

Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - June 17, 2022



Happy Summer!!

Today is the last day of the 2021-2022 school year! Have a great summer and we'll be back the first week of August!



FY23 School Budget Passed!

Thank you Scarborough residents for supporting our schools once again! The FY23 school budget passed by a large margin at the June 14th election. Thank you!

Message from the School Board

Dear Scarborough Schools Community,

As the 2021-22 school year comes to an end, the Board of Education would like to extend our gratitude to staff, students, families and the community for continuing to support the mission of Scarborough Schools and for making this year a success. The past 2 ½ years have presented challenges that no one could have anticipated. Navigating these challenges has required patience, professionalism, and perseverance from everyone.



To the staff: Your jobs have been redefined in many ways and you have worked tirelessly to keep students at the forefront of all that you do. You have been a calming presence for students throughout all of the uncertainty of the pandemic, even when you felt unsure of things. Helping students recall expected behaviors, learn how to interact with one another again and regain their academic footing was a tall order, but you far exceeded the expectations. We simply can't thank you enough for your dedication to your students and your profession.

To the families and caregivers: Your patience has not gone unnoticed. Making decisions that impact so many people is a responsibility that we take very seriously and we know that not all decisions are popular. We recognize how hard it is to be supportive of decisions that you don't necessarily agree with. We deeply appreciate all of you remaining engaged and sharing your thoughts with us to help guide our decisions. What we are most thankful for is the support and understanding that you gave to the staff and administrators. Our students are most successful when there is a partnership between their families and their schools.

To the Scarborough community: Thank you for your continued support of the schools. Every year you make a large financial investment in our schools and we are so grateful for that. Additionally, we know how committed so many of you are to providing extra support for students in the community via volunteer opportunities, jobs, extracurricular support and so many other ways. Thank you for all that you do.

Lastly to our students: Every day you amaze us. Your perseverance is nothing short of spectacular. You have experienced the pandemic in ways that no adult can truly understand. We hope that you have felt the love and support surrounding you, but recognize that you were the ones to carry yourselves through. You have faced some very difficult things and you continue to thrive. We hope you feel great pride in your hard work and accomplishments. Our favorite moments as a school board are when we get the opportunity to see you learning, laughing, and discovering the world around you. It is an honor and a privilege to watch you grow.

Now it is time to enjoy a wonderful Maine summer and we look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

Sincerely,
The Scarborough Board of Education

Exciting News for School Year 22-23!

Beginning in the fall, Scarborough Public Schools will be utilizing an online student registration system, called Enrollment Express. We are very excited about this new addition. It will make the registration process much easier, especially if you have multiple students registering. With this new online registration, families will also be able to validate and update information for all existing students.

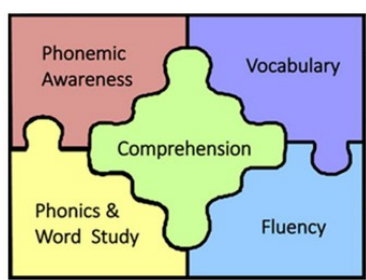


The online software is a secure site and will allow the district to quickly obtain up to date information on your child that you provide. This includes student demographics, emergency and medical information; you will be able to update that information prior to the start of the new school year, instead of waiting for paper forms to be sent, for you to update, and then return to school. The system will also allow you to electronically sign the annual permission forms for school district policies such

as the Technology Use Policy, School Handbooks and Field Trips, photo permissions, etc. By utilizing an online registration, we will be working towards going green.

The online forms are very user friendly and marked clearly. **For new enrollments**, any fields marked with a red asterisk are required fields and data must be entered to proceed. You will be able to save your information and return at a later time to complete. Your child will not be registered until all paperwork has been received. **For returning students**, you will go on-line to update your information for the coming school year.

You will receive an email or letter with directions on how to create a PowerSchool Portal (for new parents) account and step by step instructions on how to proceed as the new school year opens.



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:

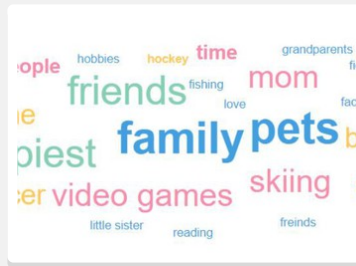
For **Kindergarteners**, the percentage of students who were early on to above grade level in the fall was **63% and increased to 91%** in the spring. This means that 91% of our Kindergarten students ended the year on or above grade level for this important skill. **In the first grade**, the percentage 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.

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



Upcoming SPS Events - Mark Your Calendar!

[2021-2022 School Calendar](#)

[2022-2023 School Calendar](#)

- **June 17** - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL*
- **June 20** - Juneteenth Observed - Central Office Closed
- **July 4** - Central Office Closed

*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 =	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 <small>*Fever is 100.4°F/38°C regardless of measurement location (oral, temporal)</small>
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 =	

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

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



259 U.S. Route 1, Scarborough, ...



(207) 730-4100



scarboroughschools.org