

EPPING SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE NEWS

OCTOBER 2009

The mission of the Epping School District is to focus on the potential of every student and engage each to be passionate, confident learners who demonstrate competence and have strength of character to reach their highest aspirations and thoughtfully contribute to a diverse and changing world.

Welcome to the Epping School District Office News. Feedback is always welcome. Please contact Paula (pvangundy@sau14.org).

H1N1 Virus

On October 23rd the Department of Health & Human Services reported that flu is on the rise in New England. Please keep vigilant on practicing the following guidelines and reminding students and colleagues to follow them as well.

1. Practice respiratory etiquette covering nose and mouth to cough or sneeze and discarding tissues after use.
2. Wash hands frequently before eating, after using the restroom, and especially after coughing and sneezing.
3. Remain home if you have a fever and/or flu-like symptoms.
4. Stay home for at least 24 hours after free of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.

The District is participating in the state notification system reporting the number of staff and students absent. When you call the school to report that you will be out due to illness, please let the substitute coordinator know if you have a fever and/or flu-like symptoms. The District will be monitoring the situation to determine if school can operate as usual. **Thank you for helping us with this!**

The Center for Disease Control has recommended the following target populations to be a priority for vaccination. General information can be found on the District website.

1. Pregnant women
2. People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
3. Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
4. Persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old
5. People ages 25 through 64 years of age with chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems. This includes pregnancy; cancer; blood disorders including sickle cell disease; chronic lung disease including asthma or obstructive pulmonary disease; diabetes; heart disease; kidney disorders; liver disorders; neurological disorders including nervous system, brain or spinal cord; neuromuscular disorders including muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis; and people with weakened immune systems including people with AIDS or those who are receiving chemotherapy.

If one of these targeted groups applies to you, the District is recommending that you have a conversation with your medical practitioner about what you need to do to prepare for the flu season and what is the vaccine availability.

Communication

This school year the District has two big projects– upgrading the website and offering more educational programming on ETV. Epping does not receive a great deal of press coverage and as a result we need to find ways to get the news out. Please remember that most of our residents do not have school age children. Our schools are doing some great things; ETV and the website can help us share it. **We are open to all ideas!**

ETV School Programming

The startup plan is to have consistent school programming including a weekly game of the week, monthly school news (one school a week), bimonthly school board meetings, and special school events. If you are planning a special student project/event, please let the ETV/Communication Coordinators know so that arrangements can be made for taping. Eric Anderson is the ETV District Coordinator. School Communication Coordinators are Cheryl MacLeay, Sue Thompson, and Eric Anderson. **Please help to celebrate Epping Schools by letting us know of special student programming in your classroom!**

Website

The district and school website has a new professional look to provide easier access and more information. Check it out at www.sau14.org. This month the goal was to transfer and update all the information on the previous website to the new one. We plan to gradually add new information throughout the school year. If you are planning a special event, please let the Website Coordinators know so that your event may be placed in the district/school calendar. School and district contacts are Cheryl MacLeay, Kyle Repucci, Jon Altbergs, and Paula VanGundy. **We welcome suggestions and feedback on how we can improve!**

Professional Development Guide

If you are subject to NH Certification and did not receive a laminated Epping School District Professional Development Guide, please email Paula VanGundy at pvangundy@sau14.org.

Applications for Professional Development

Applications for Professional Development (Purple) can be found on the district website or in your school office. Please remember to submit these forms to the Principal's Administrative Assistant; they will forward them to the SAU.

To expedite the registration process we strongly encourage you to complete and submit the course registration form with the PD form. You will be sent the approved form, or a copy, once registration is complete.

Please remember that requests for mileage reimbursement approved on the PD form are not paid until after the workshop/conference. You will need to submit a completed Mileage Reimbursement form to the SAU to receive payment. (Elementary school staff should submit the mileage reimbursement form to Cheryl MacLeay.) This form is available on our website and at the SAU.

Love & Logic[®]

The District will be offering another 6 session workshop on Love & Logic[®], facilitated by Ken Munger. This parenting series is scheduled for Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8pm and will begin January 5.

We are looking for staff members that are interested in providing child care for parents attending the workshop. Please feel free to contact Melissa Swirbliss, mswirbliss@sau14.org, if you have any questions or are interested in assisting with childcare.

Energy & Security

At the end of the school day please take a few minutes to turn lights out, turn off all computers and other electrical devices, and lock the classroom door. This practice will reduce our energy consumption and insure security of our computers and equipment and make for better functioning computers. Computers that run all night pull in dust causing computers to overheat. Also please help us in insuring the safety of students and staff by not propping open doors.

