

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

Eric F. Waddell • Superintendent of Schools • ewaddell@kitteryschools.com • (207) 475-1334

April 2, 2021

Good afternoon to all...

As a former high school principal, I would often say that the time between February break and April break can be challenging. It is one of the few times throughout the school year when students and staff are engaged in teaching and learning for more than five weeks without a break. Kids (and adults too!) can 'hold it together' for five weeks. Week six can be a challenge, and I equate week 7 to the last 5 miles of a marathon; it can be brutal!

I offer this perspective not to sound whiny but to shed a bit of light on the challenges of the next two weeks even without the pressures and stresses of the pandemic. We absolutely welcome your phone calls and emails with questions or concerns (and words of encouragement and appreciation, too!), but consider your words thoughtfully to a teacher, support staff member, or administrator. They are all doing their best (just as you, our families, are) and appreciate hearing from you, but my advice (at last for April 2 - April 16) is to allow that email to sit for 24 hours before hitting send. A good night's rest and a little sunshine may cause you to see and hear things differently.

I have just four items to feature here today:

- If you haven't checked our [COVID-19 DASHBOARD](#) recently, you should. The Maine CDC and DOE have made some recent changes related to quarantining, traveling, and vaccinations. Take a look at the questions listed on the DASHBOARD and click on them for the answers. Major League Baseball released its reopening plan this week, and the Commissioner noted that the plan is written in pencil. I love that! And it is so true. Details can change with new information, and that takes flexibility and patience. We will do our best to keep you up-to-date with operational changes related to the pandemic.
- The School Committee's **SRO Task Force** has been appointed. I am pleased to notify you of the following appointments. The group will launch its work later this month:

Vernon Brooks Carter, Community Member

Annie Dowling, Parent

Jennifer French, Parent

Jennifer Hennessy, Parent

Robert Richter, Kittery Chief of Police

Michael Roberge, Assistant Principal

Cheria Rowlings, Parent

Heather Sadler, Parent

Layla Sanchez, Student

Janis Watson, Teacher

Kelly White, Community Member

Dustin Ward, Facilitator

- I am happy to report that Kittery municipal officials have lifted the local declaration of emergency effective April 1. That means that the Kittery School Committee will resume **in-person School Committee meetings on April 6th** at the Kittery Community Center's Star Theatre. The public is welcome to attend, although seating in the Theatre is limited. I would continue to encourage those who are interested to watch the meeting from the comfort of your own home via Channel 22 or via the livestream [linked here](#).
- I am so thrilled to announce (with the permission of Principal Drisko) that the Traip Academy **Commencement** for the Class of 2021 will be held on Friday, June 15th, and the location of the ceremony will be Fort Foster. The plan is the result of the hard work of the Class of 2021 Student Leadership Cabinet along with their faculty advisors, Principal Drisko, and Mr. Roberge. They met recently with town officials who have given their full support of what I know will be a special and memorable commencement. More details are forthcoming from Traip Academy.

I am excited to attend a track meet soon and to hear the ping of a baseball bat at Memorial Field. For Coach Matty and Coach Carven's benefit, I should make a clever reference to lacrosse, too!

Enjoy the weekend--egg hunts, jelly beans, baked hams...all of it!

Sincerely,



Eric Waddell
Superintendent of Schools