



November 6, 2020 NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES



- 11/9 PTO Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 11/10 Board of Education Meeting – 6:00PM
- 11/12 **LifeTouch Picture Retake Day – 9:00AM**
- 11/20 First Progress Report
- 11/23 VIRTUAL Parent Teacher Conference (Evening)
- 11/24 Early Release – VIRTUAL Parent Teacher Conferences (Afternoon)
- 11/25 – 11/27 No School - Thanksgiving Break

LIFETOUCH PICTURE MAKE UP DAY

School portraits were sent home with your child this week. If your child missed picture day, our make-up day is November 12th. If for any reason you would like your child's picture retaken, please return all pictures, except for the class picture. **Please call the school with any questions.**

NEWS FROM THE NORFOLK LIBRARY

TAPPING INTO THE PAST: TAVERN LIFE IN EARLY CONNECTICUT

On Nov. 15, 2020 from 5-6pm, this will be the topic for a Library Zoom. In early Connecticut taverns were an essential part of every town in the state. Come learn about the role of taverns and see some early signs. You must register in advance by visiting the Adult programs calendar on the Norfolk Library website.

SMALL ACTS OF ART

On Tuesday, Nov. 17th, Susan Smith from Second Nature will lead a family workshop on Mobile Making. This eco-friendly mobile is fun to make with everyday household items such as scissors, glue, brushes, rulers, colorful papers or magazines. If you want more items, a packet can be picked up containing a dowel, embroidery thread, metal washers, and cardboard. You may pick up this packet on Nov. 14th or Nov. 16th after you have signed up for the workshop on the Library website or by calling 860 542 5075. This program is limited to 15 families and best for children in grades 2-6th grade.

PICTURE BOOK MONTH

Remember the man who won the big prize at Jeopardy? When he was asked how he did it, he said "I read PICTURE BOOKS!" November is PICTURE BOOK MONTH and the Norfolk Library invites you to read 12 PICTURE BOOKS or EASY PICTURE BOOKS this month. Illustrated children's books, also known as Picture Books and Easy Picture Books are not easier. Beautifully illustrated, they are longer and often have a more complex storyline. Some are about historical figures or events. Others are about artists and musicians describing the twists and turns of their youth. Come in and choose the ones you want, or we can pack up 12 books for your family to explore. Families who read at least 12 books by Nov. 30 will receive a \$10 gift certificate from the Berkshire Store. Sign up for this family challenge by calling the Circulation Desk at 860 542 5075! Send us a photo to post on our website!

VIRTUAL PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

A notice went home today about parent teacher conferences. Conferences are on 11/23 and 11/24 and will be VIRTUAL this year due to COVID restrictions. Please identify a window of time you can meet for conferences and return the form by WEDNESDAY, 11/11. We will do our best schedule them accordingly. Once the schedule has been finalized, teachers will send you a Google Meet link to your conference.

VETERANS DAY VIDEO

Our students and teachers have been busy planning a celebration in honor of our veterans and active military personnel. While we can't have our traditional Veterans Day Assembly, that didn't stop our students from showing their appreciation. Each veteran who would have received an invitation to our assembly, instead received a handmade card and a letter instructing them to visit our school website and watch a video of our students playing and singing patriotic songs. Our Upper Intermediate students also performed the White Table Ceremony. The video will be posted on our website on Veterans Day for all to see.

SNOW DAY UPDATE

In our reopening plan, we proposed using a distance learning instructional model on days when school is closed due to severe weather conditions. After a great deal of discussion at the state and local levels, we've determined that it is not a particularly viable plan. Severe weather conditions are likely to cause power outages which would impact access to the internet. This is just one example of potential obstacles. Therefore, school closures due to weather (at least the first 5) will be "snow days" and will be made up at the end of the year. In the event that the winter is excessively harsh, we will rethink this plan again.

CHANGE TO THE SCHOOL DAY

On November 30 we will return to our typical school day of 8:30-3:30. We adjusted the length of the school day to provide time for our distance learners to meet with teachers. 99% of our students are now in person learners and an extra 2 and ½ hours a week of instructional time adds up. The bus routes remain the same, and you can expect your child home at least 20 minutes later.

COLD WEATHER GEAR

Even though it's close to 70 today, the cold weather is approaching! Please be sure to send your child to school with a jacket and if there's snow on the ground, boots. We plan on eating lunch outdoors as often as possible and students have outdoor recess unless the temperature or wind chill is below 20. They will be more comfortable with the appropriate clothing.

MASKS

Please check your child's mask to ensure it is fitting properly. Masks must consistently cover the nose and mouth. When we notice your child's nose exposed, we will provide them with a disposable mask.



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

This is the second year our school has used RULER with our students. RULER is a social and emotional learning approach that teaches emotional intelligence. RULER is an acronym that stands for Recognizing emotions, Understanding emotions, Labeling emotions, Expressing emotions and Regulating emotions. In this day and age, we certainly have a lot of experience and understanding of how impactful our emotions are! The first RULER unit for each grade level is Emotions Matter. Our students learn what emotions are, how to recognize our emotions and how they impact us in life and learning. Students also learn how emotions affect our thinking, our behavior, and our facial expressions. The first Core Routine students engage in is the Charter. The charter is a document that each classroom of students creates with their teacher that identifies how they want to feel when they are together and the actions they will commit to to ensure those emotions. Here are some examples of Charters that our students and staff made.

