential Instructors, Catering Team and Housekeeping Team, who have never flinched in their commitment to serve our students. Thanks also to you, our parents, for your trust and support.

Best regards,

Andrew Summers (CEO)