



Inspiring learners, committing to community, contributing to a dynamic world

March 2024 Newsletter

Principal's Message:

Last year at this time, I wrote about the winter storms that we had been experiencing and the need for snow gear. Believe it or not, the sledding hill was still open and another winter storm was on its way. Needless to say, it's been a little different this year. This has also hopefully helped us avoid any more snow days or changes to the last day of school date. You can access this year's up-to-date calendar (and next year's approved calendar) on the district link [here](#). If you look closely at our current calendar, we have a solid 5 weeks between now and April break. This should be a great chance for uninterrupted learning to help us head into the last part of the school year.

There are a few important events coming up in those next 5 weeks. On **Wednesday, March 27th, all KRSD employees will take part in ALICE training**. There is no school for students on that day. ALICE is a nationally recognized active shooter preparedness program. The name is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. Over February break, I became a certified ALICE instructor, along with several other district staff. From this experience, I would say that the goal of this training is to provide staff (and older students) options during an active shooter event beyond the usual, mandated lockdown. For example, on this PD day, staff will learn about different ways to evacuate their classrooms, barricade doors and lockdown their classrooms in enhanced ways. This will be a significant change for us, but I think it will allow us to take a more proactive approach in the event of an armed intruder. Students and staff at the high school will also learn effective strategies to distract intruders to create distance and time. Simonds students will not learn about this technique, but will focus on lockdowns and evacuation. This training will bring about a few changes to our current protocols, including how we inform the school of an intruder and how classrooms lockdown or evacuate. Lastly, I think it will provide more options-based decisions for each staff person depending on their location during an event. While I am sure this topic will be difficult for all of us, I am convinced that it is an important part of the dialogue to keep us safe at Simonds.

Later in March, Simonds School will also kick off our **annual Read-a-Thon**. As part of this year's event, all students at Simonds will be reading *Because of the Rabbit* by Cynthia Lord. We will have an opening assembly for this **One Book/One School event on March 29th**. After the assembly, students will spend the next few weeks reading the book and participating in several all school activities, such as a door decorating contest and rock painting. As part of the reading, students will listen to many guest speakers read chapters, including Officer Barton, Fire Marshall Toomey, Superintendent Feneberg, PTO President Xenakis, former principal Mrs. Pellettieri and many others! Thanks to MainStreet Warner, Inc. and the Simonds PTO, we will wrap up this event with a visit from the author where students will get to ask questions and also receive another book written by her. There will be much more to come on this event and the Read-a-Thon in the coming weeks.

Lastly, we are also about to enter **field trip season**. Please remember that if you want to be a chaperone on one of these trips, you will need to be fingerprinted by the district. This process can take anywhere from 4-6 weeks. Please reach out to Mrs. Grimes, in the main office, if you are not already fingerprinted and would like to attend field trips. As always, if you have any questions about this or any other topics, feel free to reach out to me directly.

Important Dates:



Tuesday, 3/26 - 2nd Grade Bowling Field Trip

Wednesday, 3/27 - Professional Development Day for Staff - No School for Students

Friday, 3/29 - Last LEGO Club

Friday, 4/5 - End of Quarter 3

Monday, 4/8 - Early Release at 12 noon - Solar Eclipse Day

Tuesday, 4/9 - Spring Concert - KRHS - 6:30 pm

Friday, 4/12 - PTO Sponsored Movie Night - Doors open at 6:15 pm

Tuesday, 4/16 - 5th Grade Manchester Millyard Field Trip

Monday, 4/22 - Friday, 4/26 - April Vacation

Thursday, 5/16 - Professional Development Day for Staff - No School for Students.

Monday, 5/27 - No School - Memorial Day

Wednesday, 5/29 - Kearsarge Spelling League Champion Meet at PD Center

Tuesday, 6/4 - Kearsarge Math League Championship Meet - PD Center

March Reminders:

- Please make sure to send your child with a water bottle to avoid multiple trips out of the classroom and overusing plastic cups.
- The lost and found is full! Please remind your child to check it out if you are missing winter gear.
- We are still collecting plastic for our recycling project that will help us earn a Trex bench. To date, we have collected over 700 pounds of plastic that otherwise would have ended up in landfills!

April 21st is National Kindergarten Day!
A day to thank a Kindergarten Teacher you know!

National Kindergarten Day celebrates the birthday of Friedrich Frobel, the man who started the first kindergarten.

Frobel started the very first kindergarten in Germany in 1837. The first kindergarten in the United States was opened by Margarethe Schurz in Watertown, Wisconsin in 1856. This kindergarten was a German-language class! Kindergarten did not become part of any public school system until 1873.

Please remember to register your child for Kindergarten for the upcoming 2024/2025 School Year!



NOTES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE:

ILLNESS UPDATES/REMINDERS

COVID-19 now falls under CDC Respiratory Guidance and no longer requires a 5 day isolation. See link [CDC Respiratory Guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory/guidance/) for more information. Please remember it is very important that you keep your child home when they are sick. When students symptoms should be improved and they should feel well enough to participate in a full day before returning to school. This means your child should be able to manage the school day with only minor symptoms such as congestion or occasional lingering cough and they are able to tolerate food and fluids. As always students must be fever free (temp <100) for 24 hours without fever reducing medications. For GI illness this includes 24 hours without vomiting/diarrhea as well as tolerating food and fluids. Spring allergies are also starting to affect students. If your child takes daily medicine for seasonal allergies, now is a good time to start them if you haven't already. These symptoms can be bothersome for students at school.

<https://allergyasthmanetwork.org/news/myths-about-spring-allergies/>

Tick Reminder - The weather is warming up and students will be outside even more. Please remember to check for ticks. For more information: <https://tickfreenh.org/>

Message from Pillsbury Free Library

Tuesday, March 26th, 3-4:00 After school Craft will be held at the NH Telephone Museum. We'll be getting ready for the Solar Eclipse with a story, craft, and a snack. Everyone will get a pair of special viewing glasses, and there should be extra for family members if needed. Pick up is at the lower level door, at the end of the parking lot. Miss Sue will pick up the kids from Simonds School. Please be sure to sign up ahead of time with Miss Sue and Mrs. Grimes.

April 9th, 3-5:00 is POKEMON club at the library. Miss Sue will pick up the kids from Simonds School. Please be sure to let Mrs. Grimes know who is to be released to Miss Sue.

The next book on the Story Walk is "Dooby Dooby Moo" by Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin.

Boys & Girls Club News: Boys & Girls Club will be open from 12pm - 6pm on Monday 4/8 for the Early Release Day (Solar Eclipse). For April vacation the club will meet at Sutton Central School. Please sign up with Justin to reserve a spot. Be sure to bring a lunch! Please reach out to Justin for more information.

Applications for summer camp are out! For more information reach out to jbleakley@nyouth.org.

