# Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - March 5, 2021

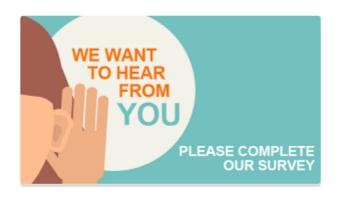
# Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

The month of March is a time in education where it is declared a time to observe and celebrate the arts of education in our schools. As a school community we highly value the arts in education knowing it supports developing the whole child. Whether it is in school or within our community it is a rich tradition of celebrating the arts and we are forever grateful to see the amazing works of art that come from our students.

As you are aware, the STTRT Committee (School Transition Reopen Redesign Taskforce) was established last summer consisting of a range of employees and community members who developed a plan with a recommendation as to how our students would return to school this past fall. The return to school plan was approved by the School Board on July 30, 2020 and it has been our fieldbook for how school has been in operation this school year. We have reached out to members of this team to join together on March 11th to review families and employees survey results, data from the Maine Department of Education as well as Maine CDC guidelines. The focus at this time is to consider possibilities for safely increasing in-person learning, given Maine DOE and Maine CDC requirements remain intact. We are encouraged to see that the State of Maine announced that all school employees will be vaccinated. In the meantime, as a school community COVID-19 continues to be a public health threat and we will continue with following all health and safety protocols.

Best regards, Sandy Prince Superintendent



# Governor's Travel Update

You may have already heard that the governor had amended the travel policy, effective immediately. Residents may now travel throughout all New England states without the need to quarantine or test upon return (NH, VT, MA, CT, and RI).

# Weekly SPS COVID-19 Update

Positive COVID cases at Scarborough Public Schools February 20 to March 5, 2021

| Location                  | Total Case # in last<br>14 days | Total # Close<br>Contacts identified |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Blue Point School         | 3                               | 25                                   |
| Eight Corners School      | 0                               | 0                                    |
| Pleasant Hill School      | 0                               | 0                                    |
| Wentworth School          | 6                               | 14                                   |
| Scarborough Middle School | 0                               | 0                                    |
| Scarborough High School   | 11                              | 92                                   |
| District (non-school)     | 1                               | 0                                    |
| TOTAL                     | 21                              | 131                                  |

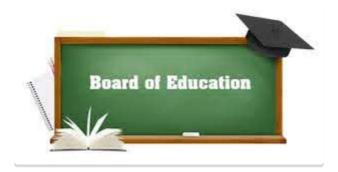


# 2021-2022 Kindergarten Pre-Registration

We are eager to welcome our newest Kindergarten students to Scarborough Public Schools! We are currently planning for Fall 2021 and will be able to release more information about what school will look like later this spring. If you have a child **who turns 5 on or before Oct. 15, 2021** and you are considering sending them to school in the fall, <u>please complete this form</u>. Formal registration packets will be available on our website at a later date.

The information you provide is important for us to accurately plan for the number of classrooms, teachers and materials we will need in the fall. Please complete the form so we can contact you through email with updates and news about the 2021-2022 school year as the situation evolves and decisions are made. We will hold registration appointments at each school later in the Spring.

2021-2022 Pre-Registration Form



### FY22 School Budget Process

Creating and maintaining the school budget is a continuous cycle, constantly being refined throughout the year as administration reviews areas for cost containment and improvements for the next fiscal year. This year has been particularly difficult for district staff and administrators as they have been working through one time costs associated with the pandemic and managing revenue from multiple sources with varying restrictions for how it can be expended.

The public portion of the FY22 budget process is about to get underway as district leadership will present their budget in detailed workshops with the school board. This year there will be two virtual workshops held: Tuesday March 9th at 8:00 - 10:00 am and Wednesday March 10th at 4:30 - 6:30 pm. These meetings will provide insight into the district's FY22 school year priorities and the district leadership's decision making process for reaching their proposed first reading of the budget, which will be formally presented at the Thursday March 18th School Board meeting. Be on the lookout for Zoom

links on the Scarborough Public Schools website to join these meetings as they are occurring or to watch at a later time, so you can be involved in the budget process from the beginning.

As highlighted in the February 15th edition of the town's newsletter, the board has officially begun a search for a new superintendent. The board is in the process of reviewing community applications for the interview committee which are due on March 1st, as well as collating the data from the key criteria feedback survey, which is also due on March 1st. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the survey or apply for the interview committee. The board will be announcing the committee members at the Thursday, March 4th meeting.

The FY22 budget and superintendent search will be a large focus for board efforts in the coming months, which will be reflected in future communications. We are looking forward to hearing from the community as these projects progress. Please reach out with any questions or comments at <a href="mailto:boe@scarboroughschools.org">boe@scarboroughschools.org</a>.









**Building independent readers!** Student reflect and identify what they can do and set goals for themselves. While these photos are from grade 1 students at Blue Point School, this learning strategy is used across all three K-2 schools as our students learn to become more independent and self-directed as learners.

#### Parent Resources

These resources provide ideas families can use to help support social and emotional learning.

From the Greater Good Science Center:

- General Information For Parents and Families
- Brain Games to Try at Home
- Take Home Skills: Practices for Families



A collection of fun games that help build kids' executive function

# Blue Point School Displays Heart!











# Upcoming SPS Events - Mark Your Calendar!

SPS Revised School Calendar

- March 9 BOE/LC Budget Workshop #1
- March 10 BOE/LC Budget Workshop #2
- March 12 Staff/Student day for Cohort B Students (changed at the 7/30/20 BOE meeting)
- March 18 School Board Workshop

Linked <u>here</u>, you will find an overview to Scarborough Public Schools Fully Remote Preparedness Plan, which was shared with the School Board at their December 3, 2020 meeting. Although our goal is to maintain in person learning to the greatest extent possible, there needs to be adequate staffing to facilitate in person learning.

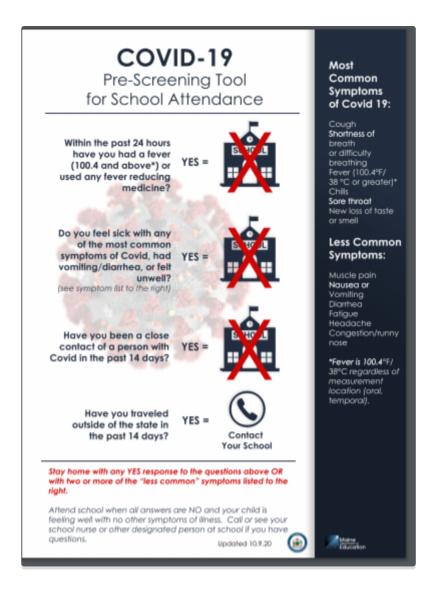




# Health & Safety

Please make sure you review the UPDATED Student Health Self Assessment questions EVERY DAY before sending your child off to school.

TOGETHER, we can make our schools as safe as possible!



Links to Our Schools



**Blue Point** 



**Eight Corners** 



Pleasant Hill



Wentworth School



Middle School



High School

#### Services & Information

<u>Spec. Services</u> | Alison Marchese, <u>amarchese@scarboroughschools.org</u>
<u>Transportation</u> | Sarah Redmond, <u>sredmond@scarboroughschools.org</u>
<u>Food Services</u> | Peter Esposito, <u>pesposito@scarboroughschools.org</u>
<u>Athletics</u> & <u>Activities</u> | Mike LeGage, <u>mlegage@scarboroughschools.org</u>
<u>Curriculum</u> | Monique Culbertson, <u>mculbertson@scarboroughschools.org</u>
<u>Community Services</u> | Todd Souza, <u>tsouza@scarboroughmaine.org</u>



# Tech Support

For technology assistance with SPS student laptops, please send a message to <a href="techsupport@scarboroughschools.org">techsupport@scarboroughschools.org</a> and someone from Technology will be in touch to assist you.



# Scarborough Schools

**F** Facebook



259 U.S. Route 1, Scarborough, ...



(207) 730-4100

