

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

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October 22, 2021

Good Friday to you all!

The days and weeks seem to be flying by. Halloween is next weekend which means that Sirius XM will start broadcasting holiday tunes any minute! It's always a hoot to hear Johnny Mathis' velvety voice before Trick-or-treating 😊

I have lots to share with you today.

- For those patiently waiting for the launch of **SafeStop** (the school bus tracking app), here's an update. Ledgemere's new Terminal Manager is receiving SafeStop training today. With that, she will upload the routing data from Travers 360 to SafeStop. Then we will recruit a few families to beta test the app before notifying parents that it is up and running. My hope is that next Friday, I can announce that SafeStop is 'a go' starting Monday, November 1st. Stand by!
- The **Pre-screening Tool for School Attendance** (also referred to as the 'Daily Self Check') has been revised by Maine Dept. of Education. The revised tool is attached. Please use it daily and remain in close contact with your student's school nurse.
- The approval of the **Pfizer vaccine for the 5 to 11-year-old age group** is imminent, and we want to be prepared to host **school-based COVID-19 vaccine clinics** next month. In order to prepare for this with our healthcare partners, we need to have a solid idea of how many vaccines we will need. Please take a minute to complete the [form linked here](#) for **each of your unvaccinated students** who attend the Kittery School District. We need this data by the **end-of-day on Wednesday, October 27th. THIS IS NOT A CONSENT FORM.** You will need to complete a consent form prior to the vaccine clinics for each of your students who you want to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- I know some families may be a bit uneasy about the COVID-19 vaccine for children. According to Dr. Michael Schmitz from MaineHealth, "Unvaccinated individuals are at an

increased risk of hospitalization and death due to COVID-19." Our COVID-19 Clinical Coordinator, Nurse Shay, shares this [fact sheet](#) about COVID-19 vaccinations.

- Families with students attending Mitchell Primary School or Shapleigh School received a survey link from me this week pertaining to **preschool school access in Kittery**. In case you missed it, I am attaching the [link here](#). The Kittery School District is exploring the addition of public Pre-K next fall, and we need some data for a grant application that would help to fund this expansion in our District.
- The **SRO Task Force** is finalizing its plans to hear from students. This is your last chance to complete the [consent form](#) that will allow the Task Force to survey your students (grades 3 - 12) and possibly interview them individually or in a group.
- Finally today, I'd like to invite you all to the 12th Annual Traip Athletic Boosters Craft Sale on Saturday, November 13th. The flyer is attached. Please come to this festive annual Craft Sale and support the wonderful families who make up the Athletic Boosters Club.

Good luck to the Traip Academy Rangers soccer teams and XC running teams as they compete this weekend in postseason competition!

We'll talk again next Friday...

Sincerely,

Eric

Eric F. Waddell
Superintendent of Schools