



## Wellfleet Elementary School Principal's Newsletter - October 2021

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### **Thank You!**

It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the opening of school with our traditional WES Opening Ceremony! Thank you parents, grandparents, and community members for joining us as we ushered in 112 students for the 2021 – 2022 school year! A special thank you to Mozelle Andrulot for leading us in singing the National Anthem.



We open the academic year with a new 3-year School Improvement Plan developed by the School Council. The School Improvement Plan consists of five innovative goals that align with the new Nauset Strategic Plan and reflects the mission, vision, and values of both the Nauset Strategic Plan and the Nauset Technology Plan. Our goals and priorities are inspired by a changing educational landscape. WES is dedicated to teaching and practicing 21st century skills, developing students' cognitive, interpersonal, and intrapersonal competencies fundamental to global citizenship, and supporting all students' social-emotional learning.

### **Breakfast & Lunch Programs**

Free cold breakfast and hot and cold lunch options are available for all WES students. If you do not wish for your child to participate in the free breakfast and/or lunch programs, kindly send a note or email to your child's homeroom teacher and to the Cafeteria Manager, Mrs. Nannini at [nanninic@nausetschools.org](mailto:nanninic@nausetschools.org).

## **Curriculum Night**

Curriculum Night was held on Thursday, September 16, 2021 (*grade 1 held their virtual classroom meeting on Sept. 21st.*) Invitations were sent to families, via ParentSquare, on September 13th & 16th and classroom teachers emailed families Google Meet invitations.

During the virtual classroom meetings, teachers explained the grade-level curriculum, discussed expectations for students, reviewed class schedules, and answered questions.

Specialists (Art, Music, Library, P.E., & Library), Title I Teachers, Special Education Faculty (Psychologist, Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist), the School Nurse, and the Principal posted videos explaining their role in the elementary school setting. To access the video and to access an introduction of the new WES staff, please click [HERE](#) or copy and paste <https://www.nauserschools.org/Wellfleet> into your browser.

## **Choose To Be Nice**

WES continues to partner with the Choose To Be Nice organization. Students, faculty, and staff have made the promise to spread kindness wherever and whenever possible and, to the very best of our ability, to be nice to those with whom I come into contact on a daily basis. Following each monthly All School Meeting a student name will be pulled to win a Choose To Be Nice hat. Asher Austin (pictured) was the September winner!



## **Complete & Return Opening Day Paperwork**

If you missed the September 17th deadline, no worries! Please complete and return the following forms as soon as possible. Updated contact information helps keep students safe by enabling us to reach parents quickly in case of emergency. Thank you!

- Annual Student Database Update Sheet
- NPS Essential Data Form - 2-sided (grades 1 - 5)
- Responsible Use Policy signature page
- 2021 - 2022 Parent & Student Handbook signature page
- Peanut Aware signature page (grades 1 - 5)

### **Parent Drop-Off & Pick-Up Procedures - A Gentle Reminder**

School begins promptly at 7:45 AM. The monitor will be available from 7:30-7:45 AM for Parent Drop-Off. If you arrive after 7:45 AM, please park in a designated parking spot, walk your child/ren to the front lobby doors, ring the bell (to your right), and an office staff member will greet you and your child/ren.

When dropping off or picking up your child/ren, **please remain in the vehicle line rather than driving around a waiting vehicle.** WES has families with more than one child therefore, requiring children to exit or enter the vehicle on the parking lot side.

### **Early Pick-Up**

If you need to pick your child up from school early (i.e. doctor or dentist appointment), please provide the classroom teacher a note the morning of. When you arrive for pick-up, please park in a designated parking spot, walk to the front lobby doors, ring the bell (to your right), and an office staff member will greet you over the intercom. Once your child/ren dismisses to the office for sign-out, your child will exit via the lobby door.

### **Dropping off a Forgotten Item?**

If you need to drop-off an item (i.e. lunch box, homework) for your child during the school day, please call the office first, at **508-349-3101, ext. 10** to let us know. When you arrive at the school, please park in a designated parking spot and place the labeled item on the table outside of the lobby doors.

### **Personal Property**

Toys are not allowed in school (unless they pertain to a specific project and have been approved by the teacher or principal). This may include, but is not limited to, cell phones, electronics (i.e. iPods), comic books, radios, trading cards, fidget toys/spinners, collectibles, remote control toys, CD players, electronic games, tablets, skateboards (including mini skateboards), skates, sneaker skates, anything depicting violence (including clothing, hats, etc.), or any kind of weapon (real or toy). Unapproved items will be held in the office until a parent is able to claim them. Please assist your child in refraining from trading or purchasing items, including food items, from other children.

### **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 her at [francisk@nausetschools.org](mailto:francisk@nausetschools.org).

## Communication

It is important to keep the lines of communication open between home and school. Notes, phone calls, parent-teacher conferences, email messages, and report cards provide this communication.

- **Backpack Mail:** *Thursday* is “notice day” at WES. Occasionally notices will be sent home on other days. Most news and notices will be sent via email (**ParentSquare**). Please be certain your **ParentSquare\*** account is up-to-date with your communication preferences.
- **Monthly Calendars:** Monthly calendars provide a snapshot of known activities scheduled each month and are subject to change.
- **Telephone:** Our voice messaging system will take your call. Due to classroom responsibilities, teachers will return calls outside of the student day.
- **Report Cards:** Report Cards are issued three times each school year.
- **Conferences:** Conferences are held two times (Fall and Spring) each school year. Students are dismissed early (11:00 AM) on afternoon conference days.

## ParentSquare\*

The district-wide communication system, ParentSquare, easily allows you to choose how you would like to receive school messages. If you do not have a ParentSquare account, please log on to set up your account and to set your communication preferences (i.e. email, phone call, text message).

1. Log on to **ParentSquare.com**
2. Click the down arrow next to your name in upper right-hand corner
3. Click on **My Account**
4. Click on **Customize Your Settings** (under Notification Setting)
5. Check or Uncheck your Preferences (choose email, text, app notifications)

**Please note:** You will receive phone calls/voicemails for emergency situations, weather-related school cancellations, or announcements about school events.

## Fire Safety Week

Firefighter Justin Kinshaw will be providing remote fire safety lessons for all WES classrooms during Fire Safety Week, October 4th – 8th. The theme for

this year's Fire Safety Week is, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety".

### **Columbus Day ~ NO SCHOOL**

School will not be in session on Monday, October 11th in observance of Columbus Day.

### **Early Dismissals - Mark Your Calendars!**

Early dismissal days are built into the 2021 - 2022 academic calendar (for faculty & staff professional development and parent-teacher conferences). All students in grades K - 5 will be dismissed at 11:00 AM on the following dates:



- Wed., Oct. 29
- Wed., Nov. 17
- Wed., Dec. 8
- Wed., Jan. 9
- Wed., Mar. 6
- Fri., Mar. 25
- Wed., April 6
- Wed., May 11



### **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held the evening of October 28th and the afternoon of October 29th.

### **Dress For the Weather!**

Please make sure your child has the proper clothing for the New England elements. Dressing in layers and keeping a sweatshirt at school will help keep students warm as the weather gets chilly.

### **News from the Health Office**

Face Masks: Students are doing a great job wearing their masks! Parents, please remember to send your child with clean masks each school day. Having 1 or 2 extra clean masks in your child's backpack is helpful. Thank you for your continued cooperation!

Health Screenings: Every year, school nurses across the state are required to screen children for vision and hearing, growth, and postural issues. This is to ensure that students are identified and referred, if warranted, for potential conditions that would impact growth, development, and learning. Vision

screenings are performed annually through grade 10. Hearing screenings are performed through grade 3 and Body Mass Index (BMI) is measured in grades 1, 4, 7, and 10. Postural screenings are performed in grades 5-7, during the time of accelerated growth in adolescence. Parents may choose to opt their child out from screenings if they wish.

Physical Exams: Physical exams are required for entry to Kindergarten, if moving from another state, and during 4th grade. Please contact Mrs. Crosen if you have any questions, need assistance in accessing a primary care provider, or need assistance in finding insurance coverage via email at [copec@nausetschools.org](mailto:copec@nausetschools.org) or via phone at **508-349-3101 ext. 14**.

Flu vaccine: The flu vaccine is already available at many provider locations. It is a safe and effective way to prevent serious illness from influenza and minimize missed days of school and work. The flu vaccine also protects against serious complications such as bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, and the worsening of chronic conditions. Everyone, ages 6 months and older is encouraged to get their flu vaccine by the end of October. For more information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/flushot.htm>.



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