

Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - June 10, 2022



Congratulations Class of 2022!

What an amazing week for our graduating seniors! There have been multiple events to date to acknowledge their accomplishments, including Awards Night on Tuesday, Baccalaureate on Wednesday, and the Senior Stroll on Thursday. On Sunday evening, The Class of 2022 will be graduating at the Cross Insurance Arena! Congratulations and best of luck to all members of the class in their future endeavors.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

-Eleanor Roosevelt



Remington Bristol

Valedictorian, Class of 2022



Gabriella Giftos

Salutatorian, Class of 2022



School Budget Vote - June 14

Please support our schools by voting YES on this year's school budget referendum. Voting will take place at the high school on June 14 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

K-8 Schools Earned Status of "Common Sense Schools"

Common Sense, the national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping kids and families thrive in a world of media and technology, has recognized Scarborough Middle School, Wentworth School, Blue Point School, Eight Corners School, and Pleasant Hill School as Common Sense Schools.



Scarborough's K-8 schools have demonstrated commitment to taking a whole-community approach to preparing students to think critically and use technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate while preparing them for the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy, and cyberbullying. With the right support, kids can take ownership of their digital lives, engage with real issues, and change their communities for the better. The recognition acknowledges our school's commitment to creating a culture of digital citizenship.

"We applaud the faculty and staff for embracing digital citizenship as an important part of their students' education," said Kelly Mendoza, vice president of education programs at Common Sense Education. "Scarborough's K-8 schools deserve high praise for giving students the foundational skills they need to compete and succeed in the 21st-century workplace and participate ethically in society at large."

Scarborough Public Schools have been using Common Sense Education's innovative and research-based digital citizenship resources, which were created in collaboration with researchers from Project Zero, led by Howard Gardner at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and are grounded in the real issues students and teachers face. The resources teach students, educators, and parents tangible skills related to internet safety, protecting online reputations and personal privacy, media balance, managing online relationships, and media literacy. The free K-12 curriculum is used in classrooms across all 50 states, in more than 80,000 schools by more than 1,00,000 educators.

"We're honored to be recognized as a Common Sense School," said Geoff Bruno, Superintendent. "By preparing our students to use technology safely and responsibly, we are providing them an opportunity to build lifelong habits to help them succeed in a tech-driven world."



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

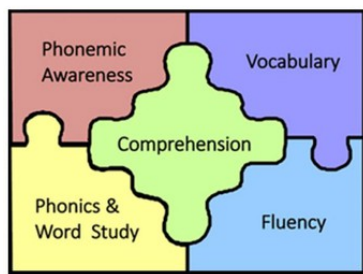
CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR *Safe Schools*

JOIN US ON
SATURDAY, 6/11
AT 7:00 PM
IN MEMORIAL PARK

*THIS EVENT IS
HOSTED BY THE
SCARBOROUGH
HIGH SCHOOL
CIVIL RIGHTS CLUB
AND SOURCES OF
STRENGTH
STUDENTS.*

*RAIN DATE:
6/19 AT 7:00 PM*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, EMAIL:
MSHUPP@SCARBOROUGH.SCHOOLS.ORG
WE ENCOURAGE ATTENDEES TO BRING THEIR OWN LAWN CHAIRS.



Our Students Make Gains in Foundational Reading Skills

Even before the global pandemic, we were tracking our students' performance and growth in the foundational reading skills, specifically in phonemic awareness. We knew we had improvements to make in [this area of word study](#). Kudos to the K-2 primary teachers who piloted a solution during the hybrid year of learning and then moved toward a full implementation of a systematic sequential phonemic awareness solution this year via the [Heggerty](#) materials. As a result, the phonemic awareness (a key predictor of reading success) data of our students is showing promising results as we analyze our i-Ready Reading data:

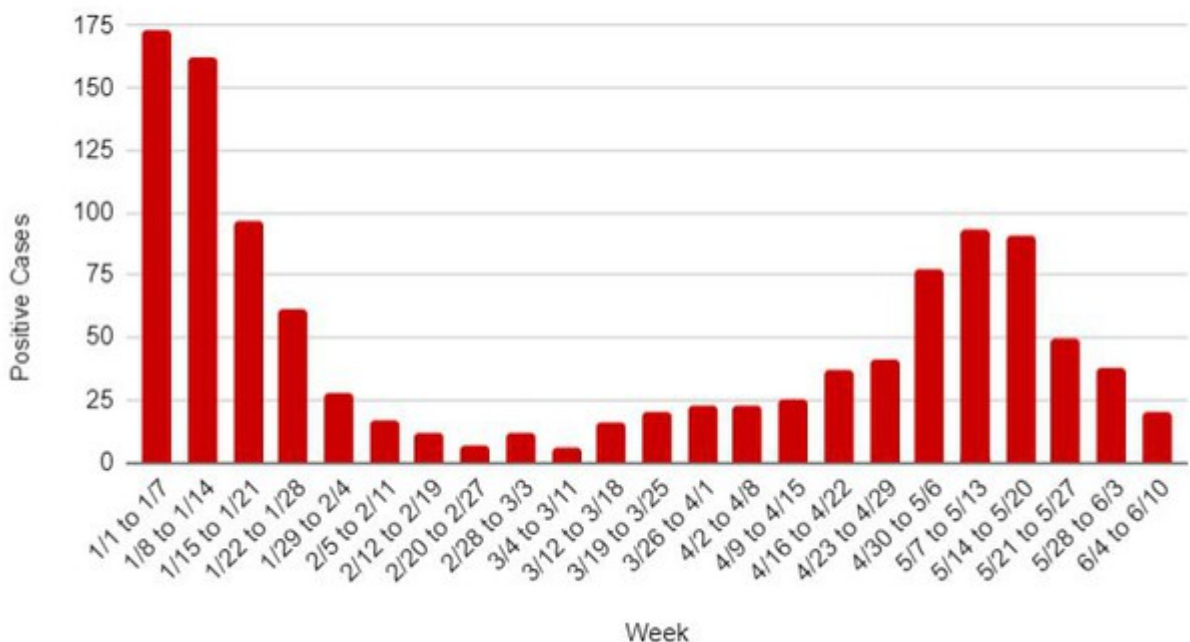
In reviewing the fall to spring growth across our primary grades, we looked at the percentage of students who were early on or above

grade level for phonemic awareness in the fall and compared that to the spring percentages. Here are the results by grade level:

For **Kindergarteners**, the percentage of students who were early on to above grade level in the fall was **63% and increased to 91%** in the spring. This means that 91% of our Kindergarten students ended the year on or above grade level for this important skill. **In the first grade**, the percentage went from **58% to 87%**. And **in second grade**, from **87% to 97%**. More data will be shared as we continue to analyze our results.

Again kudos to the K-2 teachers, to our students who engaged in the learning, and to our families for ensuring that their children came to school everyday ready to learn.

District Wide Reported Positive Cases by Week



The [Scarborough Public Schools Website](#) 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.

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

favorite stuffy
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roblox
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2021-2022 School Calendar

[2022-2023 School Calendar](#)

- *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](https://www.maine.gov/doe/substitute), 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.

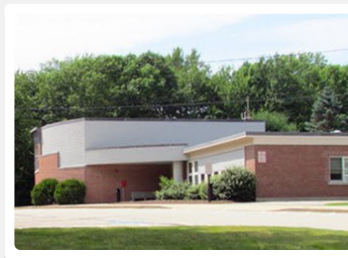
We will be using social media platforms to recognize our heroes and the organizations who are supporting Maine schools. Please join us- and be recognized as among those who are making a difference.



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 100.4°F/38°C or greater.



Updated 10.19.2021

[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

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

 scarboroughschools.org