

MES Family Update - November 16

Good afternoon MES families,

We hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful fall day.

Early Release Days: We will have early release days on Wednesday, 11/18, Thursday, 11/19 and Friday, 11/20 of this week - as well as Wednesday, 11/25 of next week. We will start dismissal at 12:55.

Pick-up waves will be at the following times for the groups:

- **Red Pick Up: 12:55**
- **Blue Pick Up: 1:05**
- **Yellow Pick Up: 1:15**

We appreciate everyone's patience while waiting in line - we work hard to move our dismissal in a timely manner. Our students dismiss to the Community Room based on their pick-up zone, so we have smaller groups of children in the Community Room at one time.

Anti-Racism / Equity and Diversity Committee: As a number of people have asked, we are reaching out to let you know that we have asked the Anti-Racism/Equity and Diversity group to reach out to the Town of Marlborough (or AHM) in order to shift the group to a community based committee instead of a school-based initiative. With the work to reopen school - and now to stay open - we felt that we wouldn't be able to devote the necessary time, effort, and resources to such an important project.

Virtual Book Fair: Our PTO sponsored Book Fair will start on November 20th. Information on how to log in and browse the 6,000 titles will be coming soon. Orders over \$25 will ship for free.

COVID/Contact Tracing: When we get notified that we have a positive or a presumptive positive COVID case in school, we start a very detailed, lengthy process to figure out our next steps. There are times when we are on buses with a tape measure to determine distance between seats, or are using the tape measure to identify distance between classroom spaces. We have frequent communication with Chatham Health to share the information that we have gathered. Once we develop the plan with Chatham Health guidance, we reach out to those specifically involved/impacted - and then send out a more global message. We know, as we reach out, that we will be sharing news that will disrupt worlds. As parents as well, we understand that our information is probably not what you were hoping to hear. This is such an unusual time. Please know that if/when we reach out, we have done so after extensive data gathering and consultations with our epidemiologist.

Distance Learning, Quarantining, Sick Day: We are hoping to clarify a little bit as there are times that some of these terms get confused. Distance Learning is what our 45 or so students are doing on a regular basis. The majority of these students have been Distance Learning since the start of the school year with their assigned Distance Learning teachers. If a student needs to be quarantined - school decision or home decision - we would provide work (and technology devices) through the classroom teacher. These students would not move into a Distance Learning classroom with students and a teacher that they weren't familiar with. Regular Sick Days stay the same - work can be made up when the student is feeling better and they can return to school. As we've done in the past, work could be sent home for these students as well.

We hope everyone has a great conference week.

Kim & Dan