



# PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER - SEP/OCT'21

## Mark your calendars!

- Friday October 1st - Half Day Early Release (12:15 pm)
- Thursday October 7th, 6:30 pm - Sharon PTO Meeting
- October 11th - Indigenous Peoples Day- NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday October 12th - Picture Day
- Tuesday October 12th- School Board Regular Meeting- 6pm

## **Stay informed:**

Follow us on Facebook @sharonelementary.org or visit our website [www.sharonelementary.org](http://www.sharonelementary.org)



## *Dear Families,*

As we cruise into fall, I want to take a moment and appreciate the beautiful area of the world that we live in. My drive to work is often filled with the view of the White River and the green (soon to be multi-colored) backdrop of the Green Mountains. I certainly don't take this for granted, and in fact, when I'm dealing with the not so pleasant aspects of life, I try to remember that I'm lucky to live in such a wonderful place. By doing so, I'm able to put things into perspective and take on those challenges.

I want to remind you to please let your child's teacher know when there are after-school changes of plans. This is particularly important for students who typically ride the bus and at other times are picked up. It's really hard for us to figure out where your child needs to be in the last minutes of the day. A note or email to the teacher is best, as soon as you can.

Our fall assessment period is about to wrap up. The teachers and staff will spend time analyzing the data from these assessments and start to ask questions that in turn will help us to instruct the students. In addition, teachers may share your child's assessment during the upcoming parent-teacher conference period in early November.

Finally, we are trying to collect as many Free and Reduced lunch forms as possible. We are asking ALL families to fill out the form, no matter your income status. The state gives each school district money based on our Free and Reduced numbers, and the Sharon PTO and other non-profits in town also use this data to collect grants. By filling those out, you are helping the whole community and all students. You may be unaware that you are eligible for this program. If you need help filling out the form, please ask, and we can assist you. This is a confidential form, and will never be shared with anyone on staff. Again, we would love to have ALL families participate in completing these forms.

And lastly, I want to encourage you to support the Sharon PTO's efforts in raising community involvement. They are hosting an apparel sale with Sharon Cyclones items (we sent an email and posted about it on Facebook), and they are working on organizing Halloween festivities. I encourage you to join them or support them, they are a vital part of our school community. Contact Holly at [hbcathcart@gmail.com](mailto:hbcathcart@gmail.com) for more information.

Have a wonderful week!

*Respectfully,*

*Keenan Haley  
Principal*



## **Nurse Jill Newsletter**

---

Dear Families,

The children appear vibrant and enjoying the beautiful weather to spend time outside. Additionally, we can celebrate that we're four weeks into school this year and are healthy without a case of Covid-19 brought into our school! This success is primarily due to everyone in our SES community playing their part to keep everyone safe, including wearing face masks, parents keeping their children home with signs of illness, and staff and parents vaccinating to reduce the spread of Covid-19.

The Delta variant is the predominant variant in Vermont as well as across the United States. It is two times more infectious than other variants. As of September 10th, the Vermont Health Department reported that children represent 23% of Vermont cases and 21% of children with Covid-19 are 18 or 19 years old. 65% of children with Covid-19 had known contact with somebody else who had Covid-19. I have observed that the Delta virus tends to spread through households.

We have seen more cases of Covid-19 this school year due to the highly contagious Delta virus, and schools in Vermont have resumed full-time, in-person education. I am hopeful that like last year, we don't have any cases of Covid-19 in school, but if we do, please be assured that designated staff have been Covid-19 response trained, and we will quickly inform families of the next steps. It likely would be Mr. Haley or myself who would initially talk to families with children who are considered close contacts. It is unlikely that the entire school would need to quarantine as each grade still remains in pods. Again I am hopeful that we won't have any cases, but please know that you will be informed, and we are prepared to respond.

The guidelines this year for returning to school if a child or staff member has illness symptoms are the same as last year except for a few changes. If someone has been fully vaccinated and been told they are a close contact, they can come to school without quarantining provided they don't have symptoms and need to have PCR Covid testing 3-5 days after exposure. Staff and children do not need to have PCR Covid testing provided their symptoms resolve within 24 hours and can return to school 24 hours after their symptoms resolve. If symptoms persist longer than 24 hours, then confirmation of a negative PCR test and symptoms have improved, and no fever, staff, or a student can return to school. If your pediatrician sends documentation of a diagnosis other than Covid-19, then PCR testing is not necessary.

The most common symptom of the Delta virus amongst children is a sore throat, which is also a common symptom for seasonal allergies and various viruses that are circulating since people are getting together more than last fall. If you know your child has seasonal allergies, please administer their allergy medications to control their symptoms in the morning. I understand the burden of missing school and obtaining PCR tests on everyone, but like last year, I am so appreciative that families and staff are playing their part to keep our school safe and open.

*Nurse Jill*

