



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER - SEPT. '21

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

Mark your calendars!

- Thursday Sept. 9, 6:30 pm: PTO Meeting - in person under the pizza pavilion or via Zoom (Meeting ID: 687 818 2326)
- Saturday Sept. 11: The Sprouty 5K/10K (visit www.thesprouty.com/)
- Tuesday Sept. 14, 6 pm: virtual and in person at school: Sharon School Board Regular Meeting (agenda + link to join on our website)
- Friday Sept. 17: Early Release (12:15 pm pick-up, One Planet in session)



Dear Families,

It's been a wonderful start to the school year. The students seem excited to be back with their friends and teachers. Please continue to be in contact with any questions or concerns that you may have. The beginning of the year always causes some hiccups, but we aim to smooth things out as we move along.

Our school day begins at 8:00am. We serve breakfast from 7:30am until 8:00am. If you would like your child to have breakfast please make an effort to get them here well before 8:00am. That way your child will not miss the start of the school day, a time that is often filled with important announcements.

We will be closing our circle at the beginning of the day. Deliveries are the only vehicles that will be allowed to enter. If you need to come to school for any reason, please park in the parking lot and walk to our building. We will once again be using our circle area for recess and other activities.

I want to thank everyone for their patience during our first week of pick ups. Not having One Planet in sessions caused many cars to line up, even spilling out onto the main road. Now that One Planet is back in session, things seem to be less chaotic.

This Saturday is the 11th annual Sprouty 5K/10K Run and Walk. The Sprouty has been a constant source of financial support for Sharon Elementary's Farm to School program and Outdoors Educational opportunities. Please join us for this fun filled event. You can register the day of the event before 8:45am. The Run/Walk kicks off at 9:00am.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I share the news that our former art teacher, Candace Vande Griek has passed away. Candy, as we called her, retired this past year. She provided many years of art instruction here at Sharon Elementary. She was a warm spirit and had a quiet sense of humor. We all send our thoughts to her family and friends.

Enjoy the rest of the week and once again, feel free to reach out at any time.

Sincerely,

Respectfully,

*Keenan Haley
Principal*

Nurse Jill start of 2021 school year letter

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Useful forms and information you can find on our website:

One Planet Forms

Lunch & Breakfast Menus

*Newsletters from Principal,
WRVSU, and the Nurse's
Office*

Classroom information

Calendar

Dear Families,

Welcome back to school after what we hope was a relaxing summer and a time to reconnect with friends and family. I know for myself that I took these pleasures for granted in the past, so my experiences this summer were particularly meaningful.

As we prepared for the beginning of a new school year, I was hoping we wouldn't have modifications related to the pandemic to make our school safe for our children. But, as predicted by epidemiologists, a more contagious and virulent Covid-19 mutation has developed. As many of you know, the highly contagious Delta variant is now the predominant strain of Covid-19 throughout the US, including in Vermont.

A vast majority of our staff are fully vaccinated, but as you know, the Pfizer vaccine hasn't yet been approved for children 11 and younger. Last year, the incidence of Covid-19 infection was very low in children. However, with the highly infectious Delta variant, we are seeing more cases of Covid-19 in children. WRSVU is following current Vt. Health Department guidelines, which recommends, in order to protect unvaccinated children, that staff and students wear face masks when inside until 80% of the children in a school community are fully vaccinated. The guidelines do not include staying in pods or having to distance, although socially distancing is prudent when possible. Frequent handwashing is still encouraged as it helped minimize the overall occurrence of infections last year in our school community. Please keep in mind that guidelines change according to the caseload of infection in our communities and Vermont as a whole.

This year we will **not** be doing morning health screenings; however, any child with symptoms listed on last year's health screening including a fever (100.4 °F or higher), cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea should not come to school. We will be following that same protocol as last year using a quarantine room for symptomatic children, and parents will be called to pick up their child and depending upon the symptoms, and like last year, families will be asked to contact their PCP, who will determine the need for Covid-19 testing.

To keep our school safe for our children and prevent SES from shutting down due to a case of Covid-19, **both families and staff** will need to carry the burden **together** to keep our SES community safe. Last year, we can be proud that SES was one of the few schools in Vermont that was open five days a week from September through to June, and we never had a case of Covid-19 in our school. Thanks to all our efforts, our students thrived throughout the year. **I have faith that together, we will stay strong.**

I'm looking forward to the beginning of another school year.

Nurse Jill