



NEWSLETTER

September 25, 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

- 9/29 Picture Day
- 10/9 No School - Teacher In-Service Day
- 10/12 No School - Columbus Day

NORFOLK LAND TRUST HARVEST MOON WALK

Join the Norfolk Land Trust for its annual Harvest Moon rising walk on Friday, Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Dennis Hill State Park off Route 272 South. Hartley Mead will give a brief talk on the moon and what is visible in the night sky this time of year. Please gather in the parking lot below the Dennis Hill pavilion for the walk to the pavilion. We will social distance and remember to pack your mask. Also, bring headlamps or some type of illumination and dress warmly. In the event of inclement weather, this will not be rescheduled.

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Thank you to all the parents and guardians for helping us start the year off in a healthy and safe environment here at school. You all have been doing a great job. 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 or by phone at 860-542-1904. I wanted to give you a friendly reminder about some things.

1. If there are any pink forms floating around specifically the Authorization for Administration of non-prescription medication by school Personnel forms; please complete and return to school.
2. 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.
3. 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).
4. 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.
5. Please remember to check the [Health Office webpage](#) often for updates and helpful information. The link will take you there directly.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful children and giving me the opportunity to be a part of their lives.

Warm Regards, Keondra Dillard, RN, School Nurse



CLASS DOJO

Class Dojo is a communication tool that gives families a window into their child's school day. We use this to post pictures, videos and information about school and classroom activities. Families can even privately message their child's teacher. It's a safe way to celebrate all that happens at Botelle School, with only those in our school community. If you haven't signed up for Class Dojo, please click on this link. <https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?s=4eece572f64aa62934ed3b9e> Your child's teacher will accept your request to join his or her class and you'll have one more easy way to stay "in the know". You can access Class Dojo from a computer through the internet or from a tablet or phone through the Class Dojo app. Join today!

SIGN UP FOR A FREE THERMOMETER - THERE'S STILL TIME

We have received a supply of Kinsa thermometers for distribution to Botelle families who would like one. They require a set up which includes downloading the Kinsa app to your android or iPhone, launching the app, and connecting the thermometer to the app. Complete instructions come with the thermometer.

Please contact the Botelle office on or before October 1st if you would like one of these thermometers.

All thermometers must be distributed on the same day, so we will contact everyone who signs up with the date they are available for pick up at school.



DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Each morning, please assess your child's wellness prior to sending them to school using the checklist that was sent home earlier this week.



COVID-19 Daily Health Screening

Parents, please complete this screening each morning before you send your child to school-

If you check **YES** to any of the following please **STAY HOME** and contact the school nurse at 860-542-5286 x1.

- Temperature 100.4 degrees and higher
- Other signs of illness
 - Cough*
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue*
 - Muscle or body aches*
 - Headache*
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or Runny Nose*
 - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea



*If the Health Office is already aware of a **Non-COVID chronic pre-existing condition** (asthma, seasonal allergies, Crohn's disease, etc.) that causes that symptom AND if the nature of that symptom (duration, intensity, etc.) is consistent with the pre-existing condition, then student can come to school.

- Was your child in close contact with anyone confirmed with COVID-19 within the last 2 weeks?
- Has your child travelled out of state/country to any of the locations on the COVID-19 travel advisory?

Refrain from practices such as, "Just go to school and see how you feel." or giving children

medication to bring down a fever prior to sending them to school. **It is critical that we follow these guidelines so school can remain open!** If your child is home and well enough, he/she can participate in the school day through distance learning on their device.

Please see the Health and Safety tab on our school website www.botelleschool.org if you have questions about how we will respond to a positive COVID diagnosis. Students may be sent home for a variety of reasons during the school day. Please refrain from discussion or assumption of a student's health status- we want to avoid stigma or rumors! *If or when a notification needs to be made to families regarding an illness it will come directly from the administration.*

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Botelle Families,

Thank you for partnering with us to keep the Botelle School community healthy. We appreciate you using the daily health screening checklist to determine when to send your child to school and when to keep him/her home. This year there are many scenarios that require you to call your child out sick. Please notify the school nurse by 9am if your child will be absent, just as you have done in previous years.

Due to the new health requirements, there may be times when your child must stay home for several days, but they are well enough to participate in virtual instruction. When this occurs, you may submit a request to me (via email or phone) for your child to participate in temporary remote learning. This process will take at least 24 hours to complete. You will be notified through an email or phone call when your child may begin remote instruction. While your request is being processed, your child will be considered absent from school. The Connecticut State Department of Education is requiring that schools report the number of students who are attending remote learning sessions on a weekly basis. Therefore, requests for temporary remote learning status must be made to administration and not directly to your child's classroom teacher.

On "remote" learning days, students will follow the daily "in-person" schedule provided by the classroom teacher and log into live Google Meet sessions for mini-lessons in the core content areas. Once each mini-lesson has ended, students will sign off and complete and submit posted work for that content area. Families will be provided with the daily schedule in advance and students must attend live learning sessions and complete all assigned work in order to be counted as present for the day. Successful remote learning will require home support. Families may also have to pick up materials from school.

Temporary distance learning will not be available if family vacations are planned during the school year. Those days will be marked as absent. This is consistent with past practice.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lauren Valentino, Principal