October 23, 2020

EMES Mission Statement
"The purpose of our school is to teach all children to become competent, caring

2020-2021 EMES Family Newsletter

Alicia Lyford, Principal

Dear EMES Families -

We are plugging away here at EMES and I honestly can't believe we're heading into our 8th week of school already. The days are so busy and seem to just fly by for all of us—I'm sure many of you feel the same! Our good fortune with the weather has continued right through this week and we are so thankful for the time we can spend out doors learning, socializing, eating, and playing together. It looks like our good fortune may be coming to an end as next week's weather looks to be a bit chilly! Your children have been such troopers on the rainy days when we haven't been able to be outside as much, but the energy level in the building is definitely a bit healthier when we're able to get outside for fresh air multiple times a day.

Students have been filling up their woodchip buckets by the day and classrooms are having special celebrations regularly. Your children are doing a commendable job of remembering to be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible and are rocking being AWESOME this year. Our office discipline referral numbers are way down this fall and everyone is doing their part to make sure we stay healthy and remain in school. Speaking of remaining in school, our teachers have been putting together multiple versions of emergency packets for students. We now have detailed plans if any of our teachers need to be out for an emergency for a number of days, and today you will find remote emergency packets for your children in their Friday folders. These packets are intended to be used in the event that we have an emergency school closing for a day—please hang on to them just in case! You will find detailed information about this on the following pages.

Our teachers are also working on developing plans in the event that we need to go remote for an extended period of time. We have been lucky to have dodged a number of bullets lately with all of the Covid cases seemingly in our backyards. We do know, however, that at some point this may become our reality as well, and we want to be sure we are best prepared for this if does indeed happen. You will hear more about this from Superintendent Olkowski later today, but we are hopeful that we will be as well prepared in the event that we need to go remote as we were for reopening up our doors in September. The more we plan for all contingencies, the better prepared we will all be!

We have some very exciting things happening next Friday for our Day in the Dark...Stay tuned!
Alicia

Upcoming Dates to Note at EMES:

⇒ Monday, Oct 12th: In-service—no school

⇒ Wednesday, Oct 28th: Picture Retake Day (Picture Day for Remote Students)

⇒ Tuesday, Nov 3rd: Voting Day at EMES—This will be a REMOTE DAY for ALL STUDENTS (see info below!)

⇒ Wednesday, Nov 11th: Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences—no school

⇒ Wednesday, Nov 25—Friday, Nov 27: Thanksgiving break

1/2 Soccer

5/6 Boys Soccer

5/6 Girls vs. Boys Scrimmage

3/4 Boys Soccer

5/6 Girls Soccer

3/4 Girls Soccer

A great big thank-you to Kate Bean from the East Montpelier Rec and all the volunteer coaches! EMES had a wonderful soccer season this fall!

It is October which usually means that plans are underway for our annual Monster Mash. Sadly we will not be able to have it this year but that doesn't mean we don't have some fun things planned!

Friday, October 30th Day in the Dark with EMES Student Leadership Team at 3pm. Students will be treated to some fun in the dark in their classrooms with poetry reading and other special treats from our SLT.

👻 Friday October 30th School Pick up- How fun will it be for the kids see all the cars, trucks and minivans decked out for the season! Start planning now because for cars that participate will have a chance to win a gift card to an area restaurant! (please nothing scary :))

🎃 Friday night Jack-O-Lantern Drive By- Cruise around town admiring all the glowing jack-o-lanterns. But can you spot all the pumpkins that are glowing red? Community members will place their jack-o-lantern where it can be seen from the road. We will select random community members to place a red tea light inside. Do you think you can find them all?

💀 Halloween- Trunk or Treat at Peck Farm from 7-9. More details below!

K/1 and 6th Graders Share ECO time together

East Montpelier Elementary School

Alicia Lyford, Principal

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October 21, 2020

Dear EMES Families,

This letter serves as a follow-up to the October 8, 2020 memo from WCUUSD Superintendent Bryan Olkowski. In that memo, the superintendent explained that there may come a day when one or more WCUUSD schools are forced to close if we are unable to maintain safe levels of staffing for our students. While we do have health and safety measures in place across our district, inevitably staff have and will continue to experience short-term illnesses (most often allergies or a cold virus) from time to time and are unable to come to work for the day in order to rest/recover and keep our school communities safe and healthy.

If we have insufficient staffing levels and the superintendent needs to close one or more school buildings on a given day, we are planning to shift to a remote learning day for students. Since we do not know how frequently this may need to occur, we want to position our district to continue student learning on days where unexpected circumstances require us to close. *As an example, if one school needed to close for up to 5 days throughout the year, making 5 days up at the end of the year in June may not serve students well when they will already be learning later into June than some school years.*

With that in mind, here is our plan:

- As you have likely already heard, we have adopted a learning management system (Canvas) for this school year.
    - At some point we may be in a position to launch a day of learning through Canvas if the decision was made early in the morning that the physical school needed to close.
    - With so much that our teachers and staff are taking on tirelessly, it is not reasonable to be there just yet. We will continue to work toward this and will provide updates when available.
- **For the time being, our teachers have prepared paper packets with learning options for students to access on a given day to continue their learning through skill practice.**

Packets will be sent home with students by Friday, October 23rd. We ask that you keep these in a safe place, in case they need to be accessed at some point. **Students should not work through the content prior to the date needed.** *If students/families would like extra skill practice, please request this separately from your child's teacher and do not use these provided packet materials as a substitute.*

If one of our schools needs to close on a given day, students will be provided with directions for what to work on in their packet. We ask that students return completed learning materials to their classroom teacher upon returning to school. When the majority of students complete and return the packet, as evidence of engagement in their learning, the school day will continue to be considered an active day of learning on the school calendar and will not be required to be completed in June.

Thank you for your support throughout the safe and healthy reopening of WCUUSD Schools. We are thankful for your partnership and are always willing to answer any questions you may have.

Alicia Lyford, Principal
East Montpelier Elementary

Aaron Boynton, Principal
Berlin Elementary School

Cat Fair, Principal
Calais Elementary School

Gillian Fuqua, Principal
Doty Memorial School

Casey Provost, Principal
Rumney Memorial School

Bryan Olkowski, Superintendent
WCUUSD

Trunk or Treat

at

Peck Farm
Est. 1788
Orchard & Maple

5-7 pm

Come join us for donuts, cider and spooks on October 31st.

***If you are decorating your trunk, you can come from 3-5 to set up.**

Click here to sign up to decorate your trunk or can contact Leila Bair (leilabair@gmail.com)

Cars will be spaced 6ft apart. Please remember to wear your mask and follow VT Covid safety precautions for a fun and safe evening.

***********This is open only to East Montpelier families.***********

Capping off the fun will be a show by Northstar FIREWORKS

Please bring a donation for the firework show.

Peck Farm is located at 750 Sibley Road, East Montpelier

Community Connections
November Parent/Teacher Conference Day Camp

Wednesday, November 11th

Grades K—6

Located at East Montpelier Elementary

Wednesday, November 11th 8:00a.m.—5:30p.m.

Berlin, Calais, Doty, EMES, and Rumney

Kind and Thankful acts of Giving

November is a great time to consider the things we are most thankful for. Join us for some fun, giving crafts and activities based on the things we have to be thankful for and kind acts we can do for others.

We will also be making items to recognize our Veterans & our local First Responders to thank them for their service.

Don't forget to bring your outdoor gear as we will play outside!

To register for camps:

1. Complete the sign up sheet on the other side of this form.

2. If your child has not attended a Community Connections activity this year we will also need a 2020 - 2021 Registration form. They are available from your school's Site Coordinator or at camp.

3. Return the sign up, registration form, and payment to:

- Your school's front desk or its Community Connections Site Coordinator
- Scan and send it to kbolduc@u32.org and mail payment separately OR
- Mail them by November 4 to: **Community Connections**
  c/o EMES
  665 Vincent Flats Road
  East Montpelier, VT 05651

ALL THE BASICS

- CC is one of the only local organizations offering camps on school vacations. Camps cost $45 - $60 per day on a sliding scale please pay what you can!
- Camp hours are **8:00 AM—5:30 PM**
- Pickups after **5:30 will be charged a $15 late fee!**
- We need a current 20-21 registration/medical form for your child. If you have not filled one out this year, we must have one before your child can attend.
- You provide lunch and we provide 2 healthy snacks.
- Please let us know how we may best help your child enjoy camp and discuss any special needs.
- Personal audio, phones, and video games are highly discouraged, if sent it is at your own risk.

Community Connections sites are licensed childcare programs. We accept childcare subsidies– ask us about it!

PACKING LIST

- Send a healthy bag lunch with your child. (no soda or candy)
- Send appropriate clothing/items: sneakers, outdoor gear, dry socks, jackets, boots, hats, gloves, etc.
- Send a water bottle.
- **Please label your child's belongings!**

Space is limited for these camps.
Register as soon as possible!
10 child minimum and **25 child maximum**!
Sorry—no refunds for cancellations as we have hired staff and held a place for your child based on your registration. Payment must be received for your child to attend!

Kids will be kids! But…

Community Connections staff are experienced and trained in working with kids of all ages. To protect the safety and well-being of all children, we have expectations and standards for behavior. If a child is unable to meet those standards, even with all the support we are able to provide, we may have to call the parent or guardian and ask that the child be removed from camp.

Please help us by telling us anything about your child that will help us meet his or her needs.

Sign up online (pay at drop-off) at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/

Note to Parents and Guardians: Vermont weather is unpredictable. We run our camps rain or shine, so please send your child dressed appropriately - layers, winter boots, warm clothes, extra clothes, indoor shoes, hats, and gloves.

My child _____ Gender _____ Grade _____ School _____

My child _____ Gender _____ Grade _____ School _____

will attend (and I give permission to attend and be transported by bus/van when needed) the following programs:

Date	Event	Cost	Indicate ***Your*** Rate.	Pick-up/Drop- off
Wednesday Nov. 11, 2020	Thankful/Kindness Camp For Grades K-6	**$45-$60**	$_____/ day	E. Montpelier Elem.entary School 665 Vincent Flats Rd., E. Montpelier, VT

Parent name _____ Email _____

Daytime #(s) _____ Parent Signature _____

___ I have enclosed $_____ to cover my child's enrollment (cash or check to WCSU / Community Connections).

___ I am eligible for state childcare subsidies at ____ per week.