

Sandhill E-News

Week of December 13, 2021

A Message from Mr. Johnson:

Hello Everyone!

As we go into our final week before Winter Break, we have a few fun days scheduled that are optional for staff and students.

- Monday - Favorite Team Color Day
- Tuesday - Crazy Sock Day
- Wednesday - Favorite Shirt Day
- Thursday - Mismatch Day
- Friday - Comfy Day



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

Take care,
Bob/Mr. Johnson



This Week's NHA Message:

3 Million People Can't be Wrong



Last week we shared information about Laurie Santos' [Yale- Psychology and the Good Life](#) based on this [Newsweek article](#) from December 2020. One of the reasons that Newsweek did a piece on her, was because 'the class she created in 2018- one that gave students practical, evidence-based tips for reducing their stress and improving their well-being, was the most well-attended class in Yale's 300-year history. The first week, over 1,000 students attended Psychology and the Good Life, forcing a change in location to a concert hall. The popularity of the class prompted Yale to share the happiness class more broadly. They put a six-week version of the course online so that anyone in the world could take it for free. Hundreds of thousands of people signed up. And then COVID hit. In March 2020, enrollment in the online course doubled, then tripled- then octupled. In the middle of a pandemic, more than THREE MILLION people signed up to take an Ivy League class about how to feel happier. And the feedback and results were amazing!' Hence the reason for spending another week telling you about it is to emphasize the point that these easy, daily habits are really important for supporting your children's mental health.

In addition, the "Susan" referenced in the article, is a Stoughton resident and Stephanie Stokes' mom. She was the first AP Psychology teacher at Stoughton High School and was one of the participants who took the online course.

We hope that all of the evidence of success, both worldwide and locally, will prompt you to practice these strategies with your children and yourself.

To your **REGULATION, GREATNESS**, Humanity, & Significance
Amy, (Karla & Sara Jane)

Working For Kids Updates:

Giving Tree Gifts are due today! Thank you for all who helped make a difference for so many families this holiday season!

See you at the **WFK Monthly Meeting** on Monday 12/13/21

- Join us in the Sandhill Library or on Zoom
- [https://zoom.us/j/9842022535?](https://zoom.us/j/9842022535?pwd=RTNESXQrTE1aSWFQSm41TFdYSGE4QT09)
[pwd=RTNESXQrTE1aSWFQSm41TFdYSGE4QT09](https://zoom.us/j/9842022535?pwd=RTNESXQrTE1aSWFQSm41TFdYSGE4QT09)
- Meeting ID: 984 2022 2535 Passcode: 792142



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. 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!

Lunch/Recess Volunteer Sign Up

**FOX PRAIRIE,
KEGONSA &
SANDHILL
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS
COMMUNITY**



*Pick up a tag
from one of our
three giving
trees or sign up
online to help
make the
holidays a little
brighter for
children in our
community.*

Giving Tree

Giving Tree Locations:

- The Next Generation Children's Store
161 E Main Street, Stoughton
- Wildwood Cafe
218 S Forrest Street, Stoughton
- Chorus Public House during the
Victorian Holiday Artisan Market:
December 4th (10am - 6pm)
154 W. Main Street, Stoughton

**Unwrapped gifts
(with tags attached)
should be returned to:**

- The Next Generations
by 6 pm on Friday,
December 10th
- or
- Any of the three
elementary schools
by 3 pm on Friday,
December 10th

**THANK YOU
TO OUR AMAZING
SUPPORTERS**



**CHORUS
PUBLIC HOUSE**



School District Updates

12/8 COVID-19 Mask & Quarantine Updates at SASD

Dear SASD families and staff,

As we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, county mask mandates, and school COVID data, we continue in our efforts to “unwind” our mitigation strategies.

Public Health Madison & Dane County (PHMDC)’s mask mandate is set to expire on January 3, the day we return from winter break. We do not know if the mandate will be extended.

Following are our next steps for SASD. However, the caveat remains: If PHMDC announces an extension of their mask mandate past the dates outlined below, we are required to follow their order.

Changes to Masking After Winter Break



We will begin to unwind required masking in the new year by grade level:

Grades 6-12 - Monday, January 10

- Starting Monday, January 10, 2022, while not required, masking is strongly recommended and encouraged for grades 6-12 students and staff in any indoor school setting, including extracurricular activities. You'll notice that this goes into effect on Monday, January 10 rather than January 3. This is in hopes of reducing post-holiday transmission.

Grades K-5 - Monday, January 24

- Starting Monday, January 24, while not required, masking is strongly recommended and encouraged for grades K-5 students and staff in any indoor school setting.

4K

- Check with your site directors for site-specific guidance.

For all students and staff members, masking on school buses and district vehicles is required by the Transportation Security Administration through March 18, 2022.

Close Contacts & Quarantine Clarification

We made a quarantine change which took effect on Saturday, November 27. We'd like to offer some additional clarification and adjustments after putting this plan into practice.

Close Contacts in a School Setting

- Any student or staff member who is a close contact of someone with a positive COVID-19 case **in a school setting** and does not have symptoms will not be required to quarantine or be tested but is recommended to wear a mask.
- This is because in a school setting, we can better ensure that students and staff members were fully masked. (As we know, in practice this is not always the case.)
- We will continue our diligent contact tracing and notify close contacts of their close contact status. If a student or staff member has symptoms, they will still be required to quarantine and test using the existing protocol.

Close Contacts Outside of School

- Any student or staff member who is a close contact **outside of school** will be required to quarantine **if they are unvaccinated**. We cannot ensure that the close contact was in a fully masked setting outside of school.

Household Close Contacts

- If an individual lives with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, the individual must quarantine regardless of their vaccination status. This is because there is an increased risk of transmission due to sustained exposure.

Close Contacts & Quarantine - When Masks Are No Longer Required

When masks are no longer required in our schools (January 10 for grades 6-12 and January 24 for grades K-5), we may see an increase in close contacts. We will provide you with more details after winter break.

Commitment to Adjustment

As you know, we commit to adjusting our procedures, as we've done in the past few weeks and past few school years. We must continue to be diligent in monitoring in-school transmission of COVID-19.

Helpful COVID Links

- [COVID-19 Testing Program at SASD](#)
- [COVID Testing Resource Sheet - Find testing locations in the area](#)
- [Health & Safety page](#) (to be updated with new information)
- [Data Dashboard](#)

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Onsager, District Administrator

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

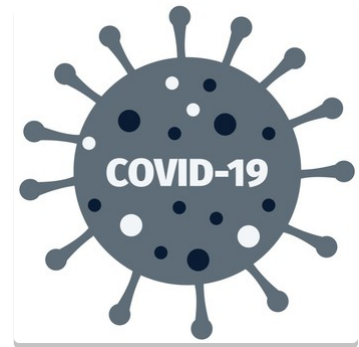
Antiracism Project: December Resources

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.



Food Service Updates

Meal Account Balance Reminders

- Automatic low balance and past due email reminders will start up again after winter break. Reminders will go out on Tuesday and Fridays.
- To avoid reminders, please maintain at least \$10 in your account at all times. \$0 balance accounts will not receive reminders. Note: Adding a recurring payment will help you to avoid any reminders at all.
- Questions may be directed to jenny.mckenna@stoughton.k12.wi.us or jacob.kleven@stoughton.k12.wi.us



Take the Food Service Survey

- Help Taher Food Service better serve you and your family! Please complete [this survey](#) with your input. Thank you.

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://lwrd.countyofdane.com/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



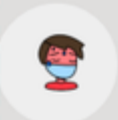
Before sending your student to school, you must screen them.

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](#) [December 13, 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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