June 4, 2021

Dear Northeast Families,

We’re all starting to see signs of more “normal” activities all around and one of those for us at NE is the annual arrival of the eggs from a local farm in our Kindergarten classrooms. Each year, the teachers coordinate this fun and informative activity for all of their students who record their scientific observations of daily changes and take turns rotating the eggs in the incubators while anxiously awaiting the arrival of their new "classmates". This year, two classes are hatching chicks and one of our classes is hatching ducklings. We'll share photos of our latest NE community members in a couple of weeks.

Another tradition that we are looking forward to resuming is the continuation of our outstanding band program for students in grades four and five. Mr. Dey will be communicating information about this as we wrap up the year and head into September. This letter is for the current third graders who are interested in participating in our amazing Cadet Band in 4th grade.

While the governor has changed mask and physical distancing requirements for many locations, schools are still required to maintain existing mask and distancing procedures. So, please remember that you and your children must be wearing masks while you and your children are on the school property during the school day. I know we’re all fatigued and ready to get rid of our masks (I can’t wait to be able to get rid of my mask), but we still have to follow the district and state directives for schools, which are distinctly different than all other locations. Thank you for your cooperation and help with reinforcing these state and district directives.

Please note that there are a few important reminders for families:

- Daily health screeners must be completed each day that your child is coming to campus
- Contact our nurse, Mrs. Lozito (plozito@montclair.k12.nj.us or 973-509-4241), with questions related to COVID, quarantining, general health concerns, etc.
• If you use the carline, do not park or get out of your car. If your child needs help, then don’t use the carline—park on the side street and walk them to the sidewalk.

And finally, please join the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) for our final monthly member meeting for this school year on Monday, June 7th at 7pm. This meeting will feature the presentation “Parent Advocacy, Institutional Resistance, and the ‘Battle for Inclusive Education’” with Dr. Priya Lalvani, Professor at Montclair State University and Program Coordinator for the Graduate Program in Inclusive Education. Dr. Lalvani will focus on the benefits, myths and misconceptions about inclusive education and will draw attention to the socioeconomic, racial and cultural inequities in the experiences of parents of children with disabilities. Please feel free to submit questions in advance at montclairSEPAC@gmail.com. Here’s the link to the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87559583588?pwd=ZWV2QzZaWEVzM2JHRXB5M3llOVJpQT09 Meeting ID: 875 5958 3588  Passcode: 490115

Have a good weekend,

Gail

District Updates

Health Updates from the District’s Nursing Supervisor, Betty Strauss

• While the governor has changed mask mandates for many locations, the mandates in schools regarding masks have not changed. Therefore, we continue mask wearing and physical distancing procedures (6’ apart outside for snack with masks off and 3’ apart with masks on; 6’ distancing between masked students & adults). We will adjust our practices as updates are provided.
• Please contact our nurse, Mrs. Lozito (plozito@montclair.k12.nj.us or 973-509-4241) if your child or a household member has tested positive for COVID.

School Action Team (Repeat Information)

• The Northeast SATp is on a mission! The School Action Team for partnerships is a combined effort of Northeast parents, teachers and administrators coming together to plan events and activities that will focus on promoting anti-racism and ensuring equity in areas of school curriculum, staff development, family engagement, procedures & demographics, and achievement. For more information or to join an SATp committee, please reach out to gclarke@montclair.k12.nj.us or nataliesullivanlaw@yahoo.com.

Tech Updates from the District’s Director of Technology, Chris Graber (Repeat Information)
• The district has recently entered an agreement with Comcast Essentials for in-home WIFI access. This service is only available to families that have no existing Internet and is subject to approval by Comcast. This service is not intended to supplement any existing Internet service. Families that fit this criteria are encouraged to reach out their building principal. A work order will be completed on the family's behalf and someone from the Department of Technology will be in contact.

• Please utilize our technology helpline 301-259-1510 should you need technical assistance. Our standard operating hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM- 3:00 PM.

YMCA Before and After Care (Repeat Information)

• As previously shared, due to space limitations at NE, we will not be able to offer Before or After Care.

• You may be eligible for transportation from NE to the Geyer-Y location if you are already eligible for district transportation, please reach out to the transportation office: 973-509-4062.

• Please reach out to the Y directly with additional questions.