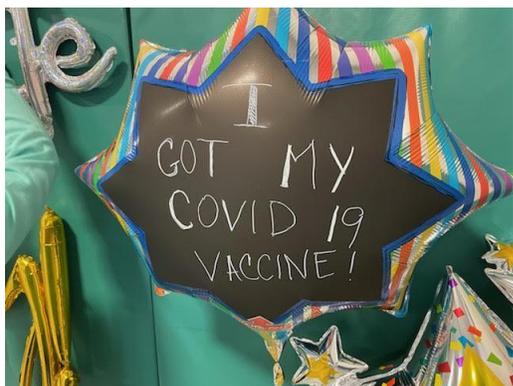
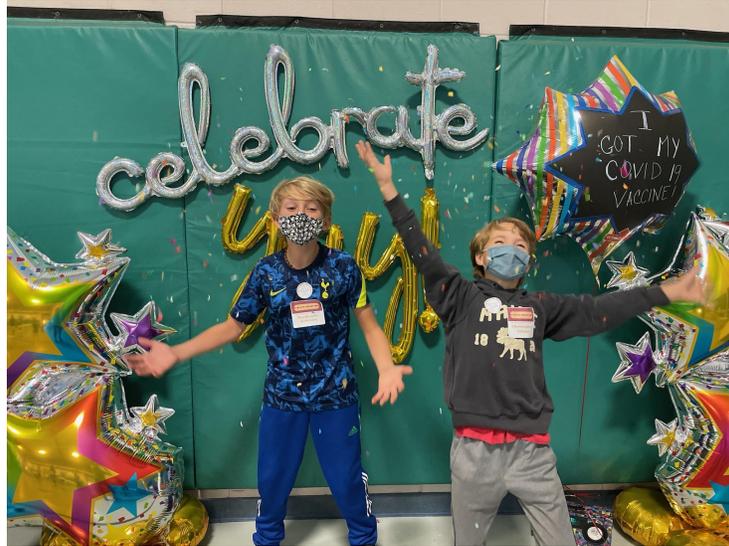


11/19/21

Good afternoon Cape parents/guardians,

I hope you and your families have had a wonderful week. I am pleased we have successfully completed our 12th week of school and we have so much to be thankful for as we head into Thanksgiving break. I spent some time this morning in our MaineHealth Covid vaccine clinic for 5-11 year olds. I was extremely impressed with the professionalism and kindness of the MaineHealth staff and also the incredible work by our own staff organizing and facilitating the movement of hundreds of students through the process. I also saw many courageous students holding a stuffy heading in to receive their vaccine. I do appreciate that getting this vaccine is a very personal family decision and some families may have chosen not to participate. However, I do want to celebrate this day for those that did and thank the school staff and MaineHealth for making it happen.





I have been asked by a few people what this means for Cape Elizabeth schools going forward. This is a great question and I want you to know I think about this every day. The District Planning Committee will be processing our updated vaccination rates and other factors in our upcoming meetings. I am hopeful we will hear guidance from the MCDC and the DOE on a path forward. I am also in regular communication with other area superintendents and we are having some preliminary discussions about potential “off ramp” scenarios. I have appreciated your collective support and cooperation this fall and I ask for patience. Our number one priority remains to keep our schools open and our students and staff safe.



Another highlight of my week was shadowing outstanding freshman, Anna Macisso, through most of her classes on Wednesday. I really enjoyed chatting with her and hearing her thoughts about what she likes about school and what could be improved. She had tremendous insights about what characteristics make a great teacher. She offered that a great teacher explains things well and wants to help you understand, is friendly, funny and not too formal. She also shared about her hopes for her future and what she and the school can do now to help her achieve her “future story”. In every class, I found the teachers and students engaged in learning and seemingly happy to be in school. Anna’s classmates also freely shared with me their thoughts on what to do about snow days this winter. In fact, students across the district were posed this question this week and I am excited to be hearing their thoughts on the topic on Monday next week.

Some Updates from this Week & Upcoming Events:

Building Oversight Committee ([CETV link](#) for Building Committee 10/28)

I am very pleased to announce a new Building Oversight Committee page on our website designed to provide you with the latest information. ([Building Project QR code](#) or <https://www.cape.k12.me.us/page/building-committee>)

We need your help! If you want to get involved in this project please fill out this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/9mABuetGNMDT5aN7A>

Additionally, I am pleased to report that the four subcommittees (Site Location, Building Design, Public Outreach, and Fiscal Considerations) are meeting regularly. With the aim of a bond referendum in June, we have a tight timeline.

Upcoming Events

- **Thanksgiving Break from 11/23 - 11/28. Have a wonderful time with family and friends**
- **State Football Championship Saturday at 6pm vs Winslow. Let’s Go Capers!!!**
- **High School Musical, *Drowsy Chaperone*, this weekend. “Break a leg”**

Come join the Theatre Department of Cape Elizabeth High School as they present the joyous, fizzy frolic that is *The Drowsy Chaperone*. A parody of the American musical comedies of the 1920s, the story follows “The Man In the Chair,” an antisocial yet lonely fan of Broadway, who invites us to listen while he plays a rare recording of his all-time favorite musical. As he sets the needle on the record, the show comes to life onstage, while the Man In the Chair offers his hilarious and critical thoughts on the play, the actors, and the world of musical comedy in general.

Performances are Thursday through Sunday, November 18 - 21. Evening performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday are at 7 pm, with matinee performances Saturday and Sunday at 1 pm. Tickets are \$15/Adults, \$5/Students and Seniors. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance online at Showtix4u.com/events/capetheater.

Cape Elizabeth *E Sports* Update from Coach Jason Lund:

We have three teams, each competing in three different games and the post-season is approaching!

[League of Legends:](#)

I have 5 players competing in League of Legends with two backup players on Tuesdays. They are competing in Eastern Regionals and can also qualify for an MPA State Title as well. While we might miss eastern regionals, we are still in the top 4 right now to make it to states.

[Super Smash Brothers Ultimate:](#)

This is our debut into SSBU this season and we are doing well. We have a three player team that competes on Wednesdays. We are 84th place out of 193 teams. Just outside of the regional cutoff of 64 but still a great place to be our first time round. No MPA title for this game but is expected to be the next title offered.

[Rocket League:](#)

Currently the only all MPA league with 3 players competing on Thursdays. 24 teams from the state are competing and we are currently 10th. Just shy of the 8 team cutoff but we have a strong team and we are going to see if we can sneak in there last minute.

You can watch our games live or VOD on YouTube

(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR1570hv5RdS5FW9od8o_Lg) or if you're a student or staff member, you can pop in around 4pm in the achievement center. I will be doing an article at the end of the season to follow up with everyone about the Fall season, Post-season, and the Spring 2021 Season prep.

Covid Update

We had a positive case at Pond Cove this week that was discovered through our pooled testing program. This led to some people needing to be quarantined, while others that took part in the pooled testing program did not have to be quarantined. [You can still sign your child up if you would like](#). We will continue to keep a close eye on our numbers as we all spend more time indoors and visit friends and family over the holidays. Let's remain vigilant. As I mentioned in the recent School Board meeting, I am meeting with area Superintendents to begin work on a possible path forward if we see high vaccination rates, high participation in pooled testing, and Cumberland County being in low transmission status (right now still in high status). Please stay tuned.

Pooled Testing Data

The Maine DOE announced that there will be no pooled testing conducted in any Maine schools during the week of Thanksgiving, November 22-26. Pooled testing will resume the following week.

Week/Testing Dates	11/15-11/17	11/8
Enrolled	1,288	1,286
Participated	1,181	1,120
Positive cases	1	0
Pools	76	75
Negative Pools	74	75
Positive Pools (requires individual testing)	1	0
Indeterminate Pools (requires individual testing)	0	0
Unusable Pools	1*	
BinaxNOW rapid individual tests	17	0
CEHS participants	265 (209 students, 56 staff)	252 (199 students , 53 staff)
CEMS participants	424 (358 students, 66 staff)	399 (339 students, 60 staff)
PCES participants	484 (429 students, 55 staff)	462 (411 students , 51 staff)
Central Office participants	8	7
Enrolled, did not participate (absent, no show, etc)	107	166
opt outs	0	0
Enrollment next week (open until midnight each Th.)	1,291 (+3)	1,288 (+2)
*unusable 11/15- the lab was unable to locate the test tube prior to the 72 hour timeframe for testing		

CESD Pooled Testing Program Consent Forms

Under 18 (Minor) Consent Form:

<http://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com//minor-consent>

CESD Access Code: OC46EP

Over 18 Consent Form:

<https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/invite-by-code>

CESD Access Code: 0C46EP

In closing, let's all take a few moments to relax and celebrate what we have accomplished together. We collectively have been at this for nearly three months and there certainly has been an adjustment period for many of us. There have been both triumphs and challenges for students, staff, and families. I see brighter days ahead and I want us to stick together and lift each other up. I remain thankful and appreciative of the students, staff, and families of Cape, and am looking forward to attending the musical and cheering on the football team, and hope to see some of you there!

Have a tremendous weekend,

Chris

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