

Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - January 15, 2021



A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

With Inauguration Day soon upon us we are committed as a school community to search for understanding during these challenging political times. It is a time to lead discussions about social change and justice. Teaching history and civic engagement in a fair and unbiased way will be done in a safe and inclusive manner.

As a school community it is more urgent than ever that we will accept nothing less than respect, and inclusivity in our schools. Together, each of us will ensure that we continue to create a safe place for our students knowing this is a pivotal moment in our country today.

Some time ago at a National Education conference I was amongst thousands of educators anxiously waiting for the keynote speaker to address the crowd. Maya Angelou, a renowned poet, eloquently spoke to the solicitous crowd about her poem "[On the Pulse of Morning](#)". Her poem communicated the importance of harmony and that every person despite our differences, can rise above and unite to conquer our challenges.

As we move forward in the coming days we must empower our learners into becoming all take the lead and set an example knowing our children are watching. Our actions will also empower them into becoming adults who can think critically and live and work successfully in our multicultural world. I am most proud of the community we have here at the Scarborough Public Schools and there is much more that unites us than divides us. At times such as this we can be a source of hope for one another.

Budget & School Funding Update

Now that January is here, the FY22 budget development process is getting underway in earnest. As we have done in the past, building and district leaders have scheduled staff listening sessions to gather input as we develop our budget proposal, although we've had to trade our usual in-person methods for online meetings. These sessions provide an opportunity to learn directly from staff as we look for creative ideas to help us move forward during this challenging economy and prioritize multiple requests for resources across the district.

Scarborough Schools received phenomenal news this week that additional relief funds are on their way to Maine school systems through the Federal ESSER 2 funds, which were included in the recently passed Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. If all goes well we should be able to apply for these funds by February 1. Along with the types of allowable expenses we have seen with prior Coronavirus Relief funds, this new round of funding, although much less financially, adds a focus on mental health services and planning and implementing activities related to summer learning. These funds will help us transition to next school year as we prepare the various options that we may face with the pandemic. These funds are surely welcomed during these unprecedented times.

The Leadership Council's budget development process will continue to be a focus through the next few weeks, leading up to workshop presentations of the FY22 budget proposal to the School Board in early March. Stay tuned for more dates and information as we move into the public portion of this work!

Sincerely,
Sanford Prince

Weekly SPS COVID-19 Update

Positive COVID cases at Scarborough Public Schools
January 1 to January 15, 2021

Location	Total Case # in last 14 days	Total # Close Contacts identified
Blue Point School	1	0
Eight Corners School	0	0
Pleasant Hill School	0	0
Wentworth School	2	0
Scarborough Middle School	2	0
Scarborough High School	7	43
District (non-school)	0	0
TOTAL	12	43

We will continue to notify staff and families of positive cases as they occur in individual buildings or sites, via communication from building principals. All school level communications in regards to COVID will be uploaded on our district communications webpage as they occur for those of you who want to be informed more than once a week.

Cumberland County continues to be in the yellow category which suggests that our county has an elevated risk of COVID-19. This also means that all "in-person" athletics and student activities (afterschool programs) are currently postponed. Club Advisors and Coaches are working to stay connected to students remotely. As a reminder, color category data are publicly posted on the Maine CDC website. The next assessment for color coding will take place on January 29.

Please continue to reach out to your school nurse if your student tests positive and share any information about contact that may have been had with anyone affiliated with Scarborough Public Schools, even if that contact occurred outside of school.



Books at Eight Corners



K-2 Student Kindness Quilt



Our World by K-2 Students

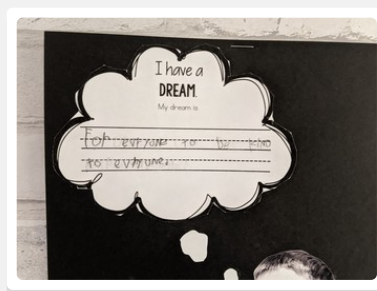
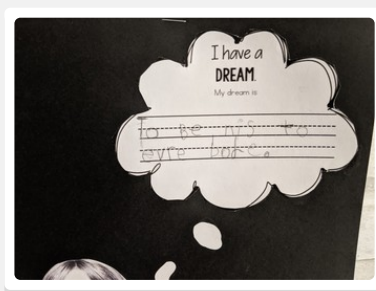
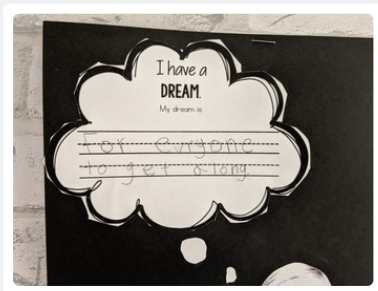
Resources for Parents

Here are resources that we hope are helpful to you:

- [What to Say to Kids When the News is Scary](#): National Public Radio
- [Early Childhood FAQs](#): ADL Fighting Hate for Good
- [When Bad Things Happen](#): Tips for parents and educators on talking to kids about the unthinkable and inevitable events in life
- [Resources for Talking About Race, Racism, and Racialized Violence With Kids](#): Center for Racial Justice in Education



Dreams from Grade 1 Students at Eight Corners School:



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN SCARBOROUGH SCHOOLS? WE ARE SEEKING APPLICANTS TO JOIN A NEW COMMITTEE TO BE SELECTED ON JANUARY 21ST.

Application deadline has been extended to **January 20th.**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Dear Scarborough Community,

The Board of Education continues to seek applicants for a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, and is extending the application deadline to Wednesday, January 20th to ensure anyone interested has an opportunity to participate in this important work. [Here](#) is the link to the original request with the details and application. Our goal is to form a committee that will advocate for our diverse district, including but not limited to, socioeconomic status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, national origin and disability status. Prior experience and/or expertise is not a requirement for participation. Please consider applying for this committee and helping our district identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Please email the School Board with any questions at boe@scarboroughschools.org.



Upcoming SPS Events - Mark Your Calendar!

[SPS Revised School Calendar](#)

Be sure to check out the revised school calendar that was approved by the School Board at their December 17th meeting. The most significant change is the continuation of 1/2 remote learning days (AM) for students and 1/2 professional development time (PM) for staff for the remainder of the school year. We will NOT be reverting back to Late Start Wednesdays in January 2021 as the earlier approved calendar showed.

- **January 18** - Martin Luther King Day - No school
- **January 21** - School Board Workshop
- **February 4** - School Board Meeting
- **February 15** - Presidents' Day
- **February 15 - 19** - School Vacation

Fully Remote Preparedness Plans

Linked [here](#), 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.



SPS District Email Newsletter Signup

Share the news! Please let any community members, who do not currently have students enrolled in a Scarborough School, know that they too can stay in touch with the latest happenings in the schools and the district. By simply going to the SPS website and selecting the "District Communications" tab on the left, they can enter their name and email address and we will send along our weekly news to them. *If you have a student(s) in the district and you are already receiving our newsletter - no need to sign up (if you do, you will receive duplicate newsletters from us).*

- Schools
- Board of Education
 - Meetings
 - Standing Committees
 - Newsletter
 - Policies
 - Budget
 - CBAs & Contracts
 - Resolutions
- Central Office
 - Superintendent
 - Curriculum & Assessment
 - Special Services
 - Business Operations
 - Facilities
 - Information Technology
 - Nutrition Program
 - Health Services
 - Transportation
- District Communications
- Parent Information
 - Student Registration
 - Student Transfer Request
 - Emergency Plan
 - RevTrak Online Payments
 - Anti-Bullying Information
 - 5210 Let's Go!
 - Common Sense Media
 - Community Bulletin Board
- Employment Opportunities
- Education Foundation
- Scarborough School Business Partnership
- Administrator Recertification

This page of our website will be used to keep staff, students and families up-to-date on all district communications. All of the weekly District Newsletters will be archived here for easy access. We will also post any other important communications on this page.

Recent SPS District Newsletters

- [October 16, 2020 SPS Newsletter](#) 0k - Oct 16, 2020, 3:19 PM by Kelly Johnston [\(v\)](#)
This edition contains some great news regarding student meals for the 2020-2021 school year as well as some important updates on upcoming iReady testing for students.
 - [October 8, 2020 SPS Newsletter](#) 0k - Oct 9, 2020, 11:07 AM by Kelly Johnston [\(v\)](#)
This edition reminds of us the difference between "isolation" and "quarantine" - very important information.
 - [Critical Update - October 4, 2020](#) 0k - Oct 5, 2020, 7:44 AM by Kelly Johnston [\(v\)](#)
Case of COVID-19 detected at Scarborough Middle School.
 - [October 2, 2020 SPS Newsletter](#) 0k - Oct 2, 2020, 3:53 PM by Kelly Johnston [\(v\)](#)
Some very important information in the "Curriculum Updates" in this edition - including an invitation to participate in a webinar addressing anxiety: on November 4 from 6:00pm - 7:30pm a live webinar event titled, "NOW What? Helping Children (and Parents)."
 - [September 11, 2020 SPS Newsletter](#) 0k - Sep 29, 2020, 12:09 PM by Kelly Johnston [\(v\)](#)
Highlights of this newsletter include - information for ordering FREE student breakfasts and lunches, the required and daily Student Health Self Assessment questions and updated materials on Face Covering Requirements.
- Showing 5 files from page [Archived SPS Newsletters](#).

SPS District Email Newsletter Signup

To receive the weekly SPS District Newsletter, please sign up using the form below. Note: If you have a student in the Scarborough Public School system and are already receiving the weekly district newsletter, you do not need to sign up using the form below.

Signup Form

Name

Email Address *



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!

COVID-19





Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

Within the past 24 hours have you had a fever (100.4 and above*) or used any fever reducing medicine? YES =

Do you feel sick with any of the most common symptoms of Covid, had vomiting/diarrhea, or felt unwell? YES =
(see symptom list to the right)

Have you been a close contact of a person with Covid in the past 14 days? YES =

Have you traveled outside of the state in the past 14 days? YES =

Contact Your School

Most Common Symptoms of Covid 19:

Cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Fever (100.4°F/ 38 °C or greater)*
Chills
Sore throat
New loss of taste or smell

Less Common Symptoms:

Muscle pain
Nausea or Vomiting
Diarrhea
Fatigue
Headache
Congestion/runny nose

*Fever is 100.4°F/ 38°C regardless of measurement location (oral, temporal).

Stay home with any YES response to the questions above OR with two or more of the "less common" symptoms listed to the right.

Attend school when all answers are NO and your child is feeling well with no other symptoms of illness. Call or see your school nurse or other designated person at school if you have questions.

updated 10.9.20

Links to Our Schools



Blue Point



Eight Corners



Pleasant Hill



Wentworth School



Middle School



High School

Services & Information

[Spec. Services](#) | Alison Marchese, amarchese@scarboroughschools.org

[Transportation](#) | Sarah Redmond, sredmond@scarboroughschools.org

[Food Services](#) | Peter Esposito, pesposito@scarboroughschools.org

[Athletics & Activities](#) | Mike LeGage, mlegage@scarboroughschools.org

[Curriculum](#) | Monique Culbertson, mculbertson@scarboroughschools.org

[Community Services](#) | Todd Souza, tsouza@scarboroughmaine.org





Tech Support


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



Scarborough Schools

 Facebook  @scarbmeschools

 259 U.S. Route 1, Scarborough, ...  (207) 730-4100

 scarboroughschools.org