

Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - June 3, 2022

K-8 Strategic Project & New Primary School

To the Scarborough Community,

Mark your calendar! On Monday evening **June 6th, from 6-8pm**, we will be hosting a virtual community forum presentation on the K-8 Strategic Project & New Primary School. This is a follow-up to our first community forum held virtually on May 11th, with a focus on Educational Visioning for a new primary school in Scarborough. The building committee, composed of district leaders, elementary principals, teachers, BOE members, Town Councilors, and community members, has been meeting twice a month since January: we look forward to sharing our progress with you and getting your input. This second community forum will focus on the site selection process and hearing what priorities and goals you feel should be included in the process. Tune in to learn more about the process of selecting a school site and participate in two interactive exercises facilitated by Harriman architects and site selection consultants. During the meeting community members will have the opportunity to learn about site analysis, review the site selection criteria, and find out how this data is translated into identifying possible locations for a school. **We need your feedback and participation! Please click on this [Zoom link](#) to register for the event.**



Please click [HERE](#) or go to www.scarboroughschools.org and find the "Building Steering Committee" under QuickLinks at the top right hand corner of the homepage to access the zoom link for June 6th, and to access all agendas, minutes, slideshows, and presentation materials related to the K-8 Strategic Project & New Primary School. Also included on this page is a link to the recording of our first community forum presentation held May 11th.

Please click [HERE](#) if you are interested in serving on a subcommittee related to this project. Thank you again for your support and attention to our schools and community!

Kind Regards,
Geoff Bruno
Superintendent of Schools



Message from the Board of Education

We would like to begin by thanking our entire school community for everything that has gone into making the current school year a success. When the year began back in August, we were all unsure of how COVID would continue to impact day to day operations and exactly what needs students would have as they returned to full time school after a year and half of remote and hybrid education. The needs have been great and we are so fortunate to have dedicated staff and families to help navigate this transition. The year has been a success and it has been a tremendous joy to see staff and students back together in the classroom and at extracurricular activities. Our deep gratitude also goes to the entire Scarborough community for understanding the challenges that the schools faced and supporting the requests that we put forth in the FY22 budget. This year would not have been possible without all of you.

While great strides have been made this year to mitigate the impact COVID has had on students' academic and social emotional needs, there are still lingering effects that need to be addressed. This is the focus of the FY23 budget. In FY22 federal COVID-relief grant funds (ESSER3) were used to add 8 additional classroom teachers to keep class sizes at a manageable level which allowed us to maintain spacing requirements in addition to more personalized attention for students. Recognizing the benefits of smaller class sizes during this time, the FY23 budget maintains 4.5 of those positions using remaining ESSER3 funds. ESSER3 funds will also allow us to add a K-2 guidance counselor and help to support summer academies.

The proposed General Fund budget adds 2 social workers, 1 Academic Support Ed Tech, and a High School Study Center Ed Tech to address additional student needs. There is also an addition of 1 Special Education Teacher to accommodate increased Special Services referrals during the pandemic. The last two additions to the General Fund budget are a Unified Bocce program at the High School and an increase from part time to full time for the athletic secretary position which will allow the school department to take over the scheduling of indoor facilities, previously handled by Community Services.

Beyond added positions and programs, there are a few other key factors driving the school budget increase. The first is something we are all experiencing in our own lives: rising energy and fuel costs. Second are recently completed and open contracts with several bargaining units. The largest contract that the school department has is with the teachers' union and that contract is currently in negotiations and set to take effect on July 1, 2022. While any potential salary increases are still unknown at this time, the FY23 budget includes funds for increases in order to meet our responsibility to negotiate in good faith and to be competitive in a tight labor market. All recently completed Collective Bargaining Agreements have also seen increases to keep Scarborough competitive and retain much needed staff. Anthem health insurance rates saw a large increase this year after no

increase in FY22. The total value of 1% change in premiums is roughly \$60,000 and the increase this year was 7.9%. Lastly, Instructional Technology is experiencing a greater demand for tech support as well as repair and replacement of instructional equipment.

School administrators undertook a rigorous budget review process (as they do every year) that has culminated in a collaborative budget that reflects the long term goals of the district and the immediate needs of students. We hope that you will join us in supporting this budget when you vote on June 14th. Please reach out if you have any questions: boe@scarboroughschools.org



Leadership Council and School Board Recognize this Year's Retirees!

At the June 2nd School Board meeting, 25 of this year's retirees were recognized and thanked for a combined 491 years of service and dedication to the students of Scarborough Schools. This year's group includes: Marcella Ahlquist, Deb Bean, Juelann Belanger, Greg Bither, Jayne Boulos, Carla Cote, Dave Currier, Rita Doering, Michael Grant, Tom Griffin, Kelly Harriman, Katie Hayes, Kim Hoops, Kerry Kertes, Jody King, Scot MacDonald, Alison Marchese, Molly Montgomery, Martha Ollove, Brenda Reinsborough, Renee Richardson, Susan Stoddard-Bertrand, Dru Sullivan, Debbie Tait and Tim Walker. Enjoy your retirement and best of luck in your new adventures!

Candle Light Vigil - June 11

What: Candlelight Vigil for Safe Schools

Who: The Civil Rights Club and Sources of Strength Students invite the Scarborough Community to attend

When: June 11 at 7:00 pm to coincide with nationwide March for Our Lives events

Where: Memorial Park at the Gazebo

Why: As students, teachers, and community members, our number one wish when we enter our schools is to feel safe. With so many school shootings happening around the country, we now walk into school shrouded by a cloud of fear and worry. We would like to take an hour to hold space together as a community and raise awareness of what we can do to continue moving forward toward safer schools.



We recommend people bring their own lawn chairs.

School Budget Vote - June 14

Vote YES on this year's school budget referendum. Absentee voting is now happening in Town Hall - Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Voting will take place at the high school on June 14 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Thomas E. Griffin Softball Field

Town Councilor, April Sither, joined the School Board meeting on June 2nd and recited Proclamation 22-002. This declaration named the softball field in the Kippy Mitchell Sports Complex as the Thomas E. Griffin Softball Field in honor of the retiring Middle School teacher and high school varsity softball coach, Tom Griffin. After serving 35 years as a Middle School PE teacher, and 32 years as the softball coach with 8 state championships, Mr. Griffin will be leaving both positions and enjoying some much deserved rest and relaxation!



New Student School Board Rep Announced

The School Board is excited to welcome Colby Shumway as their next Student School Board Representative! Colby, class of 2024, will join Yuliya Buturlia, the class of 2023 representative. The Board also said "good bye" and "good luck" to the current senior class representative, Gabby Giftos. Gabby, this year's Salutatorian, will be studying biology and pre-med in the University of Maine's Honor Program. Welcome Colby and congratulations Gabby!



Colby Shumway, Class of 2024

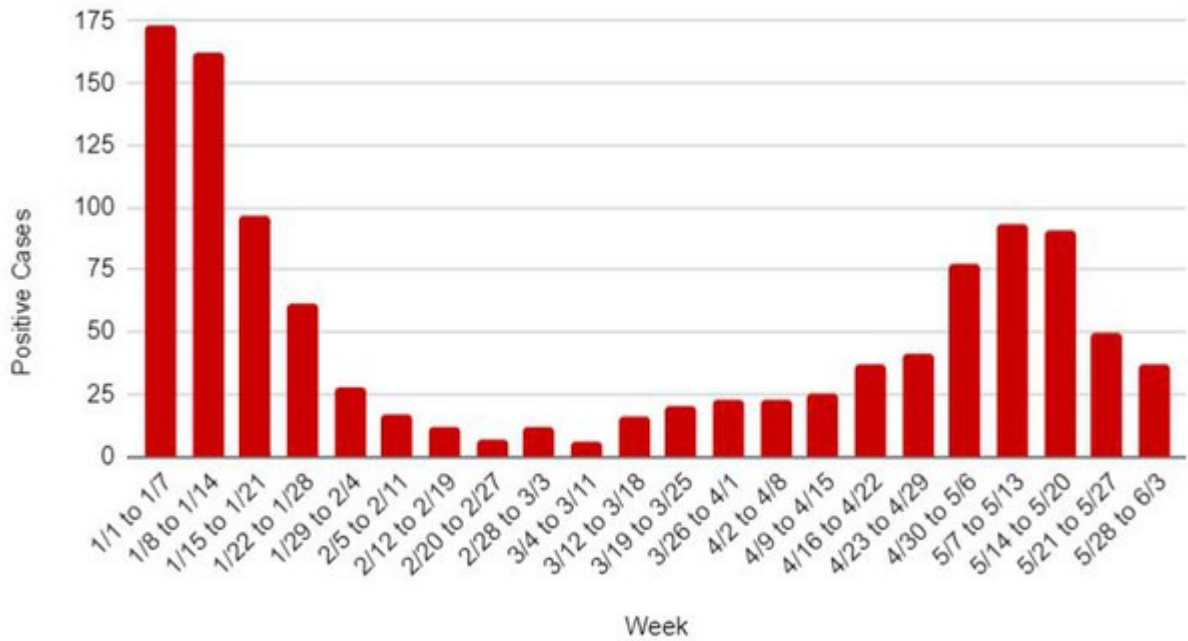


Gabby Giftos, Class of 2022



Yuliya Buturlia, Class of 2023

District Wide Reported Positive Cases by Week



The [Scarborough Public Schools Website](https://www.scarboroughschools.org/) has more detailed information on the number of COVID-19 positive cases by school. We will continue to update information on the website each week, so please visit the link above for the most recent information by school.

FY23 Budget Calendar

April 6th: Town Council 1st Reading

April 28th: School Board Public Hearing

May 4th: Town Council Public Hearing

May 5th: School Board 2nd Reading

May 18th: Town Council 2nd Reading

June 14th: Referendum

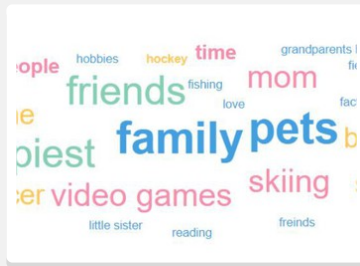
Please visit the town and school websites for additional budget information, dates and Zoom links



Family Matters! Student Survey Responses: Thinking about everything in your life right now, what makes you feel the happiest?



Wentworth School



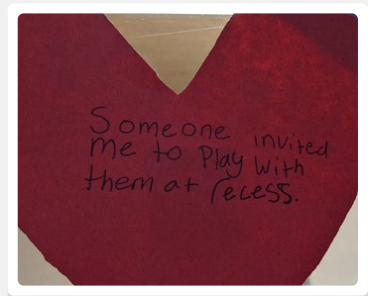
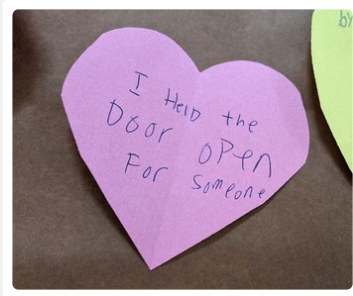
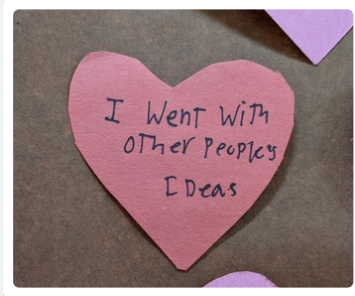
Middle School



High School

Images from Wentworth School





Upcoming SPS Events - Mark Your Calendar!

[2021-2022 School Calendar](#)

[2022-2023 School Calendar](#)

- **June 6** - Virtual community forum presentation on the K-8 Strategic Project & New Primary School - 6:00pm - 8:00pm
- **June 8** - Early Release*
- **June 14** - School Budget Referendum Vote - 7:00am - 8:00pm
Scarborough High School
- **June 17** - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

*Early Release Times - June 8:

K-5 - 1:45 p.m.

6-12 - 12:55 p.m.

**Last Day of School Release Times - June 17:

K-5 - 11:45am

6-12 - 10:45am

Become a Substitute!

The Maine Department of Education and Educate Maine have partnered together to promote more individuals to become substitutes by offering **full reimbursement for the fees** associated with fingerprinting and background checks as an incentive. Please consider this opportunity if you have time to support our students in this way.

A Call to Action: Our Schools Need YOU!



Maine Department of Education and Educate Maine are partnering to call on Maine businesses, leaders and citizens to become guest school staff members. It's time to lean in!



Maine's schools have been safely open for business, ensuring that students have access whenever possible to high quality, in-person learning.

The statewide surge of COVID-19 has increased school staffing shortages, and many schools have had to make emergency and disruptive pivots to remote learning, simply because they do not have enough adults to ensure that schools can operate safely and effectively.

WE NEED YOU to be a guest school staff member.

What is a Guest school staff member? Guest school staff members are substitute staff who are supporting or filling in for bus drivers, playground monitors, food service workers, teachers and support staff. Most are daylong positions, some are hourly, but even one day of substituting can make the difference, keeping a school open for students!

How?

It's a simple process. Go to this [website](#), and follow the 9 steps for choosing where you would like to help, applying, and receiving the required training and background clearance for working in a school. Check it out: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/substitute>

What does it cost?

Nothing but a little time. It will take about one hour to fill out and submit the needed applications, and a \$15 application fee and \$55 fingerprinting fee will be charged, but this **WILL BE REIMBURSED!** Getting fingerprinted will take a bit more time, but you can schedule an appointment that is convenient for you.

Why?

You can make a difference. You will be a hero, supporting your schools and ensuring that public education is available for all of Maine's children. You can work with the school district(s) of your choice, may be able to choose when and where you can help, and you will be inspired by the energy and miracles that fill our schools.

We will be using social media platforms to recognize our heroes and the organizations who are supporting Maine schools. Please join us- and be recognized as among those who are making a difference.



Links to Our Schools



Blue Point



Eight Corners



Pleasant Hill



Wentworth School



Middle School



High School

Health & Safety

Please make sure you review the **UPDATED Student Health Self Assessment** questions for 2021-22 below **EVERY DAY** before sending your child off to school.

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



Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

Within the past 24 hours have you had a fever* or taken fever reducing medicine?

YES =



Do you feel sick, had Vomiting/diarrhea, fever*, sore throat, new cough, or felt unwell?

YES =



Have you been told to stay home and isolate/quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure?

YES =



Most Common Symptoms of COVID-19:

Cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Fever *
Chills
Sore throat
New loss of taste or smell

Less Common Symptoms:

Muscle pain
Nausea or Vomiting
Stomach pain
Diarrhea
Fatigue
Headache
Rash
Swelling or redness of hands/feet
Red eyes/eye drainage
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.

Symptoms of illness can have many causes. Please keep your student home and contact your school nurse or primary care provider if your student is unwell. Students who present with symptoms while in school will be dismissed to home at the discretion of the nurse.

*A fever is 100.4F/38C or greater.



Updated 10.19.2021

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
[Facilities](#) | Todd Jepson, tjepson@scarboroughschools.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

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 scarboroughschools.org