



## November 24, 2020 NEWSLETTER

### IMPORTANT DATES



- 11/25 – 11/27 No School - Thanksgiving Break
- 12/1 Board of Education Meeting – 6:00 PM – Room #104
- 12/2 Picture Retake Day
- 12/23 Early Dismissal @1:00PM - Winter Break
- 12/24 – 1/1 No School – Winter Break

### NORFOLK WANTS YOUR HELP!

The Norfolk Town Fiber Optic Study Committee, recently created by Norfolk's Board of Selectmen, is exploring the viability of developing a municipally owned high speed fiber optic broadband network with accessibility for every resident and business in town. Of all the work the committee is undertaking, nothing is more important than gathering pertinent information from you and your neighbors. Please help by filling out this simple [survey](#) by December 15th.

### LOST & FOUND VIRTUAL VIDEO

Missing Something? Check out this Virtual Lost & Found: [link](#) Or check our website at [www.botelleschool.org](http://www.botelleschool.org)

### 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.

### 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 consistently exposed, we will provide them with a disposable mask.

### COLD WEATHER GEAR

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.

### 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.

#### **NEWS FROM THE NORFOLK LIBRARY**

##### **Saturday, 11/28/2020 GET IN THE SPIRIT!**

Tune in at 5pm and join us for a Virtual Carol Sing to welcome the holiday season. Get your family and friends to view this sweet video. It's easy to join in by going to the Programs calendar.

##### **Thursday, 12/03/2020 ICELAND TOUR**

At 5:30pm, take an hour trip with Gerri Griswold to the "Land of Fire and Ice" and be impressed with the landscape, nature and people. Sip a hot chocolate and be cozy on the couch. Please register on the Programs calendar on our website to get the zoom link.

##### **Tuesday, 12/08/2020 CHOCOLATE MINT POPTARTS**

At 5:30 your kids will learn to make pastry dough and a filling that will please the crowds. Sign up on the Programs calendar to see the ingredients needed for this festive treat and to get the link. This workshop is limited to 12 families.

##### **NOVEMBER BOOK CHALLENGE**

The 12 illustrated children's books and reading list should be returned by **December 5, 2020** to the Norfolk Library. Families who complete the challenge can pick up the \$10 Berkshire Country Market Gift Certificate the week of **December 7th**. One Certificate per family.

We hope you have been enjoying the books!

#### **HELLO FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE**

It is autumn even though the recent temperatures did not receive the memo. I do encourage you to still have fun outdoors. It will be more tolerable if you head outdoors during the warmest time a day and bundle up. Once you get moving it won't feel as cold. You all have been doing a great job communicating important information with the Health Office and staff here at school. If you ever have any health related questions please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached via email at [nurse@botelleschool.org](mailto:nurse@botelleschool.org) or via phone at 860-542-5286 option #3. I wanted to give you a friendly reminder about some things.

1. Thank you all for calling before 9am if your child is out sick. If I am unavailable at the time of your call please leave a detailed message of the reason your child is home. A detailed message is helpful and will not require a follow up phone call. The phone number to call to report your child absent is 860-542-1904.
2. If your child is being dismissed from school from the Health Office they will be exiting and escorted from the Hall of Flags Doors (Door A4).
3. When your child returns to school after an absence please remember to send them with a [School Excuse Note](#). The link will take you to a premade note for your convenience.
4. Please remember to check the [Health Office webpage](#) often for updates and helpful information. The link will take you there directly.
5. Important Note: If your child attends Preschool please don't forget to have them receive a flu shot. Flu shots are mandatory for Preschool students in the State of CT. Once your child receives their flu shot please send an updated immunization record to the Health Office. If you have any questions or concerns with this mandate please feel free to contact me.

### Healthy Tip of the Week

Yellow and orange fruits and vegetables are beneficial for a healthy heart, good vision and can help us keep us from getting sick, even preventing certain types of cancers. Fruits and vegetables in the category include: Grapefruit, lemons, pineapple, yellow peppers, butternut squash and carrots.



### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Families,

The Thanksgiving holiday is a time to remember all that we are grateful for. At the top of the list is you and your children. Thank you for attending Teacher Conferences. We are so grateful to have you as partners in our students' education. When families are informed and involved in their child's education, it leads to improved learning and success! We are grateful for your support during the pandemic. Our students have complied with all of the COVID mandates without complaint. Because of masks, hand washing, social distancing and regular health screenings, we've been able to maintain in-person learning. Most of our distance learners have returned to Botelle. It is our intention to keep Botelle's doors open and we are not going to arbitrarily transition to remote learning. Please stay safe over the Thanksgiving Break. Enjoy this special time with your family. When we return to school on November 30, the school day will return to 8:30-3:30. We are grateful to reclaim this instructional time and have more teaching and learning opportunities for our students!

In gratitude,  
Lauren