



WINTHROP SCHOOL

FAMILY UPDATE 2021-2022

JANUARY 24, 2022



Safe Arrival Line/Dismissal Changes

Please call the safe arrival line @ 978-468-5344 to report your child absent or tardy.

Please call the front office @ 978-468-5340 for last-minute dismissal changes.

Follow us on Twitter: Winthrop School @WinthropEagles, Principal Shediac @ShediacC

First and Fourth Grade Buddies Kindness Project

Fourth Graders paired up with their First Grade buddies to decorate bags for Ellis Square Friends in Beverly. The bags will be filled with food at Ellis Square Friends to be distributed to homeless members of the community.

Fifth Grade Helpers

Fifth Graders are helping with a variety of tasks around the building. The recycling crew collects discarded paper from classrooms and gets it into the recycling bins. Fifth Graders are helping to escort kindergarten and first grade bus students to the correct bus lines at dismissal.

Keeping Sick Students Home

If your child does not feel well, and you are awaiting results from a PCR test, please keep them home from school until results are received.

Kitchen Help Needed @ Winthrop:

We need help in the Winthrop Cafeteria 8:30-1:00 M-F to help with lunch preparation, serving, and clean-up. If you are interested in this position, contact Director of Food Services, Wendy Ng. w.ng@hwschools.net
In the meantime, we could use volunteers to help in the cafeteria until someone is hired. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kitchen Manager Susan Newth. s.newth@hwschools.net

Updated COVID Testing Protocols in School

An email went out to families on Friday, Jan 22 around 6:15pm with a detailed [letter](#) explaining new district COVID testing protocols that will go into effect on Monday, January 31st. Here are some important highlights:

In the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District, keeping your student(s) safe and in school is our top priority. We are writing to let you know, in accordance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), our district is updating our COVID-19 Testing Program, effective January 31, 2022. We are opting in to an at-home testing program that will increase the testing of our participating students and staff, regardless of vaccination status.

ACTION ITEM:

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, January 28
No School PreK Only

Friday, February 11
Friday Principal Chat 9:00am

Tuesday, February 15
Winthrop School Council Meeting
3:30-4:30 (Rescheduled from Jan)

**Monday, February 21 -
Friday, February 25**
No School - February Break

Monday, March 14
No School - Teacher Workshop

**Monday, April 18 -
Friday, April 22**
No School - April Break

Monday, May 30
No School - Holiday

Monday, June 20
No School - Holiday

Tuesday, June 21
Last Day of School - 2 Snow Days

Opt-In: To participate, you must opt-in by completing the [ONLINE FORM](#). By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test results to your student's school, and administer the tests according to HWRSD guidelines. **We strongly encourage you to fill out the form by Tuesday January 25, 2022, to opt-in to the anticipated kick-off week of January 31, 2022.**

UPDATED COVID-19 Testing Programs in our Schools:

At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing ([NEW Click Here](#))

Routine COVID Safety Checks/Pool Testing (If not yet signed up, [click here](#))

Symptomatic Testing (If not yet signed up, [click here](#))

Last Week for Coins for a Cause

During the month of January, The Institution for Savings will donate the 5% fee for converting your spare coins to cash directly to the Friends of Winthrop. Stop by their local office on 545 Bay Rd or their offices in Gloucester or Rockport to convert your coins to cash.

HW Autism Outreach Program Introduction Recap and Recording:

The Hamilton & Wenham Police Departments introduced a new community wide program at the most recent HWSEPA Meeting on January 18th View the meeting [HERE](#). The Autism Outreach Program was developed in response to the varied needs of residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities and aims to provide a "total approach" to issues that these residents and police encounter through education, outreach, and response.

For more information including the Community Member Profile Form:

[Wenham Autism Outreach Disability Program](#)

[Hamilton Autism Outreach Disability Program](#)

Changes to alternate lunch choice in February

Starting in February, the alternate choice for lunch will be a bagel with sun butter and grape sandwich or a turkey and cheese sub. We will continue to offer the hot lunch options as well. [Info here](#).

[Useful COVID information](#) and links from the public health nurse.

Appropriate Winter Weather Gear

Just a reminder that students will be going outside for recess on days when the wind chill temperature is 20 degrees or above. Please ensure that your child comes to school with a winter coat, hat, and gloves. Students must also have winter boots to be able to play in the snow. Snow pants are recommended to keep pants dry.