



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER - JAN/FEB '21

Sharon Elementary School :: *Care. Community. Connect.*

Important Upcoming Dates

- Feb. 4, 6:30 pm: Sharon PTO Meeting via Zoom (Email hbcathcart@gmail.com for link)
- Feb 5, 9-10 am: Coffee/Tea with Principal Haley (Virtual): Join this virtual meeting to discuss school related topics, ideas and ask questions. A link to the meeting will be sent out the day before.
- Feb. 9, 6 pm: Regular School Board Meeting
- Feb. 10, 6 pm: Special Board Meeting to discuss logistics for Town Meeting
- Feb. 22 - Mar 2: Winter Vacation
- Mar. 3: School in session again

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or visit our website
www.sharonelementary.org

Families and Community members,

It's been a productive few weeks since I last wrote to you. Students have been busy taking mid-year assessments in math and literacy. Teachers will use the data from these assessments and their understanding of each student to continue to meet the needs of their students. If you are interested in the assessment results, please reach out to your child's teacher or me.

It has been decided by the School Board, in conjunction with the Sharon Selectboard, to delay the annual School Meeting and Town Meeting until May 8th this year. The Governor has granted permission for this based on our current situation with the COVID pandemic. The hope is that we will be able to run both meetings, outside, so that people can attend in person. I am working with the town to plan and organize this to meet COVID guidelines, while allowing citizens to participate in the meeting. As we near the date of the meeting, I will hold two informational meetings to discuss the school budget.

As a school community, we have a desire to give students more of a voice in deciding what opportunities they would like to have, as well as voicing their thoughts and opinions on a variety of topics related to the school. Next week we will hold our first Student Council meeting, where representatives from the 3rd through 6th-grade classes will begin our journey on making sure that our students have a voice in decisions that impact their lives here at school.

The idea of continuous improvement is something that we take very seriously here at Sharon Elementary. We are always striving to be better teachers and better learners. We analyze our systems and reflect on our practice. Currently, beyond teaching daily, teachers are involved in professional development around math.



What is Ms. Hop reading?

- To build awareness of global issues: **A Long Walk to Water** by Sue Park (grades 4 and up)
- To learn more about our "Greats" - **Becoming Muhammed Ali** by Kwame Alexander (Graphic Novel)
- To learn how to have uncomfortable conversations with kids- **Teaching When the World is on Fire** by Lisa Delpit (for parents)
- To giggle with your kiddos- **The Rabbit and Bear series** by Julian Gough and Jim Field (PreK-4)

Find out how to request books on our website, follow the Library link.

The public library in town, Baxter Memorial Library, is open by appointment and offers curbside pickup.
(sharonvtlibrary.com/)

Beat Cabin Fever, Read a Book!

Our goal is to identify practices that should happen within a math learning block. We are working with a consultant that provides us with examples of activities that we can do with our students to help build upon their number sense. The commitment by the teachers to look at their current practice, reflect on it and make necessary changes should not go unnoticed. Even in a year that finds us dealing with a pandemic and all it brings, the teachers at Sharon are continuing to better themselves, and for that, I'm incredibly grateful.

Another area of focus that has come to the forefront of our minds this year is the social and emotional health of our students and staff. As you can well imagine, this has been an extremely challenging year because of the guidelines we are following due to COVID. While we do our very best to identify students who may need social/emotional support, we don't always see and hear everything. Please, if your child is expressing frustration or concerns about school, let us know. Together we can strive to make this year productive and joyful for all students.

Have a wonderful weekend, keep in touch and stay safe,

Respectfully,

*Keenan Haley
Principal*

