

Sandhill E-News

Week of December 6, 2021

A Message from Mr. Johnson:

Hello Everyone!

We have entered the 2021 holiday season: below is a list of some of the many holidays that are celebrated this month. Regardless of which holidays that you and your loved ones celebrate, we wish you the warmest seasons greetings.



December Celebrations:

11/28-12/6 - Hanukkah (Judaism)
12/8 - Bodhi Day (Buddhism)
12/21 - Yule (Pagan)
12/21 - Winter Solstice (Secular)
12/21-12/25 - Pancha Ganapati (Hinduism)
12/25 - Christmas (Christianity)
12/26-1/1 - Kwanzaa (Secular)
12/26 - Boxing Day (Secular)
12/31 - Ōmisoka (Japanese)
12/31-1/1 - New Year's Eve/Day (Secular)

Reminder: As we come up on December, the likelihood of snow and associated cold also increase. During winter we still try to have outdoor recess as much as possible. Please make sure you're sending your child to school with a jacket, snow pants, boots, and hats/gloves. If your family needs some support in getting this items, please reach out to me or our School Social Worker, Kayla McDermot. All of our information is always at the very bottom of this newsletter.

Have a wonderful upcoming week! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns you have.

Take care,
Bob/Mr. Johnson

Winter Weather

SASD Inclement Weather Procedures for 2021-22 School Year

(Albanian, Spanish)

As we are transitioning to winter, it is important to monitor the weather and its impact on school operations. Each year, it is not uncommon for snow, ice, or cold to lead to a district-wide school closure.



While last year we had the procedures and technology equipment in place to consider turning snow days into virtual days, **this year we will use traditional “snow day” inclement weather procedures**, as are most other Dane County districts.

If the need for snow days this year becomes excessive, then the district will consider other options, as it has in previous years, to ensure we meet the Department of Public Instruction's required minutes for instruction.

In the event of inclement weather, we will communicate to families and staff in the following ways by 6 a.m.:

- Phone call, text message, and email
- Local radio or TV station in the school closing information
- District website
- District social media channels

We will use these communication methods if there is a two-hour delay or any other impacts to the school day.

Families, please be sure that your contact information is up-to-date in Infinite Campus.

How to Receive Texts from SASD:

If you'd like to receive texts from SASD, use your mobile device to text “Y” or “Yes” to our district's short code number, 67587. If this is unsuccessful, most likely your phone number is not accurate in Infinite Campus. Send us an email at info@stoughton.k12.wi.us, and we'll help you out.

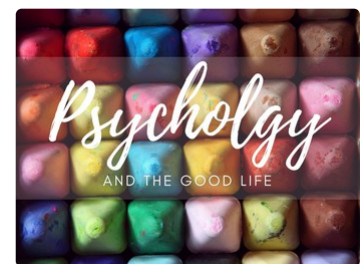
Thank you for your commitment to the education of our children and for your flexibility amid Wisconsin's winter weather.

Dr. Tim Onsager, District Administrator

This Week's NHA Message:

Psychology and the Good Life

Dr. Laura Santos is a Professor of Psychology at Yale University who teaches the most popular course in over 300 years, Psychology and the Good Life, was a guest on Brene Brown's podcast this week. I've listened to it twice (it was that good) and I thought I'd share a summary of the [55 minutes](#) as it mirrors what we are seeing in Stoughton.



First, the data. A 2018 survey of college students nationally reported that more than 40 percent were so depressed it was difficult to function, more than 60 percent had experienced overwhelming anxiety, 80 % say that they constantly feel burned out and overwhelmed by what they have to do, and more

than one in 10 had seriously considered suicide in the previous year. Our Dane County Youth Survey ([DCYS](#)) and REST data, collected on 6th graders, give us the same information. That's the bad news.

Here's the good. Dr. Santo's course, based on positive psychology, has some strategies that are research-based, easy to implement, and are proven to improve happiness and regulation. They are the same as Shawn Akers (the challenge shared previously) and other "Happiness Project" initiatives- sleep, exercise, meditation, being kind, gratitude, and being social. Full Newsweek article on Dr. Santo [HERE](#).

If these strategies are helpful for students at the college level, they are most definitely worth trying for our kiddos! We shared the following ideas for teachers to optional use with their students for 21 days-

- Identify 3 things they are grateful for and why
- Write down one significant event from the past 24 hours with three details that made that event meaningful.
- For 2 minutes per day, have students sit still and pay attention to their breath as it goes in and out of their body
- Take 2 minutes a day to text, email, or write a detailed appreciation to one person they know. Pick a new person every day.

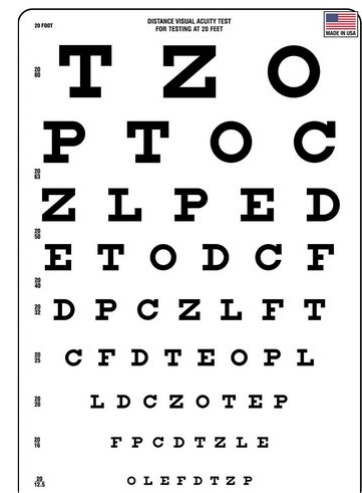
In addition to these ideas, as guardians, you could focus on having your children get at least 8 hours of sleep each night, encourage them to move more, and help them to make face-to-face connections. While you're at it... you should do the same:)

To your **REGULATION, GREATNESS**, Humanity, & Significance

Amy, (Karla & Sara Jane)

Hearing and Vision Screening

Our School Nurse, with the help of some of our awesome community and parent volunteers, will be conducting hearing and vision screening on December 9, 2021 at Sandhill. If you have a Kindergarten, 2nd or 4th grade student and you do not want them screened, please contact Mrs. Gretebeck at laurel.gretebeck@stoughton.k12.wi.us or tell you child's teacher.



Stuff the Stockings Holiday Fundraiser

This year for our holiday fundraiser, we are collecting coins to give to the food pantry so that others will not go hungry this winter. Please send spare change with your child to give to their teacher beginning Monday, December 6th. The coins will be collected until Friday, December 10th. The grand total collected will be announced on Monday, December 13th. The food pantry will appreciate your donation.



Working For Kids Updates:

Lunch Volunteers Needed!!! WFK is always looking to be more involved with our students while also helping to provide support to our teachers and EAs. So after talking to staff about ways we can do this, we are excited to kick off another on-going volunteer opportunity! Starting next week, we are providing volunteers to help out with lunch recess and lunchroom duty. Extra hands are always helpful when helping students (especially our younger learners) open milk cartons and other lunch items, wipe down tables in between grades, and supervise a much-needed recess break! We would love to see parents, grandparents, and other members of the community to help out! Thank you in advance! Your time is very much appreciated!

Starting October 29, WFK is hosting a **Mitten Drive** for our Sandhill Students! It will run through November!

If you'd like to show your Sandhill Elementary School spirit, our online store will be open for the next few weeks! There are youth and adult T-shirts and sweatshirts available in both gray and purple. The deadline to order is midnight on December 5th.

Here is the link: <https://sandhillelementary2021.itemorder.com/shop/sale/?saleCode=K5M77>



Lunch/Recess Volunteer Sign Up

Sandhill Spirit Store



Giving Tree - How it works

Sandhill WFK has teamed up with Kegonsa WFK and Fox Prairie WFK to sponsor a district-wide Giving Tree campaign. Each elementary school has 10 families that we are sponsoring for holiday gifts for all of the kids in said family, for a total of 30 Stoughton area families that will be helped.

How it works:

1. Head on into The Next Generation or Wildwood Cafe at your leisure to pick up a tag starting this weekend. You can also stop by the sponsored tree at the Chorus Public House during Victorian Holiday Weekend (Dec 4) to pick up a tag. If you can't get there, you can sign up for a gift on [Sign Up Genius](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084ca5ab23a1f94-giving3) (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084ca5ab23a1f94-giving3>).
2. Purchase the gift on your tag. We request that people plan to spend \$25-30 on a gift.
3. Return your unwrapped gift WITH THE ORIGINAL TAG ATTACHED to one of the elementary schools or The Next Generation by December 10.

School District Updates

Introducing "Stopfinder," a new parent app for transportation information

SASD families,

Just in time for winter weather, our Transportation Team is excited to announce a new parent communication-based application called Stopfinder.

What is Stopfinder?

Stopfinder allows the district to quickly and easily communicate all things transportation with families. We can send notifications regarding adjustments to route pickup and drop off times, route delays, and annual eligibility and route information. For example, you may receive a notification that says "Route 1 is running 10 minutes late today." You will also be able to view your child's transportation eligibility and route information on the app around registration time.



When can I join?

In the next couple of months, we will be rolling out the Stopfinder app via email invitations. We will send them out by school, starting with bus riders. In early 2022, we will begin to invite non-bus riders to download and use Stopfinder too.

Our rollout order is: bus riders at Sandhill (in progress), Kegonsa, Fox Prairie, St. Ann's, River Bluff and SHS, then all non-riders.

What else should I know?

During the Stopfinder rollout, all families (with or without bus riders) should know that:

- Only the primary household/email address (listed in Infinite Campus) to receive the email invitation. (This is a limitation by the Stopfinder app.) The primary account manager may then invite others to share the schedules. We encourage households to consider adding other parents/guardians, children getting themselves on the bus, and/or other caregivers.
- All families, with or without bus riders, should download and use the app before the 2022-23 school year.
- The Stopfinder app is secure and protected. Access to parents or guardians is only granted to those that have permission from our transportation department.

Please visit our new [Stopfinder webpage](#) for more information, including a short tutorial (also linked below) and FAQs.

If you have any questions about the rollout of Stopfinder, please complete the [Transportation Support Form](#) and we will get back to you. We look forward to improving our transportation communication efficiency.

Sincerely,

Dr. Onsager, District Administration

Karen Johnson, Transportation Coordinator

[Short & Sweet: The Stopfinder App Tutorial](#)

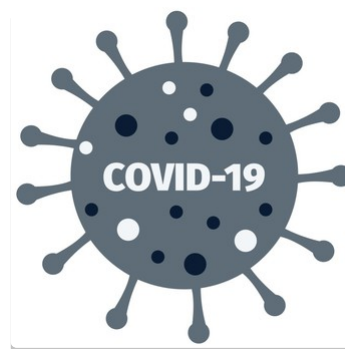
Antiracism Project: December Resources

We're highlighting two events in December: International Day of Persons with Disabilities and Human Rights Day. View [this month's resources here](#). The purpose of the [Antiracism Project](#) is to advance our district's Educating for Equity efforts by providing resources, information, and opportunities to support recognized events, locally, nationally and internationally.



Free COVID Testing Moves Indoors

We've moved our free COVID testing outdoors to indoors until the springtime. Learn more at <https://www.stoughton.k12.wi.us/covid-19/testing>. Remember that students under 18 years old must have guardian consent (View our webpage for consent requirements) AND register for their test at register.covidconnect.wi.gov. Students and staff over 18 years old must register for their testing register.covidconnect.wi.gov.



Why Apply for P-EBT Benefits?

Even though we are offering free meals to all students during the 2021-2022 school year, a child must be officially enrolled in the free or reduced price meal program to meet certain eligibility criteria for P-EBT benefits.



Families who may be eligible for free or reduced price school meals through their children's schools are encouraged to apply now for the 2021-2022 school year! Please apply directly through your [Infinite Campus parent portal app](#) or complete an application found on our [food service web page](#).

School Reminders

Art to Remember

If you missed the deadline to order your child's artwork for the Art to Remember fundraiser- you are in luck! You can still order art up until 12/31/2021. The only difference is that the art will be automatically shipped to your home instead of shipped to school. Please contact Ms. Ergas with any questions- natalie.ergas@stoughton.k12.wi.us

Need A Fun Activity/Contest Over Break?

Conservation Awareness Poster Contest

The Dane County Land & Water Resources Department invites all kindergarten through 12th grade students in Dane County to participate in the 2022 Conservation Awareness Poster Contest. The annual competition encourages students to showcase their creativity and express their thoughts on conservation practices.



The theme for the 2021-2022 school year is "Healthy Soil: Healthy Life".

The contest is open to all Dane County public, private and home-schooled students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Submissions will be evaluated in five different age divisions: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. The top three posters in each category will receive prizes. First place winners: \$20; Second place winners: \$15; and third place winners: \$10. Each of the 1st place division winners will advance to the area competition, with a chance for their poster to win further prizes at the state and national level.

Posters and entry forms (see below) are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 7, 2022 to: Conservation Awareness Poster Contest; Dane County Land & Water Resources Department; 5201 Fen Oak Drive, Madison, WI 53718. Blank posters and entry forms will be made available for interested participants upon request.

More information: <https://lwr.dane.wisconsin.gov/get-involved/conservation-awareness>

COVID-19 Information

- Where can I get tested for COVID? See our new COVID-19 Testing Resource Sheet on our [COVID-19 Health & Safety page](#).
- Our SASD COVID-19 Dashboard is available to the public on our [SASD COVID-19 Dashboard](#) page. We've updated the dashboard each week of the school year since November 2020.



SELF-SCREEN QUICK SHEET

Before sending your student to school, you must screen them.

Answer the question: **Does my student meet one or more of the self-screen criteria listed?** If NO, you may send your student to school. If YES, follow the **Next Steps**.

SELF-SCREEN CRITERIA

- Student has tested positive for COVID-19
- Student is experiencing symptoms* of COVID-19
- Student has been instructed to stay home due to being a close contact

NEXT STEPS

1. Keep your student at home.
2. Call your school's attendance line to report your student's absence.
3. Fill out the [Student COVID-19 Form](#) at stoughton.k12.wi.us under the "COVID-19" tab.
4. Contact your health care provider for next steps.

***Symptoms of COVID-19**

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever equal to or greater than 100.4°F
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches

- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting

District Food Service Page (Including Menus)

Family Resources

2021-22 School District Calendar

Past Newsletters

[August 16, 2021](#) [August 23, 2021](#) [August 30, 2021](#)
[September 6, 2021](#) [September 13, 2021](#) [September 20, 2021](#)
[September 27, 2021](#) [October 4, 2021](#) [October 11, 2021](#)
[October 18, 2021](#) [October 25, 2021](#) [November 1, 2021](#)
[November 8, 2021](#) [November 15, 2021](#) [November 22, 2021](#)
[November 29, 2021](#) [December 6, 2021](#)



We Are Stoughton.
And we stand strong and
committed to **all** of our students,
families & staff members.





Contact Information



Facebook



@WeAreStoughton

Mr. Johnson - Principal - 877-5401

Ms. Eisenschink- Dean of Students - 877-5422

Ms. Plank - Administrative Assistant - 877-5402

Mrs. Holverson - Health Assistant - 877-5404

Mrs. Dybevik - School Psychologist - 877-5410

Ms. McGuire - School Counselor - 877-5406

Ms. McDermot - School Social Worker - 877-5423



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stoughton.k12.wi.us/sandhill-el...