



Sisters Elementary School

"Home of the Outlaws"

Joan Warburg
Principal

January Newsletter

Happy New Year! We hope that you have had a wonderful holiday season and winter break and that this week of CDL has been a good one. I am grateful for this week to provide a buffer between the break and instruction to ensure that we are able to remain able to provide in-person instruction. Thank you to the parents who have notified us of COVID exposure in your homes and who have taken all necessary precautions to keep our school community safe. We are eagerly anticipating seeing all of our hybrid students back in school on Monday, January 11, 2021 and are cognizant of just how fortunate we are to be able to continue teaching and learning in person! All processes and procedures from prior to winter break remain in effect. I have repeated some of the key information that was sent earlier in this newsletter to ensure that everyone has access to all of the information. Please be aware that we have parent conferences scheduled for February 4-5, where teachers will review first semester report cards. Thursday, February 4, will be a non-school day for students so that teachers can conference with parents.



I would also like to let you know about a couple of personnel adjustments that may impact your student. Brittany Wollschleager will continue to instruct our 3rd-4th CDL students and will also be assuming responsibility for our 3rd-4th grade students who are remaining in our SEO option through the second semester. Our music teacher, Sara Miller, is taking an extended leave of absence and we are working diligently to find a musically qualified substitute to assume her classroom responsibilities through June. We have been incredibly fortunate to have had Egg Dahl teaching STEAM this fall; Teacher Dahl will assume responsibility for Cameron Croisant's class when she leaves on maternity leave. Teacher Dahl will continue to provide STEAM coursework on Wednesdays and in addition, has created a Canvas course where all students can access a few STEAM activities.

As you consider plans for the second semester, please be aware that our hybrid option is completely full beginning January 25, 2021 in all but fourth grade due to limited cohort sizes in the building; we were able to accommodate all parent requests for transitioning to hybrid that were received prior to winter break. We already have wait lists in a few of our grade levels and are continuing to problem solve options.

Our building is at capacity and we are looking at bringing in portable classrooms for this Fall to accommodate our growing school population. At the board meeting in December, the school board approved bringing a bond to the voters in May to extend the sunset high school bond to build a new elementary school. It will be located by SMS and will increase our capacity to serve our increased student population, as well as incorporate 5th grade students. Please contact me if you would like to participate in the work this Spring to make this a reality.

We know that many of you are looking for ways to express your appreciation for your child's teacher. The Nugget has a monthly Educator Spotlight to honor Sisters educators with comments from students and parents. Please consider emailing your comments to leith@nuggetnews.com. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) sponsors a Teacher of the Year Award- go to oregonteacheroftheyear.org to nominate a worthy candidate before January 31, 2021. It would be amazing to see our teachers honored for their incredible work this year and beyond- we truly are honored to have such a high caliber of professionals who teach our children here at SES.

I am available if you have any questions or concerns. Either email me or call the office team to schedule an appointment.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve you and your child. We are thankful for the time we have had together as a community in the building. Thank you for doing your part to keep our greater community healthy. I am looking forward to a fantastic 2021 as the Sisters Outlaws community.

Joan Warburg
Principal, Sisters Elementary School

Mask Requirements

We need to put forth our best efforts as a school community to mitigate risk wherever possible. When we return in January, in light of the rise in case counts, **we will be requiring all staff and students without a doctor's note, to wear a mask or two layered gaiter rather than a face shield.** If they come to school with a shield, we will give them a mask to wear. Additionally, masks/gaiters cannot be vented. Please see the diagrams from the CDC. We have tried to navigate this concern with education and state level information, but need to take a stance in January to fully adhere to state guidance. Thank you for understanding. If your child has a medical condition requiring a face shield, please send a note from their medical provider to our nurse.

Students are having fun wearing masks/gaiters that express their individuality. Please make sure your child has at least five appropriately sized masks/gaiters and knows how to wear them correctly. **It is very important that your child wear a freshly laundered mask/two layered gaiter each day they come to school.** If your family is unable to purchase masks, please reach out to your child's teacher. We have cloth masks that have been made, and donated by generous parents and community members. I have attached a few visuals on ideas for organizing, caring for and laundering



masks/gaiters that we have found helpful as we navigate these challenges as well. We have disposable masks at school and will be giving them to students to wear if their masks/gaiters become wet or soiled at school. Should that happen, we will be placing your child's mask/gaiter in a Ziploc baggie in their backpacks to take home to be washed. **Masks are our first line of defense in keeping people in the building safe and we need your help in ensuring that we remain healthy and safe.**

DO NOT choose masks that



DO choose masks that



We invite you to take part in our mask and sock drive to assist families and students this winter season (see attached).

Thank you for continuing to partner with us in keeping your child home when they display COVID-like symptoms. We know that there are many common ailments that have similar symptoms, and that it is a sacrifice to keep your child home. We appreciate your vigilance and commitment to erring on the side of caution to prevent spread, keeping us safe and healthy. Thank you for practicing wisdom to limit exposure in the greater community to

keep our school open. We truly believe that in-person learning is the best option for our students and we are willing to do what it takes to keep your students healthy and learning in-person.

School Snow Rules (Clothing & Play)

Please be sure to dress your child appropriately as the weather begins to cool down. Warm clothing is important for students as they do go out for PE and recess throughout the day. Students will go outside for recess unless the temperature (with wind chill) is below 20 degrees. Because of the separated playground zones, **if your child has recess on the grass they will have to remain on the grass and will not have the option of being on the blacktop. It is critical that they have appropriate boots.**

What to wear to play in the snow:

- Boots, Snow Gloves/Mittens, Coat and Hat

If students do not have the proper snow clothing and they get wet, they will stay wet as we do not have clothes to loan to them. Dawn Cooper or Theresa Slavkovski, our **Family Access Network (FAN)** Advocates, can assist people who need winter clothing-please contact them at **541-549-0155.**



How to play safely in the snow:

- Snow and ice stays on the ground; you may roll large snowballs for a snowman or a fort.
- No kicking, throwing or shoving snow at anyone or anything.
- If some games that we usually play become unsafe due to snow, the people on duty will cancel them for the day.
- Work Cooperatively - Do Not Destroy other's work
- Snow is community property. If you built it; share it.

If you need help, please see a duty teacher.

Any student wearing snow boots, snow pants and a snow coat may do the following activities:

1. Roll around in the snow and be safe and have fun.
2. Slide down snow hills or mounds on their bottom, feet first, with adult approval.
3. Make snow angels.
4. Create snowmen of various sizes, snow forts or any structure they choose made of snow.

The purpose of these rules is to keep students dry and safe. Appropriate outside gear keeps people dry. No snow or ice flying through the air keeps people safe. Game time (inside) recess rules are reviewed by classroom teachers for students.

School closures and Delays: Weather Delays and Closures

When the weather is bad (usually extreme snow or ice), our auto-dialer calls families in the morning to ensure they know of schedule changes at Sisters School District. In addition, please tune into the television and/or radio stations listed below. If there are schedule changes to Sisters Schools, the decision is made between 5:00 and 5:30 a.m. by district officials and reported to the news media.



If we do have a delayed start, buses still run, just 2 hours later than usual. So, if your child is picked up at 7:30 am they will be picked up at 9:30 am instead. School will start at 10:30 am;

lunches are served and dismissal is as usual. In the case of a late start we will stagger arrivals as follows:

- 10:25-10:35: 3rd and 4th grade students and their siblings; bus riders
- 10:35-10:45: 2nd grade students and their siblings
- 10:45-11:00: Kindergarten and 1st grade students

If Sisters Schools have to call a school closure/snow day, we will move into CDL format for that day. Usually we can anticipate the probability of a snow day, so we will send chromebooks home with students the day prior as a precaution. Teachers will email parents that morning and provide information on how to access learning.

Television Station

- KTVZ (NewsChannel 21)

Radio Stations

FM Stations

- KLRR (Clear) – 101.7
- KMTK (The Bull) – 99.7
- KTWS (The Twins) – 98.3
- KQAK (The Duck) – 105.7
- KWPK (The Peak) – 104.1

AM Station

- KBND (News / Talk) – 1110 AM
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SES Sock and Mask Drive



If we collect 250+ pairs of socks and masks, the entire school will have a pajama day on January 28th.

SES is collecting socks for our local FAN branch.

We are also collecting NEW kid sized masks to be distributed amongst our students as needed.

Please send NEW socks and masks to school by January 27th.



Thank you for supporting our community and school!

