



The Swift River Current

#smallschool
bigheart

978-544-6926

NEW SALEM - WENDELL, MA

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 13, 2021



Wednesday, October 13

Open House

6:30 PM Kindergarten
7:00 PM Grades One and Two
7:30 PM Grade Four

Thursday, October 14

Open House

6:30 PM Preschool
7:00 PM Grade Three
7:30 PM Grades Five and Six Combined

School Council Meeting

If you are not receiving an email version of the **Swift River Current**, and you would like to; please just email smithj@swiftriverschool.org to be added to the email list! You can also request a paper copy at that email!

COCO AND MS. MENDONSA
GET THEIR FIRST COVID TESTS



coco

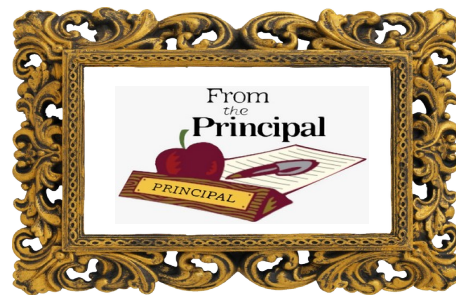
Our sister school, Shutesbury Elementary, has put together this fun and informative video about getting the Covid-19 test! We hope that you will enjoy it!



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k8CeQcwVOxql0AFm_LGmmR94wuCRCZvv/view

October 13, 2021

Dear Families,



I hope you all enjoyed the long weekend! As of today, we have 35 out of 130 students signed up for the Binax Now Rapid COVID-19 Test. We would like to encourage all families to sign up your students for participation in the test-and-stay program at SRS. We recommend this because it will limit the number of students who will need to quarantine in the event of a positive covid case at Swift River. For instance, if there were to be an exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual in the building, students who are signed up for testing would be able to remain in school with a negative test result, provided that no symptoms are present; we would also continue to test daily for a full week to better ensure any exposed students do not contract or spread COVID-19. If an exposure occurs and a student does not have testing consent, they will need to quarantine at home for at least 5 days, and they will also need to schedule a test outside of school and provide a negative result prior to returning.

Currently, the CDC defines exposure to a COVID-19 individual in the classroom setting as spending 15 or more minutes within 3 feet, while indoors and unmasked, within a 24-hour period. The close contact definition excludes students who were between 3-6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. Testing is one of our best defenses to limit the potential spread of COVID-19 within the school and to help keep non-symptomatic students in school and out of compulsory quarantine. We are still waiting to hear from the state about when we will be able to roll out pooled testing, but at this time it has not yet been set up.

Moving forward, we will officially return to our pre-COVID communication procedures. Please call the school to speak with the office or the nurse if your student will be absent for any reason. Also, we ask that paper bus notes again be used as the preferred method for communicating after school plans, however, phone calls and emails are also acceptable means. We will no longer use the digital absence form, illness form, or bus note form. Thank you for your patience and your support with this additional transition!

This Wednesday and Thursday evenings, teachers will host a virtual Open House for families. If you haven't received a link from your student's classroom teacher, please reach out to them. We are looking forward to meeting with you to share a bit about the classroom environment, and to provide information about the curriculum and expectations for your student this year.

Fondly,

Kelley





We have staggered classroom meetings to accommodate families with multiple students. Each classroom teacher will give a 30 minute presentation to discuss their curricula and classroom goals and expectations, and to provide information about specials and support staff. If you have any questions after the presentations, please email teachers or call them the next day. This is not a time for student check-ins. Be on the lookout for a link to these Google Meets.

Wednesday, October 13
6:30 PM Kindergarten
7:00 PM Grades One and Two
7:30 PM Grade Four

Thursday October 14
6:30 PM Preschool
7:00 PM Grade Three
7:30 PM Grades Five and Six Combined

School Council

The SRS School Council for the 2021 - 2022 school year is looking for new members, and we encourage parents and community members to join. The work of the School Council centers on the development and implementation of the School Improvement Plan, a three-year document that guides the professional work of our school. School Council meetings will be held virtually on five Thursday afternoons (10/14, 11/18, 1/13, 3/10, and 5/12). If you are interested in participating in this important work, please email the Principal at sullivan@swiftriverschool.org. We seek to represent diverse perspectives; families with diverse backgrounds are especially encouraged to participate.

HELP OUR KIDS STAY IN SCHOOL

NOW HIRING COVID-19 TESTERS

Do you have healthcare skills?
Join our team of school-based COVID-19 testers.

MA CNA LPN NP RN PA EMT
First Responders Dental and Pharmacy Professionals

FLEXIBLE HOURS

COMPETITIVE PAY

PAID TRAINING

**BE PART OF
THE SOLUTION!**

EMAIL TO APPLY
healthy.returns@HealthcareITLeaders.com



TRACK-OR-TREAT

October 22 @ 5:00 PM

Looking for a fun way to add laps for 100 Mile club? Then come to Swift River's "Track-or-Treat" fundraising event. For every 3 laps, students will receive a piece of candy, which means you could earn 2 pieces for every mile while walking and talking with your friends! Everyone is encouraged to wear a costume! The event will end a little after sunset, so bring some flashlights or glow sticks to light your way. The event is free, but we will have plenty of raffle prizes with various goodies to win!

Raffle tickets are \$1 per ticket, \$5 for 10 tickets, or \$10 for 25 tickets.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



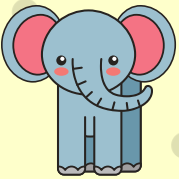
BRING A FAVORITE STUFFIE FRIEND FOR STORIES AND A GOODNIGHT HUG



STUFFIE SLEEPOVER AT THE WENDELL LIBRARY

7 Wendell Depot Rd, Wendell

Have you every wondered what the library can offer your special stuffed friend? Drop them off for a stuffie sleepover and find out!



1

**Friday, October 22nd at 4:00pm Tales & Tunes Time
with your stuffies**

- Register your stuffie (picture, name tag), craft activity
 - StoryWalk[©]
 - Children may borrow books from the library
 - Tuck-in your stuffie to spend the night at the library
- (Please don't bring a stuffie you can't sleep without!)*



2

**Saturday, October 23rd from 10:00am-11:00am or
during open library hours**

Return to re-unite with your stuffie!

- Find out what they have been up to overnight
- Receive a small goody bag at pick up

Intended for Toddlers to children 8 years of age.

Registration required HERE:

<https://form.jotform.com/212646071259052>

FREE!

Contact the CNC Program budine@erving.com or call/text (413) 422-0170 with any questions!



"Funded by a grant from the Wendell Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, offered in collaboration with the Wendell Free Library and the Union #28

Community Network for Children a program funded by the CFCE grant from the MA Department of Early Education and Care.





Tales & Tunes with Katie at the New Salem Library

Songs, music, books and friends! We will be **outside** as weather allows and inside, masked if weather is inclement.



Join CNC at the New Salem Library for a 5-week series on Tuesdays at 10:00am

**October 19th, 26th and
November 2nd, 9th, 16th**



REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <https://bitly.co/94PH>

or use the CNC QR to access the online form

Contact CNC 413-422-0170 call/text with questions.



The Union #28 Community Network for Children program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to the Union #28 Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and donations from the community. This program is supported in collaboration with the the New Salem Library





AUTUMN STORYWALKS AT THE NEW SALEM QUABBIN OVERLOOK

Bring your children and join CNC outside with
your little ones!

Take home activity and free book for each child.

Tuesdays at 11:00am

October 26th: *Fletcher and the Falling Leaves* by Julia Rawlinson

November 2nd: *In the Middle of Fall* by Kevin Henkes

November 9th: *Greeting Seasons: Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter* by Kenard Pak

- **REGISTRATION REQUIRED HERE:** <https://bityl.co/94PH> or use QR Code to access the registration form. We will notify you if the walk is cancelled due to weather.
- Meet us on Tuesday mornings for a StoryWalk together after Tales & Tunes the New Salem Library, 23 South Main Street.
- The StoryWalk will remain posted on the Quabbin Overlook path for the week if you can't meet us on Tuesday mornings you are welcome to visit it yourself. The trail is accessed from the driveway beside the New Salem Fire Station in the Center of Town. Follow the driveway past the athletic fields to a small parking lot. Look for the StoryWalk signs!
- Contact CNC if you have questions 413-422-0170 call/text or Budine@erving.com



Funded by a grant from the New Salem Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and in collaboration with the New Salem Library. The Union #28 Community Network for Children program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to the Union #28 Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and donations from the Community.



Union #28 Community Network for Children

CNC Programs

October - November



REGISTRATION LINK! <https://bit.ly.co/94V1>

Most programs to be held outside. Participants are asked to wear masks if over 2 years of age. Times and addresses are available through the registration link.



WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Tales & Tunes on Tuesdays with Katie at 10:00am

New Salem Library - October 19, 26 and November 2, 9, 16

Playground Playgroup on Wednesdays with Sylvia at 10:00

Wendell Library Playground - October 13, 20, 27

Babies and Books on Wednesdays with Heleen at 10:30 (New Sessions)

Leverett Library - November 3, 10, 17 for babies 0-18 months of age.

Weekly StoryWalks (will continue as long as weather permits)

Erving Public Library - Posted on Monday mornings

Leverett Library - Posted on Thursday mornings

****SPECIAL PROGRAMS****

Special StoryWalk series*- At the Quabbin Overlook

New Salem - October 26 and November 2, 9 at 11:00am. Will remain posted for the week. Program supported by the New Salem Cultural Council.

BEING ANIMALS with the Hitchcock Center

Location to be determined. All sessions to be held at 10:00am Interactive, in-person family program providing inquiry based environmental and outdoor education for small groups to explore nature during the winter. Every day we're going to be a different animal! Slide like an otter, hop like a hare, swoop like a snowy owl, and more. Each day we'll play animal games, hear animal stories and explore animal habitats! Come be wild in the woods this winter with Katie from the Hitchcock Center! Intended for young children 2 -6 years of age. November 18, December 7 and more in the new year!

CONTACT Gillian with questions at CNC 413-422-0170 call/text or budine@erving.com

The CNC Program is funded through the Union #28 schools by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and Community Donations.





Being Animals with the Hitchcock Center



BEING ANIMALS with the Hitchcock Center *Location to be determined*

Interactive, in-person family program providing inquiry based environmental and outdoor education for small groups to explore nature during the winter.

Every day we're going to be a different animal! Slide like an otter, hop like a hare, swoop like a snowy owl, and more. Each day we'll play animal games, hear animal stories and explore animal habitats!

Come be wild in the woods this winter with Katie from the Hitchcock Center! Intended for young children 2 -6 years of age.



****REGISTRATION REQUIRED- Group size limited.**

Registration link: <https://bit.ly.co/94PH>

**All sessions to be held at 10:00am
Location TBD**



Thursday, November 18th

Tuesdays, December 7th, January 4th, February 1st, March 1st

Contact Gillian @ CNC with any questions 413-422-0170 (call/text)



Hitchcock Center
EDUCATION FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

The Union #28 Community Network for Children program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to the Union #28 Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and donations from the Community.



GO TO SCHOOL WHILE YOUR KIDS ARE IN SCHOOL!

FREE CLASSES FOR ADULTS

**BASIC SKILLS
HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY
COLLEGE READINESS
COMPUTER SKILLS**

IN-PERSON AND ONLINE CLASSES

THE LITERACY PROJECT

131 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 100

ORANGE

WWW.LITERACYPROJECT.ORG

978.544.8917

ENROLL TODAY!

NOT A SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENT.
THE LITERACY PROJECT IS FUNDED IN PART BY THE
MA DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

