

Mill Stream Elementary School

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Sticking Our Necks Out For Kids!

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Julie Kimball



Principal

May 8, 2020

Dear Mill Stream Families,

I know it has been a long time since we have been together. This has been such an incredibly unexpected change for all of us. As Superintendent Brent Colbry shared, "On April 9th the MSAD54 School Board voted, in light of the Commissioner of Education and Governor's recommendation, to have our schools move to remote learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year." Superintendent Colbry stated, "Should guidance from the State or CDC change we will certainly revisit our plans and keep you informed." Even though we can't be in the same place, we can continue to connect through phone calls, email. Seesaw, ClassDojo, Google Classroom and Zoom. We'd like to hear from or see each of you at least once per week so that we know you are doing well and getting the things that you need. We know that not every family has internet service and/or a device to use. There is hope that the Maine Department of Education will have a solution for this in the next few weeks. If you have internet service but no device, please reach out at 634-3121 and we will try to work with you.

We are on our 3rd round of packets, each being for two weeks, which have covered the following dates:

March 23-April 5: Packet 1

April 6-April 19: Packet 2

April 20-April 24: April vacation

April 27-May 10: Packet 3

Future Packet Distribution Dates:

May 11-May 25: Packet 4

May 26 (Memorial Day is 5/25): Packet 5

Student belongings are ready for pick-up beginning on Monday 5/11. If families have textbooks, library books or other school items that need to be returned to Mill Stream, we would ask that this is done prior to the last day of school.

Our School Board voted on 5/7 that the last day of school for MSAD54 students will be Friday, June 5th.

Keep in mind that the packets are called level 1 learning. Level 1 packets are paper-based and general across a school and for each grade level. The materials have been reviewed by coaches and classroom teachers to provide review and some new learning opportunities. The materials are also available at <http://bit.ly/msad54>.

Level 2 learning opportunities include assignments that are posted through email, Seesaw, ClassDojo, Google Classroom and/or Zoom. Teachers continue to plan and provide mini-lessons, share books and other resources. These opportunities are designed to be engaging and more personal to your child's classroom or individual level of experience. We would like all families to participate but recognize that families are in different places.

What began last week is that every classroom teacher is scheduling at least one Zoom or other meeting to be able to see their students and for students to be able to see and talk with you and your classmates. Families will be contacted directly by classroom teachers with Zoom meeting invitations.

Our district priority is to provide as many opportunities for learning as possible, in a variety of formats. We hope this helps provide equity while we work to move students forward in their learning.

As a district, we are doing all that is within our power to hold our end of year events if this becomes a possibility. Please know that I will continue to keep you informed as new information and decisions are made in the upcoming weeks.

Thank you for all that you are doing to balance family life, work life and now school life within your daily schedules. Please know that the Mill Stream staff is here to offer any support that we can. We miss you and we hope that you are all taking care of yourselves.

Warm Regards,



Julie Kimball
Principal