

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

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September 3, 2021

Good Friday morning!

You are receiving this weekly communication a bit earlier than usual in case you strike out today for a fun **Labor Day weekend** adventure. I hope you all enjoy some time together this weekend.

We had a very successful launch to the 2021-22 school year. Thank you for your part in making it all come together so effectively. I ask for your continued support and patience (with me and with each other!) as we maneuver through new routines and processes.

Let me hit some **important points** from the week:

- **Drop off and Pick up at Shapleigh School and Mitchell Primary School** became more efficient each day this week. In fact, I was at MPS yesterday afternoon, and the pick up process with buses and vehicles and hundreds of students was nothing short of a classically choreographed ballet! Here's something you can do to speed up the process even more; **make sure your kiddo is ready to disembark your vehicle when the time comes.** Both Officer Valenti and I noticed some degree of 'gathering of things' once a car came to a stop at the 'unload' area. Even a 20 second delay of hopping out of the car will slow down the process, and before we know it, we're 5 minutes behind schedule. **Bottom line: pack the bags and put on the mask while you're waiting in line!**
- Remember; the cut off to participate in the September 13th **pooled testing is Wednesday, September 8th, 3:00 PM.** You must complete the online consent form by then. Otherwise, you can start on September 20th. Once your student (or you, a staff member) are registered through the consent process, you will participate each week unless you request to your school nurse that you want to stop. Here is the [link](#) for those under the age of 18, and here is the [link](#) for adults.
- Did you know that the Maine DHHS is requiring all Maine schools to capture and report **staff vaccination rates** (no names, of course, but aggregate data)? We are finalizing that data now for submission by September 10th. When the portal to review the data is released, I'll be sure to share it with you (sometime around mid-September). I can tell you that the staff vaccination rates in our three schools are VERY high.
- Speaking of the **COVID-19 vaccine**, it is indisputably the most effective mitigation strategy to beat the virus. If you or your age-eligible student are not vaccinated and you're ready to do it, you should reach out to your primary care provider to seek a vaccine, or you may go to just about any pharmacy. My family found the Walgreen's Pharmacy to be very easy, and it's located right here in Kittery. Click [here](#) for the link to sign up for a COVID-19 vaccine.

- There is another vaccine you will want to strongly consider as well--**the annual flu vaccine**. We will once again offer onsite flu vaccine clinics this fall, so keep an eye out for that information. We want to do everything we can to support our families and staff with this effort.
- Officer Valenti and the school principals have already begun scheduling and practicing **evacuation drills** (we called them 'fire drills' during my school days!). We take these drills very seriously and SLOWLY to ensure that our students of all ages know the process to avoid angst about it. **Lockdown drills** will be introduced SLOWLY later in the fall, and we'll make sure everyone is as comfortable as possible with them.
- I wanted you to know that our three schools will be marking the **20th anniversary of 9/11** (Patriot Day) on Friday, September 10th. We'll honor this somber anniversary in an age-appropriate manner led by each of our three school principals.
- On **September 14th**, we have a great opportunity for our families to participate in a program with Sue Badeau, a National Expert in Child Development, Trauma, and Resilience. **6 Keys to Building a Resilient Family** will be led by Sue Badeau who worked with our entire staff last week. I would encourage you to join in on this free opportunity sponsored by *Choose to be Healthy* out of York Hospital. Click [here](#) to register.
- **Project Graduation 2022** is already hard at work! You can help by supporting their fundraiser, a mum sale! I've attached the flyer here for your review, and you can place your order by clicking on this [link](#).

That's all for this week! Good luck to the Rangers who officially kick off their fall season this weekend. **Rosh Hashanah** begins Monday evening, September 6th, marking the Jewish New Year, and Labor Day is also Monday. Have a great weekend everyone; I'll re-connect on 9/10.

Sincerely,



Eric Waddell
Superintendent of Schools



Fall Mums Sale

*Traip Academy
2022 Project Graduation Fundraiser*

Order Online at <https://givebutter.com/SYqdvZ>

Mums from Wentworth Greenhouse!

3 sizes! 5 colors!

6.5" pot	\$6.00	Red	Yellow	White
8" pot	\$8.00			
10" hanging basket	\$17.00	Orange	Pink/Purple	

Order by Wednesday, September 15, 2021
Pick up Mums at Traip Academy Friday, September 24, 2021
2:30pm – 5:00pm

Email questions to Barb Durling: badurling@icloud.com

