



**Thursday, December 23
through
Friday, December 31**



Meet Our New Staff!

Meet Sophie Wetherbee! She has been hired for Enchanted Forest, but you will be seeing her in the office this week! She is currently studying Biology at Greenfield Community College, and she enjoys hiking when not at school.

If you call in, don't forget to say Welcome!



December 15, 2021

Dear Families,

As we prepare to leave for the Holiday Break, we remind everyone of the safety recommendations we made prior to the Thanksgiving Break, and we thank everyone for continuing to consider them best practice for the Holiday Break and for being ever mindful of our shared goal to keep our school community safe and healthy. My hope is that we will return to school in January without any positive cases, despite rising numbers.



Again, if your family plans include travel or hosting guests, we ask that you please provide negative COVID-19 test results for your students upon their return to school. If you are unable to provide negative COVID-19 test results for your students, we encourage you to consider keeping your students home on Monday, January 3. However, all students are encouraged to return and participate in pooled testing on Tuesday, January 4.

During arrival and dismissal there are students exiting and entering both sides of their vehicles. Unless you have been directed to proceed by a staff member, please do not ever pass a vehicle parked in the driveway. Thank you for your patience as we work to ensure safety for our students.

I wish you all a happy, restful, and festive Holiday Break. We thank you in advance for the care you show in keeping our community safe, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Fondly,

Kelley





Swift River School

Serving the Towns of New Salem and Wendell

Kelley Sullivan
Principal

201 Wendell Road
New Salem, MA 01355
978-544-6927

December 15, 2021

Dear Swift River Families,

We thank you for your efforts to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 within our school community. With local case numbers rapidly rising, new variant information circulating, and the upcoming holiday break, prevention and safety measures are as important as ever. Still, we are happy that we have kept COVID from spreading in our building, despite having had positive cases within our community. I truly believe that the layered approach of vaccines, ventilation, masks, washing hands, maintaining distance, and staying home when ill is keeping us up and running.

We are very grateful to everyone who has been proactive regarding illness. We ask that you please continue to refer to the sick policy as needed and to ensure that students are being checked at home every day. Medicating students and sending them to school without any communication is unacceptable. When students require medication, please take time to relay this information to the school in order to adequately assess what actions should be taken regarding potential illness. If your student presents with any concerning symptoms while at school, they will need to be picked up immediately and remain home until they are symptom-free for 24 hours without medication.

Vaccinating, masking, handwashing, staying home when ill, and maintaining physical distance are still the best strategies to reduce infection and spread. Adequate self-care is so important, even when we're feeling our best! If you need assistance scheduling vaccines or tests, or if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. As previously outlined, **there will be no COVID safety check/pooled testing on Tuesday, December 21, 2021.** Due to the shortened week there is not adequate time to complete the follow-up required for any positive cases/contact tracing via the school. We will resume pooled testing on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Best practice is to schedule a test for your students in advance to time their results with the return to school.

Thank you for your continued support, please take good care of yourselves and one another!

Happy Holidays,

Anne Martin RN BSN
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978-544-6926, extension 220

**Show your
Swift River School Spirit**

Monday, December 20th

Baby It's Cold Outside, Brrr



**Accessorize with your favorite hat,
headwear, scarf, and socks!**

Tuesday, December 21st



Celebrate the First Day of Winter

Wear blue, white, silver, and gray!

Wednesday, December 22nd

Festive Sweater Day



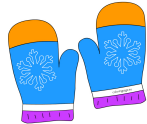
**Wear your favorite happy, colorful,
exciting shirt or sweater!**

Swift River School Winter Clothing Swap



THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER ABOUT THE COLD WEATHER IS THAT PREPARATION IS
THE KEY TO SUCCESS!!!

PLEASE BRING ANY GENTLY USED, CLEAN WINTER CLOTHING TO THE SCHOOL TO DONATE SO WE CAN KEEP THIS WOLF
PACK WARM AND TOASTY WHILE THEY ARE OUT ON THE PROWL THIS WINTER.



IF THERE ARE ITEMS THAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR CHILD, PLEASE TAKE A PEEK AND TAKE WHAT YOU NEED. THERE WILL BE
AN AREA SET UP IN THE HALLWAY TO LEAVE DONATIONS WHILE THE SCHOOL IS OPEN. WE WILL LEAVE THESE ITEMS OUT
12/6-12/10 (YOU CAN CHECK OUT THE AWESOME BOOK SALE TOO) & 12/13-12/17/21.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR: SNOW PANTS, COATS, THERMAL LAYERS, BOOTS, HEAVY SOCKS/TIGHTS, MITTENS/GLOVES, AND
ALL THINGS WARM!

UNLOAD THE THINGS YOU DON'T USE: FIND NEW GEAR FOR YOUR KIDS! TAKE WHAT YOU NEED, ALL SURPLUS WILL BE
SAVED FOR SCHOOL EXTRAS.

*FACE COVERING IS REQUIRED INSIDE THE BUILDING. PLEASE RESPECT SOCIAL DISTANCING, LIMITED TO 3 "PERUSERS" AT A TIME TO ALLOW FOR
ADEQUATE SPACE. ALSO, PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL UNCLAIMED LOST AND FOUND ITEMS THAT ARE APPROPRIATE, WILL BE CLEANED AND ADDED.



Union #28 Community Network for Children

CNC Programs

December - January



REGISTRATION LINK! <https://bitly.co/94V1>

Programs to be held inside and outside. Participants are asked to wear masks if over 2 years of age.

Times and addresses are available through the registration link. Please note there may be cancellations due to weather. Please contact CNC if there is any questions.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS



- **Tales & Tunes on Mondays with Katie at 10:00am**
Shutesbury Town Hall- December 6, 13, 20 and January 3, 10
- **Mother Goose on the Loose on Wednesdays with Kay Lyons at 10:00**
Wendell Library - January 5th - February 2nd.
- **Weekly StoryWalks (will continue as long as weather permits)**
Erving Public Library - Posted on Monday mornings
Leverett Library - Posted on Thursday mornings



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- **BEING ANIMALS with the Hitchcock Center @ Wendell State Forest**
All sessions to be held at 10:00am Interactive, in-person family program providing inquiry based environmental and outdoor education for small groups to explore nature during the winter. Every day we're going to be a different animal! Slide like an otter, hop like a hare, swoop like a snowy owl, and more. Each day we'll play animal games, hear animal stories and explore animal habitats! Come be wild in the woods this winter with Katie from the Hitchcock Center! Intended for young children 2 -6 years of age. Tuesdays, December 7th and January 4th.

CONTACT Gillian with questions at CNC 413-422-0170 call/text or budine@erving.com

The CNC Program is funded through the Union #28 schools by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and Community Donations.

