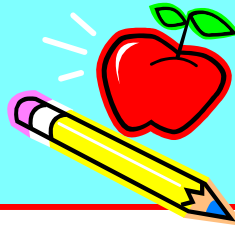




BACK TO SCHOOL!



WELLFLEET
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mary Beth Rodman, Principal

September 2017

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! We look forward to a joyful, productive, and successful school year. We are pleased to welcome new staff Grade 5 teacher, Ms. Megan Harrington and Occupational Therapist, Ms. Danielle DeSimone to WES!

Student Drop-Off Procedure

The school day begins promptly at **7:45 AM** and ends at **2:00 PM**. Bus schedules may be viewed on the district website: www.nausetschools.org. If you drive your child(ren) to school please adhere to the **Student Drop-Off Procedure** *to ensure student safety*:

- Drive **slowly** into the parking lot to the right of WES (preschool entrance side) ***For safety, tardy students must be accompanied by an adult to the main office.**
- A monitor will greet students by the parking lot as they walk to the school's front entrance via the brick walkway.
- If you choose to walk your child to the school entrance, please park in a designated parking spot.

Parent & Student Handbook

The **WES Parent & Student Handbook** for the 2017-2018 school year is located on the Nauset and WES websites. To access the handbook on either website, click on STUDENTS, select STUDENT HANDBOOKS in the dropdown menu, then click Wellfleet Parent-Student Handbook. ***Please read the handbook and sign the Parent Signature page (on green paper) that is in today's Backpack Mail (Please note: the oldest child in the family, that attends WES, will have this page in their backpack). Return the signed Parent Signature page to your child's teacher by Friday, September 15th.*** Handbooks can be printed upon request.

The **Student K-5 Responsible Use Policy** (on blue paper) that is also in today's Backpack Mail, ***must be signed by all students and a parent/guardian and also returned to your child's teacher by Friday, September 15th.***

Thank you for your cooperation!

Wellfleet Elementary School is a PEANUT AWARE SCHOOL

Wellfleet Elementary School has students with peanut allergies. Strict avoidance of peanut and peanut products is the only way to prevent a life-threatening allergic reaction. We are asking for your assistance in providing students with a safe learning environment.

Please do not send any peanut-containing products for your child to eat during the school day. Any exposure to peanuts through inhalation, contact, or ingestion can cause a severe reaction. If your child has eaten peanuts prior to coming to school, please be sure your child's hands have been thoroughly washed prior to entering the school.

We appreciate your support of these procedures. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Cope-Crosen, R.N. at [508-349-3101 ext. 14](tel:508-349-3101).

Curriculum Night

Curriculum Night (Open House) is scheduled for **Thursday, September 14th**. Grade 3, 4, & 5 teachers will hold classroom meetings from 5:30-6:00 PM. Grade K, 1, & 2 teachers will hold classroom meetings from 6:15-6:45 PM. Teachers will explain the curriculum, discuss expectations for students, and review class schedules.

For your convenience, special area teachers (Special Education, Music, Art, Physical Education, Title 1, and Computer) and informational tables from PTA, WCCA, and our Health Office will be in the cafeteria from 5:30-6:45 PM so you may visit when you are not in the curriculum meetings.

If you require childcare for Curriculum Night, ***please*** contact Mrs. DeSandis at 508-349-3101 ext. 10 or by email at desandisa@nausetschools.org no later than **Monday, September 11th**. Thank you, in advance, for your attendance and cooperation!

Visitors

In accordance with the NAUSET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN, all visitors are to report to the main office upon entering the building. *Visitors may not go directly to classrooms.* All visitors shall present a valid driver's license to school staff to be entered into the Raptor Visitor Registration system. Once entered into the system, you will still need to check in at the main office for a visitor's sticker, but will no longer need to provide ID. For all visitors, staff shall record and retain as a matter of record:

- full name
- date of birth
- residential address
- home & cell phone numbers
- name of the school employee you are visiting.
- name of the student you are here for
- name of business, group, or entity you are representing.
- arrival & exit times

For safety and security, we need to know who is in the building at all times.

Dismissal Notes & Changes

At the start of the school year, each family is asked to provide default dismissal plans for each student. **Blanket notes are welcome** if your child has a regular dismissal plan (i.e. WCCA, parent pick up, etc.)

If your child will ride their assigned bus to and from school each day, you do not need to write a note.

A complete dismissal note should look like this:

September 5, 2017

Dear Mrs. Anderson,

Instead of going to afterschool childcare (WCCA), John Smith is to ride bus #3 to Billy Brown's stop today.

Thank you

Emergency change of plans may occur that require you to phone in a change. **Any dismissal change for a student must be made to Mrs. DeSandis no later than 1:30 PM on full school days and no later than 10:30 AM on early dismissal school days.** This should not be a frequent practice. Please plan ahead.

Light on Literacy

Mrs. Kocaba, Reading Specialist

Happy September! I hope you drank up every possible drop of sunshine during this incredible summer – hopefully doing it with a book in hand. It's time now to get back into the swing of reading at school and reading at home.

Reading to your child is one of the most enjoyable experiences that a parent and child can have. Not only does it allow you time to slow down and focus your attention on each other it also gives your child the gift of a richer vocabulary and deeper background knowledge – both critical to becoming a good reader. But, don't forget to have your child read aloud to you (or another adult) every day. The ability to read aloud with expression and phrasing (oral reading fluency) is another essential skill that a good reader needs to have. So, take turns reading to each other. Of course, the books may be different, but the benefits will be well worth it.

Check out this link for suggestions on how you can share the joy of reading while strengthening your child's literacy skills:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/10-things-you-can-do-raise-reader>

Please visit my Teacher Site for more information about topics related to reading. Just go to the Wellfleet homepage and click on **TeacherSites** in the Quick

Non-Custodial Parent Mailings

We would like our school communications to reach every parent. If there is a non-custodial parent in your family who wants to have school news sent to them, please ask them to provide us with their email address. If the parent does not have access to the internet, please ask them to provide the school with ten self-addressed 9" x 12" manila envelopes with double postage attached. Each month we will mail a packet of school notices and information to them. Any questions, please call the main office at 508-349-3101, ext. 10.

Notices from school will be sent home on Thursdays in Backpack Mail. Please note:

- Most Backpack Mail will be emailed home.
- Classroom teachers may send home notices daily.

Student Conduct on School Buses (File: EEAEK)

The School Committee and its staff share with students and parents the responsibility for student safety during transportation to and from school including bus stops. The authority for enforcing School Committee requirements of student conduct on buses will rest with the Principal.

To ensure the safety of all students who ride in buses, it may occasionally be necessary to revoke the privilege of transportation from a student who abuses this privilege. Parents of children whose behavior and misconduct on school buses endangers the health, safety, and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of transportation privileges in accordance with regulations approved by the School Committee.

The District reserves the right to use video surveillance of students at our own discretion.

Please note: *Children in PreKindergarten, Kindergarten, and Grades 1 & 2, must be met at the bus stop in the afternoon by an adult or a parent-designated person or the child will be returned to school. The parent will be called and will have to pick up the child at school. Thank you for being punctual when meeting your youngest children as they get off the bus in the afternoon.*

Bus schedules may be viewed on the district website:

www.nausetschools.org

Band Lessons (Grades 4 & 5)

Mr. Hollander-Essig welcomes all 4th & 5th grade students to the first band lesson of 2017-2018. It will be held on **Monday, September 18th at 7:00 AM in the Gym.** Instrumental Rental Night is **Thursday, September 14th from 6:30-8:00 PM at NRMS auditorium.** If you have any questions, please email Mr. Hollander-Essig at: hollanderessigc@nausetschools.org.

Chorus Lessons (Grades 4 & 5)

Mr. Staker welcomes all 4th & 5th grade students to Chorus for 2017-2018. Come join in the fun and start your day on a "high note". The first Chorus lesson will be held on **Thursday, September 14th, at 7:00 AM in the Music Room.** If you have any questions, contact Mr. Staker at 508-349-3101, ext. 20 or at: stakera@nausetschools.org.

SOCIAL SKILL BUILDING CURRICULAR & SUPPORT:

Responsive Classroom at WES

The Northeast Foundation for Children's *Responsive Classroom* approach is a way of teaching that emphasizes social, emotional, and academic growth in a strong and safe school community. Teachers implement the approach using research-based practical strategies that help students build academic and social-emotional competencies in an integrated way throughout the school day. Responsive Classroom practitioners share the belief that children learn at their best when the social and academic curricula are

Second Step (Committee for Children)

Social-emotional skills – like math skills – build on each other. The universal, classroom-based program is designed to teach children how to understand and manage their emotions, control their reactions, be aware of others' feelings, and have the skills to problem-solve and make responsible decisions. Each grade-level includes easy-to-teach, short weekly lessons, engaging songs and games, and daily activities and take-home materials to reinforce learning.

Choose to be Nice

To enhance our Social Skill Building curricular programs (Responsive Classroom and Second Step); WES is choosing to be nice. **Choose to be Nice** is an online organization that is "*encouraging people, all over the world, to make the promise to spread kindness wherever and whenever possible and to the best of our ability, to be nice to those with whom we come in contact on a daily basis.*"



News from the Health Office

Head Lice!

It is very common at this time of year to discover some unwelcome visitors on your child's head. That's right, lice! Summer travel, sleep overs, camp, sharing helmets, etc. are all opportunities for lice to hitch a ride. Don't panic! Pediculosis, or head lice, while annoying and itchy, do not transmit disease, and are not even a sign of poor hygiene. The best way to prevent head lice is to comb through your child's hair once a week with a good metal lice comb, such as Lice Meister, available through Amazon for \$12.00. That way you are combing away any potential exposure to lice before they have a chance to multiply. If you do discover head lice, call the school nurse and she can help walk you through the necessary steps to rid your family of this pesky parasite. Don't be embarrassed to let the folks who your child has been in close, personal contact with know that they should also be checking heads at home. The sooner a case is detected, the sooner they can be eliminated. Please contact Claudia Cope-Crosen, R.N. with questions or concerns at copec@nausetschools.org or 508-349-3101 ex. 14

Medication in School

If your child requires medication during school hours, here are some important things to know.

1. All medications, including over the counter medications, require a doctor's order, and a parent's signed permission.
2. All medications should be in original container and clearly labeled with the original pharmacy instructions. Your pharmacist will be happy to prepare a separate bottle, properly labeled, for the school nurse to dispense.
3. All medications, including over the counter medications, must be brought to the school nurse by the child's parent or guardian.
4. During school hours and on the school bus, no child shall have any medication on his or her person, unless a plan has been established due to medical necessity.

Medication authorization forms are available on the Nauset Public Schools website.

NRSD Wellness Policy

The Nauset Public School District is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity.

Students with serious food allergies are on the rise and we must take responsible steps to ensure their safety by exercising control over the food products that are distributed to children in school.

Birthday celebrations will focus on recognizing each child as special and important. Teachers and classmates will recognize students in the classroom in imaginative ways. The celebration will be NON FOOD. We ask your cooperation in making our school a safe and healthy place for all.

Curriculum-based events that involve food will be limited throughout the year. Classroom events should be curriculum based and limited throughout the year. Recognizing that these curriculum events are anticipated educational and social activities for school children, the following guidelines will be instituted:

- Teacher will provide 48 hours notice to the School Nurse and Principal for a planned classroom curriculum event.
- Classroom curriculum events will include healthy snack options and must be store bought foods only, with an ingredient label. Fresh fruits and vegetables do not require a label.
- Schools will provide a list of healthy snack ideas to parents/caregivers.
- Based on the School Nurse's discretion and student food allergies in classrooms, foods will be checked prior to a planned curriculum event. Foods must have a nutritional label/ingredient list attached to protect the safety of students with life-threatening food allergies. Fresh fruits and vegetables do not require a label.

Teachers/parents are encouraged to choose non-food related activities as an alternative to traditional food focused curriculum events.

Lunch Program

Families are invited to submit completed free and reduced lunch applications to **Janet Daly, Business Office Clerk at 78 Eldredge Park Way, Orleans, MA 02653** anytime during the school year. Please call Susan Murray, Director of Food and Nutrition, at 508-255-8800 ext. 130 if you have any questions or need assistance in completing the form.

Organic Milk

Now being offered at WES: Organic Milk (1% white and 1% chocolate). The cost of an 8 oz. container of organic milk is **\$1.50 each**. PLEASE NOTE: Organic milk is **NOT** included in the regular lunch price. Organic milk will only be sold as an ala carte item.

WES School Council

According to the 1993 Education Reform Act, every Massachusetts public school is required to establish a school council. A school council is a representative, school building-based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers, and community members. The 2017-2018 WES School Council meetings will be held at 2:15 PM in the Principal's Office on the following dates:

- September 25
- October 30
- November 27
- January 29
- March 26
- April 30
- May 21

WES School Committee Secretary Needed

The Wellfleet School Committee is actively looking to fill the position of School Committee Secretary.

The School Committee Secretary attends monthly Wellfleet School Committee meetings (2nd Tuesday of each month at 4:30 PM) to take minutes and type the minutes prior to the next meeting. There are approximately 10 – 12 meetings per school year (September-June and possible summer meetings).

The candidate must have strong secretarial skills, be adept at taking and typing accurate and detailed School Committee meeting minutes, maintain organized and accurate records, documents, and reports, demonstrate organizational skills, initiative, attention to detail, and the ability to maintain confidentiality.

For a full description of the position, qualifications, and salary, please visit www.nausetschools.org and click on Job Opportunities.

Application Procedure: Send a letter of interest, resume and three (3) letters of reference to:

Mary Beth Rodman, Principal
100 Lawrence Road, Wellfleet, MA 02667

An Equal Opportunity Employer

NOTE: Interviews for this position will be granted to finalists as determined by the administration of the Nauset Public Schools.

