



PUBLIC SCHOOLS of
BROOKLINE 

Superintendent's Update

November 14, 2024



Health and Nursing Initiatives

PSB School Health Services has collaborated with the Town of Brookline's Department of Public Health to order more supplies of over-the-counter rapid antigen COVID-19 self tests. These self tests, with which most people are familiar, are easy to use and play an important role in containing the spread of the virus. School Nurses can send these kits home with students and staff. However, like last year, nurses are no longer testing students or staff.

During faculty meetings, PSB nurses have been giving building-based presentations on how to respond to someone who is choking. This practical, hands on training has been extremely well received. During collaboration time, paraprofessionals will be given the opportunity to receive this important training as well.

Free CPR and AED Training for PSB Staff

PSB Health Services has partnered with the American Heart Association to host a free CPR and AED course for interested staff on Wednesday, November 4 at the Lincoln School library. This course is designed to equip staff with basic CPR skills, and includes essential training for both child and adult care.



**American
Heart
Association®**

Clinical Services

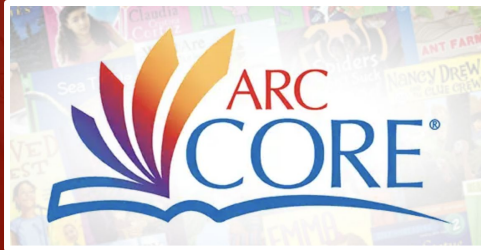
As part of PSB health programming, school staff are working to teach students about mental health and how to seek help if they are worried for themselves or a friend. The Signs of Suicide (SOS) Program teaches students about this difficult topic and encourages ways of seeking help. SOS has been used by thousands of schools for over twenty years. Studies have shown that it effectively teaches students about depression and suicide while reducing the number of students self-reported suicide attempts. The SOS program is delivered during one or two Health classes, which is scheduled for late November or December.

The fall universal screening for students in grades 3 to 12 ended on November 8, 2024. This screening measures school belonging, supportive relationships, emotional regulation skills, pleasant feelings, and unpleasant feelings. For students in grades 6 to 12, the survey includes the PHQ-4, which is a brief screening tool for anxiety and depression. School teams use this information to identify students who may need additional support. Over the next two weeks, the data will be analyzed at the building and district level to identify trends, strengths, and areas of need for the PSB's mental health programming.

Open House to View Potential Literacy Materials

The Office of Teaching and Learning is hosting a community open house for PSB families to learn about three new programs that have been identified for K-5 literacy instruction.

The open house will take place on Monday, November 25th from 5pm to 6pm at the Town Hall, following the Curriculum Subcommittee meeting.



Promoting Team Building

Sarah Ladner Apollo, Director of the Winthrop House programming for grades 6-12, coordinated a special afternoon of team building at the Hale Reservation in Westwood, MA on November 5th. Designated staff drove out to Hale Reservation to strengthen ties across different programs that work towards creating better student experiences. The staff challenged each other, learned from each other, and walked away feeling rejuvenated for the work they do, and thinking about how they could bring those experiences to Winthrop House students.

As a result of these new connections, the staff is now planning staff exchanges across the middle and high school programs, to build stronger transitions for students between 8th and 9th grade, and help students of all ages adapt to learning with less familiar staff in preparation for postsecondary opportunities.





THANK YOU



PUBLIC SCHOOLS of
BROOKLINE