From the Editors' Desk:
What have we learned from teaching through a pandemic that we want to hold on to?

The Kaleidoscope staff offers you this gift—a self-authored issue of the things we learned while teaching through a pandemic.

What a year! As we return to the classroom this fall, there are many things to be grateful for and many things to mourn. As the Kaleidoscope staff navigated this year as classroom teachers, we realized that we needed to turn inward to support each other and lean on the community we had built. Now was not the time for new projects or for bringing others in; it was a time for drawing on our relationships for the strength to cope with an impossibly difficult year.

So we asked ourselves: what if we wrote this issue ourselves? It could be a way to give something back to our community, who have given us their time, insights, and wisdom through sharing so many stories with us.

So here it is, our offering to you, authored by current members of the Kaleidoscope editorial staff, our peer advisors, and members of our writing retreat community.

Rebecca Van Tassell
Editor-in-Chief

Rebecca Van Tassell, a Knowles Senior Fellow, is an editor-in-chief of Kaleidoscope. Reach Becky at rebecca.vantassell@knowlesteachers.org.
Sarah uses the analogy of constructing a living space for her 'tenants' (students) to illustrate the difficulties of teaching in a pandemic.

Where Do We Go From Here?  
- Christopher Anderson

Using a comic, Chris tells us the story of grappling with the impossibility of teaching his typical curriculum virtually and how he had to prioritize what was most important for his students to learn.

Recognizing Joy in 2020  
- Carlee Madis

Carlee, in verse, tells us the ways she has found joy in the midst of the pandemic.

The Case for Resubmissions: Building a Values-Driven Assessment System in your Classroom  
- Kirstin Milks

Kirstin narrates us through the way she uses resubmission, showing us how this policy allows her to realize her values about school in her classroom.

The Power of Compassionate Leadership: Interviewing Principal Marcy Leonard  
- Brittany Franckowiak

Brittany describes the importance of leadership in adapting to difficult situations, particularly leadership that listens carefully and models compassion at every level.

The Builder Analogy: Teaching During a Pandemic  
- Sarah Berger

Sarah uses the analogy of constructing a living space for her 'tenants' (students) to illustrate the difficulties of teaching in a pandemic.

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