



## Wellfleet Elementary School Principal's Newsletter - December 2020



### **Holiday Reminders**

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recognizes that the upcoming **Thanksgiving** and winter holidays may pose a challenge to districts in their efforts to limit students' and staff's exposure to COVID-19. The Department encourages district and school leaders to remind staff and students about the best practices that the Department of Public Health has outlined:

- Limit gathering size: Indoor gatherings at private residences are limited to **10 people**, and outdoor gatherings at private residences are limited to **25 people**.
- Individuals should stay within their household: For a **lower-risk celebration**, people should limit in-person holiday gatherings to only people they live with or limit the gathering to a small group of individuals with whom they are regularly in contact.
- Avoid travel: Anyone considering travel should review and abide by Massachusetts **travel orders**, and people who want to travel to another state that is not a **lower-risk state** should be aware of the quarantine requirements involved with such travel. Maine and New Hampshire will be added to high risk states on November 21st.
- The holidays will necessarily look different this year, and DESE appreciates all that educators, students, and families are doing to limit their risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19.
- Please contact Mrs. Cope-Crosen at 508-349-3101 ex. 14 to discuss any upcoming travel plans and return to school protocols.

## **TERM I**

Marks for Term I will close on Friday, December 4th. Report Cards will go home with students on Wednesday, December 9th.

Thank you for participating in your child's Parent-Teacher Conferences. Research shows that schools that partner with their families and community



increase students' academic and social-emotional learning!

## **EARLY RELEASE DAYS**

The Nauset Public Schools 2020-2021 School Calendar includes early release dates. Please take note of the following early release dates. Elementary students will be dismissed at 11:00 AM on:

- December 2
- December 23
- January 13
- February 10
- March 10
- March 19
- April 7
- May 12
- June 9

- June 22 (last day of school without snow days)



### **HOLIDAY RECESS**

The Holiday Recess begins at 11:00 AM (early release day) on Wednesday, December 23rd. School will not be in session from December 24, 2020 – January 4, 2021 for the Holiday Recess. We will be eager to see everyone back at school on **Tuesday, January 5, 2021!** WES wishes you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season!

### **WES PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK**

The 2020-2021 WES Parent & Student Handbook is available on the WES homepage.

### **STUDENT & FAMILY RESOURCE PAGE**

Mrs. Francis, WES School Psychologist, has created a resource page on the WES homepage or can be accessed [HERE](#). Resources and supports for Social-Emotional Learning, COVID-19, Mental Health, Special Education, and Community Agencies are available on the page. If you need or wish to contact Mrs. Francis, please either call 508-349-3101, ext. 37 or email at [francisk@nausetschools.org](mailto:francisk@nausetschools.org).

### **NEWS FROM MRS. HOLMES, Technology Coordinator & Teacher**

Wellfleet Elementary School subscribes to several great educational online learning programs!

The following sites monitor individual student progress and can be accessed from home for extra practice:

- Lexia Reading Core5
- Epic! Reading
- IXL Math and ELA
- Xtramath (math fact practice)
- Typing Quest (keyboarding practice)

If you have misplaced your child's login information for any of the subscription websites, or if you have questions about any of the programs, please feel free to contact me at [holmesl@nausetschools.org](mailto:holmesl@nausetschools.org) or

508-349-3101, ext. 36.

## **NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE**

### **Dress for the Weather ~ Your Child NEEDS LAYERS!**

Students are spending much more learning time outside. The classroom windows are open for maximum air flow and ventilation. As a result, the building will be cool this winter. Adding a layer when necessary will help children maintain a more comfortable body temperature when the building temperature drops.

Please consider sending clothing to school that can be easily layered and provides good insulation and warmth. Here is a checklist for your convenience:

- Puffer or fleece lined jacket
- Warm vest
- Hats\* or ear muffs (*\*Hats must be knit beanies or other cold weather hats, not baseball or "fashion" caps.*)
- Neck gaiter\* or scarf (*\*Neck gaiters cannot be used as a face covering.*)
- Insulated boots
- Leg warmers
- Thermal long johns
- Sweater/Sweatshirt
- Warm socks

### **NEW INFLUENZA VACCINE REQUIREMENT for Grades K - 12**

Beginning this school year, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is requiring all students to receive the influenza vaccine by 12/31/20. The flu vaccine is always important in reducing the risk of getting sick with the flu, reducing the severity of the disease, and reducing its spread to others. During the COVID-19 pandemic, receiving a flu vaccine will be more important than ever to reduce the impact of respiratory illness and protect the more vulnerable in our population, such as grandparents, or those with an underlying health condition.

### **FLU VACCINE CLINIC ON DECEMBER 4TH**

WES will be offering a flu vaccine clinic on Friday, December 4th for Truro and Wellfleet families. Pre-registration is required. Please contact Claudia Cope-Crosen, RN to schedule your appointment. Influenza vaccination is required for all students in grades K-12 by December 31, 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, flu vaccination is especially critical to reduce the overall impact of respiratory illness on the population, protect vulnerable

populations, and decrease the overall burden to the health care system. If you haven't had your flu shot yet, contact Mrs. Crosen at 508-349-3101 ex. 14 or [copec@nausetschools.org](mailto:copec@nausetschools.org)

### **STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS**

Families have been doing a great job keeping their children home even when mildly ill. Even mild symptoms could be a COVID infection. When in doubt, contact Mrs. Crosen or your primary care physician. It is best to err on the side of caution and test using the PCR molecular test. Our goal is to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission while supporting school attendance. The school has worked to carefully maintain cohorts of students to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to minimize mixing of grade levels in the hallways, at lunch, and during recess. People are eager to "return to normal" but it remains critically important to socially distance and wear a mask when socializing with friends and family outside of your cohort. Outside play is best to allow airborne droplets and aerosols to disperse.



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