



## Principal's Message From Here to June 12th

Since last I sat to write one of these Principal's Messages, much has changed. At their last meeting, the RSU #12 School Board accepted the superintendent's recommendation to extend our distance learning format until the conclusion of the school year (June 12th). This means that we will not be bringing students back to school for traditional learning this year. The action taken by the school board coincides with the direction provided to school districts by both Janet Mills, Governor of the State of Maine and Pender Makin, Commissioner of the Department of Education and is consistent with everyone's desire to keep the health and safety of students, staff and community at the forefront of consideration.

Following are several informational items that are important for all WHES parents:

- Continuing Learning Packets (CLPs) will continue to be sent home every other week. These will provide a framework of educational activities and supportive materials to help keep all of our learners active in maintaining their skills during this closure period. Please expect CLPs to be delivered with meals on Friday, May 1st, May 15th & the final packet on May 29th.
- Most WHES teachers are connecting with their learners via Zoom, Google Classroom, email or good old fashion telephone. As we move into the final six weeks of the 2019-2020 school year, I would ask that all parents reach out to classroom teachers, special education staff, specials teachers, Student Support and Social Worker staff and your school administrator to help coordinate the final weeks of the school year.. We want to hear your concerns and to brainstorm what we can do to support you through this final phase. Parents have had to assume a new and stressful role during the school closure and please know that it will benefit your child(ren) greatly. Please feel free to reach out.
- As we have said since the beginning of the COVID-19 school closure, we are strongly encouraging the materials being sent home in the CLPs to be worked on. However, this work time should never be extended over a long period of time in any one day and should never be the cause of undue stress. Beyond the packets, take advantage of other resources we've provided to enhance your child's learning and creativity. I've just become aware of a new resource that is targeted for students in grades 3-5 (but any student can give it a try) and it doesn't require an internet connection or a computer, tablet or other device. Rather, it is being broadcast on Maine public television (PBS - channel 10 in our area) each day at 12:30 p.m. and it features Maine teachers leading creative lessons and activities designed to stimulate learning in a variety of academic domains. It is called **"The Learning Space"** and I think it has great potential to provide fun and thoughtful learning for students Monday through Friday. Currently it runs for 30 minutes but there are plans for expanding the programming to 60 minutes, five days/week.
- Meals will continue to be delivered to those families participating in our program each Tuesday and Friday through to the conclusion of the school year. Our fantastic kitchen staff (Vicki Dill and Ashely Burdick and now supported by Sue Peaslee) are creatively and thoughtfully preparing the breakfasts and lunches that are going home to Whitefield children and our devoted delivery group of support and professional staff are making sure that they bring both food and positive spirit to all they see. The last unofficial count I had heard placed the RSU #12 nutrition programs are already delivering in the neighborhood of 16,000 meals to homes in our district and we still have six weeks to go!
- We are organizing a plan to make sure that we return all personal property to students in the very near future. Teachers and staff members are bagging individual student's personal property and we will be assigning times for families to come to school to pick these materials up. It will be organized in an alphabetical order based on a family's last name and you'll be able to drive into the parking lot, where staff volunteers will retrieve your child's property. You won't even have to leave your vehicle and all your child's materials will be returned in a safe manner. We are planning late afternoon / early evening hours over several days to accommodate parents' work schedules.
- On the flip side of that concept, Clarissa Howard will also be contacting students in grades 7 & 8 to coordinate the return of MLTI laptops back to school. This will probably occur at the end of May. Not all students were either eligible or chose to take their state-provided laptops home at the time of the closure but those that did go home must be returned for cleaning and reimagining over the summer. Look for information from Mrs. Howard coming out shortly.
- Finally, the very good news is that Governor Mills' Four Phase Plan for Reopening the Maine Economy is planning for Maine schools to reopen in a traditional manner in the fall. Obviously, this plan is contingent upon the state's COVID-19 numbers moving down over the course of the summer such that it is safe to bring larger groups of people together again. While this is not absolutely definitive at this time, it is the "light at the end of the

tunnel” and, hopefully, this will boost everyone’s spirits as we look forward. As always, please stay safe, wash your hands frequently and follow all of the guidelines that have proven to be effective so far. While we are not out of the woods yet, and we still need to seriously consider all that we are being told about preventing the spread of the coronavirus, there are some bright spots on the horizon.

**Office:** We are still accepting PreK applications and Kindergarten registrations. Please call the school for more information.

Please note that if you have any questions or concerns, you can still call the school. Calls are being forwarded so there is always someone to answer the phones. If there is no answer, please leave a message and someone will get right back to you. And as always, staff are reachable by email.

**"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." - physicist Marie Curie**

**Health:** For many of you, like my family and I, social isolation is getting harder every day. We are ready to go out, see friends, and get back to living the lives we had been before Covid 19. Please know that it is still very important to continue social distancing and following the recommendations given to us by the CDC. The link for those is here:

<https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/governor-mills-extends-maines-stay-home-order-2020-04-29>

I hope that everyone has remained healthy. If there are any questions or concerns please email me at [keanderson@svrsu.org](mailto:keanderson@svrsu.org).

<b>Grades Pre K- 2</b>	<b>Grades 3-5</b>
<p><b>Pre K:</b> It has been so nice seeing your faces during our Zoom meetings. We hope that you enjoyed the dance party that we had on Monday via Zoom! There are lots of new things coming today in your learning packets. We hope that you enjoy the activities! As always get outside, there are some beautiful days coming up in the forecast!</p> <p><b>Beck:</b> Hey K Krew! I can't wait to see you on ZOOM this week! Take care and wash your hands. Miss you all. Enjoy the packet that was sent home!</p> <p><b>Lamothe:</b> Hello to our First Grade Families! Happy May Day. You'll find a May Day poem in your learning packet which were delivered today. Your emails, personal notes, and FB messages make my day! There is nothing better than going to my mailbox and finding a handwritten letter from one of my students. Keep reading every day! That's super important. Be safe! Thanks to our first-grade families for your efforts and continued support!</p> <p><b>S. Brewer:</b> Hello!! Thanks so much for the letters that come in the mail!! They are such a gift. Be looking for a video of me teaching a lesson reminding you of the steps of opinion writing on Monday. Please read everyday!!! I'll see you all on ZOOM again soon!</p>	<p><b>Northrup: "DON'T COUNT THE DAYS. MAKE THE DAYS COUNT." Muhammad Ali</b></p> <p>Please contact me with any questions you may have with materials sent home today. Students in grades K-5 should be spending <b>3-4 hours per WEEK</b> on school work. I love the pictures, emails, and snail-mail I have been receiving. Keep them coming!! It was so nice to see all the third grade families Thursday evening, when Ms. Michelle and I delivered May Baskets!!! Miss you bunches!!!</p> <p><b>Trask:</b> The new weekly packets were sent home today. Please space the work out for over two weeks. Do not overdo the amount of work each day. I would like to schedule another meeting on Zoom for next week. Please check your student email (Google accounts that you use during Library time) for the date and time. PLEASE USE MOBY MAX DURING THIS TIME AWAY FROM SCHOOL. Choose any subject.</p> <p><b>M. Brewer:</b> Happy May everyone!! It has been so nice seeing everyone at our weekly Zoom meetings. I am happy to see so many of you joining. New work packets were delivered today. If you need help with anything then send me an e-mail. I am happy to help anyone via Zoom if needed!</p>

**PBIS News-** Well, despite the rain today I was able to see some familiar faces. I am always happy to see kiddos!! For my 8th graders I will be checking in with you all to connect about high school choice. Please, if you have any questions regarding high school for 8th grade students send me an email. I will be connecting with schools this week to see how we are progressing. The Wildcat is getting restless and will be making an appearance on the busses for learning packet

drop offs, he just may be on your bus stop!!!

### Middle School News

**McCormick:** I hope that all is well with each and every one of you. I miss our regular routine greatly, but as time goes on, we seem to be falling into a different one here. There were more packets sent out this week. Please make sure that your child is checking google classroom on a daily basis as their science and social studies work will be given there. It is much easier to be able to see the work coming in on that platform. I am not able to see the packet work otherwise. I also need students to check their email daily, as that is where notifications for zoom meetings are posted.

**Capen:** Hey guys! I hope you all had a great "vacation"! :) I'm looking forward to seeing all your faces this week through zoom. Please reach out if you need anything or even to just say hi! Continue to check google classroom for updates. It's easier to give you feedback there. Miss you guys!

**Crowell:** Hey everyone! Middle school students: Please get on your google classroom page each day to check for updates and Zoom meetings. 6th grade is meeting on Tuesday and Thursdays @ 11:00. 7th graders will be zooming on Wednesdays @ 11:00. 8th graders will be on Mondays @ 11:00. We will use this time to touch base and I will teach a mini lesson based on the packets that are being sent home. Please keep in touch and email me with any questions you have. Take care!

### Resource News

**Brann:** I'm enjoying seeing you and teaching on Zoom! If you have questions or need assistance with the new packet, please reach out to me. Be sure to get outside when the weather allows.

**Grady/Richards:** I hope everyone is well, and know that we are all in this together. Finding a good book to read can take our minds on a different journey. Please feel free to email, call, or even send a letter to us, as we would love to hear from you. We are beginning to get familiar with zoom, and you may possibly see us joining in on your classroom zoom meeting! We miss you all. Take care!

**Marecaux:** In light of the current pandemic, the State of Maine is now home to some great resources to help support the mental health of adults and teens. The following are now available.:

A new volunteer phone support service, the **FrontLine WarmLine**, launched to help Maine health care workers and first responders manage the stress of serving on the front lines of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The **FrontLine WarmLine** is available to health care professionals, such as physicians, nurses, and counselors, as well as emergency medical services personnel, law enforcement, and others who are directly responding to the pandemic in Maine. from 8 am to 8 pm, 7 days a week by calling **(207) 221-8196 or 866-367-4440**.

NAMI Maine has also launched a **Teen Text Support Line**. The text line is for adolescents ages 14 and up, and is open every day from 12 pm - 10 pm. This peer support text line staffed by individuals between 19 - 23 years of age, who have been trained by NAMI. To reach the text line, send a text to **(207) 515-8398**.

### Art - Learning Commons - Music - PE



**Howard:** All grades received some library skills refresher worksheets that highlight behavior, aspects, and organization of books and a form that helps create a bibliography when citing work. For lower grades, I included a keyboard sheet to practice the QUERTY keyboard. MakerSpace activities include friction, flying fish, paper helicopters, and Are you left or right-brained? Please share your results with me and I will post on our Website/FB page for others to see. Stay safe.

Please click the following link to go to the Whitefield Town Library's homepage!  
<https://whitefieldlibrary.org/>

**Simpson:** I hope everyone had an enjoyable week off from “homeschooling.” I’d love to hear from you and get some updates about how you did with your April “Simpgo” card. I hope you enjoy some of the activities on the May calendar for this month as well! I miss you all.

**Morgan:** I have had a few students show me some of the music instruments they have made using my packet directions and they look amazing! If you make an instrument feel free to email me a pic at [smorgan@svrsu.org](mailto:smorgan@svrsu.org).

