

MES Family Update January 21, 2021

Good afternoon MES Families,

We hope that the short school week has actually felt like a short week.

A few things for you:

*In touching base with Chatham Health about the new quarantine guidance from the CDC and DPH, Chatham Health issued the following recommendations, which we will be looking to follow as suggested - using either the 14-day or 10-day quarantine options:

- ***While a 14-day quarantine remains the safest option, our experience is that the risk of transmission in schools appears to be limited, and therefore the use of a 10-day quarantine option can be considered. Given the noted residual risk using the test-based strategy, and the newer evidence suggesting that it may be higher than previously understood, Chatham Health District discourages schools from using this strategy to shorten quarantine to 7 days.***

*We have set dates for Kindergarten Registration for the 2021-2022 school year. Families will be notified of drop-off time blocks on March 3rd and 4th when registration materials can be dropped off at the Main Office here at school. We will be sending registration packets to the families that we know have incoming Kindergarten students. We will let you know when those packets have been placed in the mail, and if you don't receive one and you should, please contact the Main Office. We'll also be posting information in the Rivereast starting next Friday - and putting notification on the Town Green.

*We are fortunate to have filled the two openings we had on our Custodial Team. This week we welcomed Eric Stewart and Frederic Pfau to our MES team. Both of our new custodians are excited to be part of the MES family and are ready for the challenge of cleaning and maintaining a school building in COVID time.

*We are planning a Virtual Story Time for February. We'll let you know when we've selected a date and time and then will make the Zoom link available to everyone. Virtual Story Time was one of the things that kept us going through school closure and a very quiet school building.

*As you have probably noticed if you've been out shopping, Valentine's Day is right around the corner. As the risk of COVID transmission from touch surfaces is negligible, we are going to allow the exchange of Valentine's as we normally would. We realize that many, many Valentine's come with treats attached. We are asking that you make sure that any treats are pre-packaged. Students will not be able to open the treats while at school. Teachers will share the plans that they have for their classrooms as they vary by grade level. Any class treats that come into the building will also need to be pre-packaged individually. We continue to look for ways to bring at least a little bit of normalcy to everyone's school year.

*We cross our fingers and knock on wood each time we talk about school milestones - so here goes - the 100th Day of School (highly anticipated in our younger grades) is currently scheduled for Wednesday, February 17th.

Have a terrific Friday and a nice weekend.

Dan & Kim