



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER - JAN. 2021

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

Important Upcoming Dates

- Jan. 12, 6 pm: Regular School Board Meeting
- Jan. 15, 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.
- Jan 21, Picture Retake day
- Jan. 22: Half-Day, early release at 12:15 pm

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or visit our website
www.sharonelementary.org



Families and Community members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break. I know the students were excited to have some time off from school. I want to thank everyone for your support with our Virtual Learning week. By all accounts, it's been a success!

As I write this letter, I have a feeling of hope. This may come as a surprise for some. 2020 has brought many challenges. We have had a reckoning with race relations in this country; there are deep political divides. We continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. On Wednesday, many of us watched our nation's capital overrun by some of its citizens.

At the school level, I am in the midst of developing a school budget that does not dampen our children's education while trying to keep any increase low for our taxpayers.

One might say I should feel despair. Well, I don't feel despair, in fact, I do feel hopeful. Being a native Vermonter, having been a part of the Sharon school community for the past 20 years, I know first hand that we can overcome all of these challenges peacefully, constructively, and most importantly, together. That is where my hope resides in, the power of our community, a community where neighbors help each other, with teachers who sacrifice their personal time for their students, where arguments are made and heard respectfully. I've seen this first hand in Sharon and Vermont. I'm proud to be a part of it.

As we move into the year 2021, I'm looking for ways to make school continually a joyful place to be. As the principal of an elementary school, I want my students to feel joy in learning, even if that learning is difficult. I want to celebrate each student for their individual growth. I am constantly thinking about this.



Consider joining the PTO:

The Sharon PTO is a group of parents, caregivers, and staff meeting monthly to bring parents, staff, and caregivers together to enhance the educational experience of the Sharon children. Please consider joining the Sharon School PTO!

Find the form on the school website and in your mailbox.

School Board Meetings

Regular School Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 pm, and meets virtually on Google Meet. We encourage parents and community members to attend these virtual meetings to stay informed on our work in the school. If you cannot attend but want to stay informed on our work, minutes can be found on our website at <https://sharonelementary.org/minutes-agenda/>

Learning is an opportunity to grow and to give each of us a chance to become whatever it is we want to be. Joy, in my opinion, should be at the forefront of what we do. I'm committed to bringing joy to the students, staff, and community of Sharon Elementary.

As we transition back to school on Monday, I want to remind everyone to continue to fill out their morning health screening form. We will continue with our new temperature checking procedure that will now take place in the school's entryway. Please do not enter the circle until a staff member waves you in, at 8:00 am.

Teachers will be reminding students about our 3 Ws that we've been following this year to keep everyone safe. The 3 Ws are:

Wear a mask

Wash your hands

Watch your distance

If parents and caregivers could also review the 3 Ws with their students, it would be greatly appreciated. Together we can be sure our children and staff are safe.

Respectfully,

*Keenan Haley
Principal*

