***The Story of Wise Grandfather Turtle***

(Therapeutic story for pandemic precautions from Molly Brett and Kimberton Waldorf School)

Once upon a time there was a beautiful pond at the edge of a meadow. The pond was surrounded by tall weeping willows whose branches blew in the wind, majestic cottonwoods that reached towards the sky and red maple trees whose leaves blazed red in the fall and whose trunks filled with sticky, sweet syrup in early spring.

One evening a tremendous storm blew in. As the animals slept the storm raged and the rain poured all night long. When it finally stopped the little froggies and turtles began to poke their heads out of the mud. Their beautiful pond was a mess! The heavy rain has stirred up the dirt and you could barely see. Grandfather Turtle had also awoken, and he knew just what to do! He helped all his littles ones find their way back into their homes. “Your home is safe. Your home is warm. Burrow away while I clean up the storm.”

All the little froggies and turtles crawled back into their winter burrows and Grandfather Turtle who was so wise began spring cleaning. He turned over the rocks and polished each and every one until they shined. He cleared away the algae that the heavy rains stirred, and he gathered the fallen leaves. When he swam to the top to remove the floating leaves, he heard the “slosh, slosh, slosh” of Sister Thaw’s boots. Surely, a familiar sound of the coming of Spring! Sister Thaw had come to help, and she quickly joined in the fun. She swept the debris that had gathered around the ponds edge and soon you could see the beautiful spring bulbs just beginning to pop thru the mud and reeds. Next, she took out the rowboat and together with Grandfather Turtle they used a net to clear the rubbish. After much work you could see from the top to the bottom of the pond. The sun’s rays began to shine all the way to the depths of the water where the shiny, clean stones and pebbles sparkled.

When all was just right Grandfather Turtle swam to the bottom of the pond and began to knock on each friends’ door: “Knock, knock. Come and greet the sun. Lady Spring is here to stay. Come out, come out it’s time to play.” All the animals were so pleased with the spring cleaning done by Grandfather Turtle and Sister Thaw that they threw them a feast! Even Father Sun blest their celebration with his golden rays.

End with verse

Oh, golden sun so great and bright  
Warms the world with all it’s might  
It makes the dark earth warm and fair  
Attends each thing with ceaseless care

It shines on blossom, stone and tree

On bird and beast, on you and me  
Oh. may each deed throughout the day  
May everything we do and say  
Be bright and strong and true  
Oh, golden sun like you