



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER - JAN. 2022

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

Important Upcoming Dates

- January 28, Early Release Day. (One Planet runs 12-3 pm)
- Feb. 3, 6:30 pm: Regular PTO Meeting - contact Holly Cathcart for Zoom link at hbcathcart@gmail.com
- Feb. 4., 9 am: Virtual Coffee with Principal Haley. See emails for link and info.
- Feb. 8, 6 pm: Regular Sharon School Board meeting. See emails or website for link.
- Feb. 11, Early Release Day (One Planet field trip - 12-5:15 pm)
- February 21 - March 1: Winter Vacation, school in session **March 2.**

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or visit our website
www.sharonelementary.org

Families and Community members,

Once again, I'd like to thank everyone for their patience and support during this current spike in COVID cases within the school community. We are working extremely hard to identify new cases and test students to keep them in school. We understand that it might be difficult to follow the new guidelines imposed on us almost daily, and it might be frustrating at times. We feel it too. The staff is overwhelmed at times. There is a lot of anxiety around the idea that any of us can become infectious as we move about our daily lives as this Omicron variant is so quickly spread. I'm thankful that over the past two years, we have been able to keep students in school as much as we have. We will continue to adapt to changes as they come our way. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

January and winter, in general, is always a time for reflection, and it is true at the administration level too. This is when the Sharon School Board, the Supervisory Union, and I work on a budget that reflects our common goal for the coming year. How to spend money raised by taxes to give the best possible education to all children in Sharon, while still being mindful of taxpayers' contribution. If you haven't attended a School Board meeting, I invite you to do so as these meetings are open to the public and discuss 'big picture' plans for the school.

Many things are happening in school I want to tell you about. Things you would usually witness if parents and guardians were allowed in the building. For example, in the past two years, we have created a new space in the school we call Chillville. Your child might have come back home to talk about this place. In the past, when students had behavior issues, they would be sent to the principal's office, and we would assess the problem and correct the behavior after the fact. Chillville is not a place kids are sent if there is an issue, but instead, we are teaching the kids that it is a place they can request to visit if they need it. They use self-regulating tools they have acquired in class or with our Mindfulness coach, Katie Chesnut. The reasons for visiting Chillville might be because they are starting to feel frustrated and can choose to remove themselves from the situation.



Community Events

- Every Thursday night at the ice rink behind the school, 6pm: Pick-up Hockey. All levels welcome!
- January 24, 5 pm: Deadline to file for School Board open seat, 3 year term. Contact Cathy Sartor at town offices for information on consent form: (802) 763-8268x1
- Jan. 29, 10-11:30 am: Tumble Times for Tots: This is an active play time for children from birth to 5 years with their parents! Children can play with riding toys, tunnels, building blocks and more designed for toddlers and preschoolers. Come to the elementary schools in the WRVSU to have some fun!. Masks required for all to attend.
- Feb. 5, 10- 4pm : Hockey Tournament. PTO is selling pizza for lunch.
- Feb. 16: second installment of property taxes are due at the town: sharonvt.net for more info.

Conversation Starter for you and your child:

“You see a classmate crying at recess. What do you do?”

If you want, share your children’s response by email or on our Facebook page!

The goal is to teach kids to recognize when things are starting to escalate and do something about the situation before it becomes an issue. So what do they do in Chillville? Some students read, some play with a Glitter Jar, some just ‘chill,’ and some take a nap. We always let parents know if their students took a nap. This is a good reminder that students need to be well-rested.

We encourage you to ask your student if they have visited Chillville and what they like about it.

We were sorry to learn that Ski Runners was canceled. As you know by now, I am a very vocal proponent of winter sports. We have long winters in Vermont, and students need to learn to enjoy what winters here at home have to offer. The Ice Rink is now open, and you should have received an email from your teacher and/or One Planet about using the rink. If your child has skates and a helmet, please send them to school. If not, we have a few pairs and helmets at school to loan. Let us know if you need any help finding skates and helmets.

Every Thursday at 7 pm, you and your kids can join folks from the Sharon community for Pick-Up hockey. All levels and all ages are welcome.

On Saturday, February 5th, from 10 am until 4 pm, the Sharon Community Rink will host its 6th annual ice hockey tournament. This is a wonderful community event for everyone, even those who do not participate in the games. **The Sharon PTO will be baking and selling homemade pizzas from the pizza oven. So come grab a slice, and watch a hockey game or two!**

Before the pandemic, we offered a free cross country/snowshoe program for students in 3rd grade and above. We are hoping to bring this program back in February. There will be limited space in this program, so be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet. We will be looking for volunteers to help us run the program.

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns, at khalley@wrvsu.org or by calling the school at (802) 763-7425.

Respectfully,

Keenan Haley

Principal

