



The Swift River Current

#smallschool
bigheart

978-544-6926

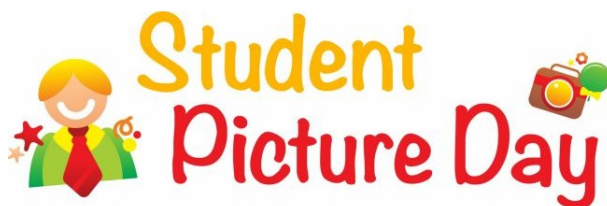
NEW SALEM - WENDELL, MA

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 20, 2021



Thursday, October 21



*** Retakes will be on
Thursday, December 2**



Sunday, October 31



P-EBT and SNAP Reminders

Based on federal rules, students attending school in-person are not eligible for Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT), but the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) encourages students and families to keep their P-EBT cards. More information can be found at [MAP-EBT.org](https://www.map-ebt.org).

If students received P-EBT, they may be eligible for SNAP. Please encourage families who received P-EBT to sign up for SNAP. It is fast and easy to apply, and the monthly SNAP amount is now higher than ever (\$658 for a family of three and \$835 for a family of four!). The following resources can help spread the word:

- ✓ [Outreach materials are available in 11 languages.](#)
- ✓ Videos are available on [DTA's YouTube](#) channel, including "About SNAP" (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) and "How to Apply for SNAP" (in [six languages](#)) that can be shared via social media, text or email.
- ✓ [MAP-ebt.org/snap](https://www.map-ebt.org/snap)

October 20, 2021

Update on COVID Testing in School



Currently we have 27 families (42 students) signed up for testing. We are hoping that more families will sign up their students for this program, to help keep them in school in the event of potential exposure to COVID-19. Please read on to learn more about how this will take place at Swift River.

Symptomatic Testing is used when a student is showing symptoms of COVID-19 while at school. Students should not come to school if they are feeling sick, since COVID-19 symptoms can look identical to other illnesses like the cold or flu. However, if symptoms arise while a student is at school, this test will tell us whether a symptomatic student has COVID-19 or not. This is a rapid test, and we receive the results of this test within 15 minutes. If a student has minimal symptoms and tests negative, they can remain in school.

Test-and-Stay allows students who have had close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 while at school to stay in school if the student is not showing symptoms. Instead of automatically being required to quarantine and miss school, these students will take a daily rapid test while they remain in school, as long as they are not symptomatic. Students who are signed up for in-school testing will participate in test-and-stay for at least five days after they may have been exposed.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they must isolate at home for the CDC-recommended ten days after symptoms began, or for ten days after receiving a positive test result before they may return to school. The student must also be without a fever for 24 hours.

It's not too late to sign your student up for testing! To participate in this program, you must sign the online consent form (or request a paper form) on behalf of your student. The link can be found at <https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma?district=null>. There is no charge for participating. To learn more about our COVID-19 testing program, please visit <https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma?district=null/> (see the video half way down the page). If you have additional questions regarding the program, please contact Anne Martin, RNBSN by email at martin@swiftriverschool.org, or by phone at 978-544-6926, extension 220.





Mr. J's Corner



... with Jamie Lefebvre

Hello Swift River Community,

If we have not been introduced yet, my name is Mr. J and I am the new Adjustment Counselor at Swift River Elementary School. I have been enjoying my first few weeks as I get to know both students, our very cute school pets, and staff! I am feeling right at home in my office space: which includes a calming down space and a playroom; for students to use when they need to take a break, are trying to manage challenging feelings, or for a quiet space and 1:1 help with their learning.

This October I am really focusing on community building and mindfulness through storytelling, crafts, and activities that are planned to meet the needs of each grade/classroom. I have been exploring the idea of being your true self, and healthy friendships, through some fun books and activities: Enemy Pie and Where Oliver Fits. I have also been having very insightful conversations with 4th graders about how everyone has different challenges that are out of their control and how we need to practice being mindful of how our words and actions may impact others without us knowing.

Looking for a way to practice some mindfulness and relaxation at home? Yoga is a great and fun way to help regulate your body and your mind. Cosmic Kids has a wide variety of videos that you can find on YouTube [here](#): or she has a direct website that you can try for 2 weeks free [here](#). And guess what? Her name is Jaime too - how cool?!

I look forward to keeping everyone updated on what is going on in Mr. J's corner and keep an eye out for more great mindfulness activities and coping tools that you can use at home!

-Mr. J



Media Center Madness!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE FISH BOWL?

WELCOME! 🐟

If you have ever taken a peek through the windows of the library when you've walked down the halls of SRS, then you know what I mean... sometimes I feel like I am inside a fishbowl!

It has been a busy month and a half here in the lab and library! We have puzzles, Legos, chess matches, coloring, creating, Biome research, Google Slide presentations, keyboard practice, and Chromebook learning all happening. And don't forget reading!! The Media Center is buzzing with activity!

I can't wait to see you! Mrs. Newman



AN "EYE CATCHING" DISPLAY

There is a creepy October contest happening. The student that can accurately guess how many "eyeballs" are in the jar will win a new book and a Halloween treat!



CREEPY CARROTS HAUNT THE LIBRARY

After reading *Creepy Carrots* by Aaron Reynolds, students created their own creatures to hide among the shelves.



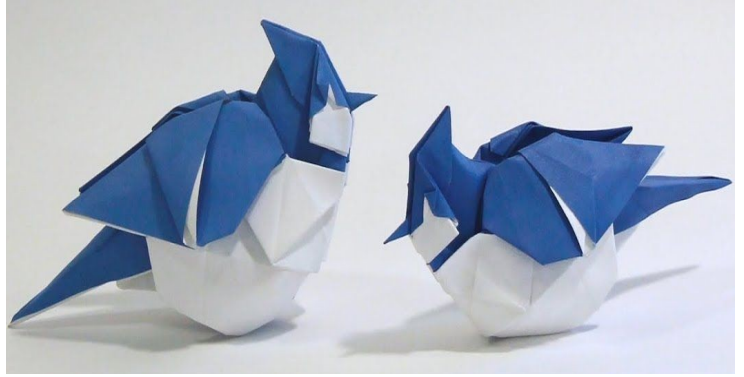
LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

Fifth and sixth graders applied to assist Mrs. Newman in the library. They are learning the many tasks involved in organizing, shelving, checking in, and maintaining our school's library system.

SAVE THE DATE! OUR SCHOOL'S BOOK FAIR WILL BE
DECEMBER 7-10! DETAILS AND VIRTUAL LINKS TO
FOLLOW!!

Big Story Unfolding....

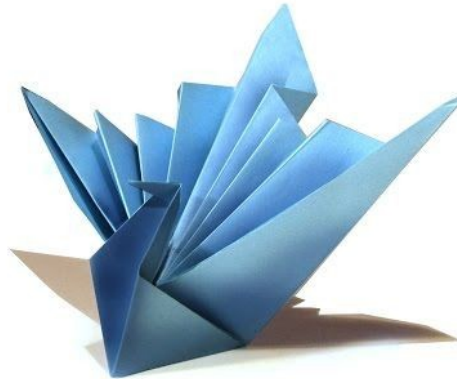
Origami artist and storyteller, Motoko Dworkin, will be joining us sometime in December for a fantastic program, pending grant approval. She will be sharing folktales with us and teaching us a lot about the art and history of origami.



Students will be writing their own stories, creating origami and learning how to work together to create skits and short plays. It should be a lot of fun for all of us. I know I can't wait to see all that our students can do with Motoko!

The event will end with an assembly where students can show off their creations and showcase their learning. I will be sure to capture some key moments in a slideshow for families.

...Stay tuned for more details.
Ms. Neal



Please be aware...

The **Charleston Wrap Fall Fundraiser** orders **MUST** be made **ONLINE** only! The deadline is November 5, 2021.

Please see the attached flyers for all information!



TEAM SRS PRESENTS

CHARLESTON WRAP FALL FUNDRAISER

A great way to support the students of Swift River School!

ORDERS DUE BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5!

TEAM SRS works together to host activities and events that promote student enjoyment and self-esteem, and to provide enrichment funds to classrooms. We are happy to offer this meaningful shopping opportunity to families, since all proceeds will directly fund our continued efforts. Thank you for your ongoing support, we couldn't do it without you!

Help Support Swift River School!

We need your help!

Every purchase makes a difference! Our organization receives profit for every item purchased using our Organization ID. Only with your help can we raise the funds we need!

Shop online and invite friends, too!

Enlist your friends, family, and relatives from all across the country to help your organization reach its goal. They can shop over 2,500 quality products including UltraHeavy™ gift wrap, wrap accessories, personalizable gifts, exclusive kitchen and home items, tasty gourmet goodies, and much more!

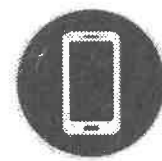


Participant Registration



Registering Online is the first step to help us reach our goal. Simply scan the code to the left or visit registercw.com and fill out the registration form to sign up to become a participant! **Orders placed using your Participant Link by November 5, 2021 will be credited to you and viewable in your Participant Dashboard.** Your Participant Dashboard will also give you some great tools to spread the word about our sale.

Check Your Progress on your Participant Dashboard and share your unique shopping link via text, email and social media!



Organization ID:

17150



Use our **Sharing Tools** to email/text shopping links to friends and family so they can support! Don't forget to share your unique shopping link via social media, too!



WIN A PRIZE when you send out 10 shares and 20 shares!

After our fundraiser's deadline, our organization can still receive credit when you place orders through December 3, 2021.

Each order placed online will ship directly to the purchaser.

*Prizes for **online only** sales will be sent to the organization.*

* Stock is limited, not all products featured in printed catalogs will be available for online purchase. Online orders are subject to shipping and sales tax. *FREE shipping available, see online for details.

Charleston Wrap®
BETTER PRODUCTS. BETTER FUNDRAISING.



Swift River School

Serving the Towns of New Salem and Wendell



Kelley Sullivan
Principal

201 Wendell Road
New Salem, MA 01355
978-544-6926

10/18/21

Dear Families,

The Swift River School Food and Nutrition Department is asking for your patience and support as we navigate new challenges. As you may be aware, we are currently faced with unprecedented shortages of food and packaging materials, massive delays or cancellations of deliveries, and department labor shortages. Nationwide shortages and delays have affected availability of certain food items, leading to substitutions of menu items we've been able to offer regularly in the past. These supply issues are occurring throughout the country and are especially challenging for school systems, due to the quantity of meals we serve and the nutrition standards we follow.

All of this means that we may need to make quick substitutions to our menu based upon what we are able to acquire. We know that this affects students, and we are doing our best to provide updates about menu changes when possible as soon as we identify an issue. Please know that our number one priority continues to be providing healthy, nutritious, and appetizing meals for your students. We love seeing them every day and appreciate your support and patience as we continue to offer meals at no-charge for all students. The good news is that free breakfast and lunch will continue throughout the school year, so please stick with us while we face this, yet another challenge. Your participation helps our program stay strong, and we look forward to serving you!

Warmly,


Heather Holmes,
Food Service Director
Swift River School



TEAM SRS




SUPERMARKET
SWEEP
NOVEMBER 14



Only **150** tickets will be sold for a chance to grab as many groceries as you can in 2 minutes at Hannaford* in Atholl

Drawing will be held on Friday, November 12th 2021 during the Community Sing.



You do not need to be present to win!

*The winner must follow all COVID-19 guidelines set forth by the store.



Please make checks payable to Swift River PTCA.

\$10 / TICKET

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING TEAM SRS!



TEAM SRS

SUPERMARKET
 **SWEEP**



SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 14TH, 2021

Order Form

\$10 / ticket

Get your tickets now! Only 150 tickets will be sold for a chance to grab as many groceries as you can in 2 minutes at Hannaford! Fill out the form below and send it in with the payment as soon as you can! Drawing will be held on Friday, November 12th during Community Sing. You do not need to be present to win.

Please make your checks payable to Swift River PTCA.

Thank you for supporting TEAM SRS!

TEAM SRS

SUPERMARKET
 **SWEEP**

Name : _____

Phone: _____

Number of tickets: _____ x \$10

Amount enclosed: _____

TEAM SRS



Name : _____

Phone: _____

Number of tickets: _____ x \$10

Amount enclosed: _____

Make check payable to Swift River PTCA
Thank you for you generosity!

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 14, 2021

TEAM SRS



Name : _____

Phone: _____

Number of tickets: _____ x \$10

Amount enclosed: _____

Make check payable to Swift River PTCA
Thank you for you generosity!

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 14, 2021

TEAM SRS



Name : _____

Phone: _____

Number of tickets: _____ x \$10

Amount enclosed: _____

Make check payable to Swift River PTCA
Thank you for you generosity!

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 14, 2021

TRACK-OR-TREAT

October 22 @ 5:00 PM

Looking for a fun way to add laps for 100 Mile club? Then come to Swift River's "Track-or-Treat" fundraising event. For every 3 laps, students will receive a piece of candy, which means you could earn 2 pieces for every mile while walking and talking with your friends! Everyone is encouraged to wear a costume! The event will end a little after sunset, so bring some flashlights or glow sticks to light your way. The event is free, but we will have plenty of raffle prizes with various goodies to win!

Raffle tickets are \$1 per ticket, \$5 for 10 tickets, or \$10 for 25 tickets.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



BRING A FAVORITE STUFFIE FRIEND FOR STORIES AND A GOODNIGHT HUG



STUFFIE SLEEPOVER AT THE WENDELL LIBRARY

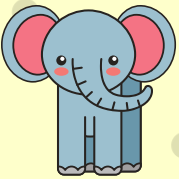
7 Wendell Depot Rd, Wendell

Have you every wondered what the library can offer your special stuffed friend? Drop them off for a stuffie sleepover and find out!

1

**Friday, October 22nd at 4:00pm Tales & Tunes Time
with your stuffies**

- Register your stuffie (picture, name tag), craft activity
 - StoryWalk[©]
 - Children may borrow books from the library
 - Tuck-in your stuffie to spend the night at the library
- (Please don't bring a stuffie you can't sleep without!)*



2

**Saturday, October 23rd from 10:00am-11:00am or
during open library hours
Return to re-unite with your stuffie!**

- Find out what they have been up to overnight
- Receive a small goody bag at pick up

Intended for Toddlers to children 8 years of age.

Registration required HERE:

<https://form.jotform.com/212646071259052>

FREE!

Contact the CNC Program budine@erving.com or call/text (413) 422-0170 with any questions!



"Funded by a grant from the Wendell Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, offered in collaboration with the Wendell Free Library and the Union #28

Community Network for Children a program funded by the CFCE grant from the MA Department of Early Education and Care.





Tales & Tunes with Katie at the New Salem Library

Songs, music, books and friends! We will be **outside** as weather allows and inside, masked if weather is inclement.



Join CNC at the New Salem Library for a 5-week series on Tuesdays at 10:00am

**October 19th, 26th and
November 2nd, 9th, 16th**



REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <https://bitly.co/94PH>

or use the CNC QR to access the online form

Contact CNC 413-422-0170 call/text with questions.



The Union #28 Community Network for Children program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to the Union #28 Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and donations from the community. This program is supported in collaboration with the the New Salem Library





AUTUMN STORYWALKS AT THE NEW SALEM QUABBIN OVERLOOK

Bring your children and join CNC outside with
your little ones!

Take home activity and free book for each child.

Tuesdays at 11:00am

October 26th: *Fletcher and the Falling Leaves* by Julia Rawlinson

November 2nd: *In the Middle of Fall* by Kevin Henkes

November 9th: *Greeting Seasons: Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter* by Kenard Pak

- **REGISTRATION REQUIRED HERE:** <https://bityl.co/94PH> or use QR Code to access the registration form. We will notify you if the walk is cancelled due to weather.
- Meet us on Tuesday mornings for a StoryWalk together after Tales & Tunes the New Salem Library, 23 South Main Street.
- The StoryWalk will remain posted on the Quabbin Overlook path for the week if you can't meet us on Tuesday mornings you are welcome to visit it yourself. The trail is accessed from the driveway beside the New Salem Fire Station in the Center of Town. Follow the driveway past the athletic fields to a small parking lot. Look for the StoryWalk signs!
- Contact CNC if you have questions 413-422-0170 call/text or Budine@erving.com



Funded by a grant from the New Salem Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and in collaboration with the New Salem Library. The Union #28 Community Network for Children program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to the Union #28 Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and donations from the Community.



Union #28 Community Network for Children

CNC Programs

October - November



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

Most programs to be held outside. Participants are asked to wear masks if over 2 years of age. Times and addresses are available through the registration link.



WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Tales & Tunes on Tuesdays with Katie at 10:00am

New Salem Library - October 19, 26 and November 2, 9, 16

Playground Playgroup on Wednesdays with Sylvia at 10:00

Wendell Library Playground - October 13, 20, 27

Babies and Books on Wednesdays with Heleen at 10:30 (New Sessions)

Leverett Library - November 3, 10, 17 for babies 0-18 months of age.

Weekly StoryWalks (will continue as long as weather permits)

Erving Public Library - Posted on Monday mornings

Leverett Library - Posted on Thursday mornings

****SPECIAL PROGRAMS****

Special StoryWalk series*- At the Quabbin Overlook

New Salem - October 26 and November 2, 9 at 11:00am. Will remain posted for the week. Program supported by the New Salem Cultural Council.

BEING ANIMALS with the Hitchcock Center

Location to be determined. 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. November 18, December 7 and more in the new year!

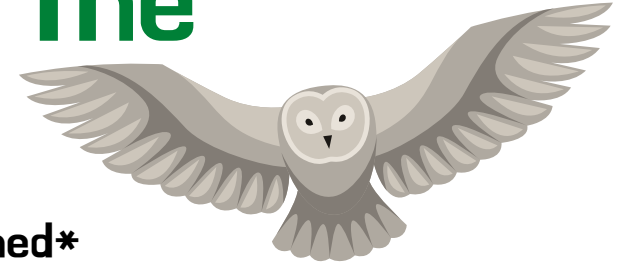
CONTACT Gillian with questions at CNC 413-422-0170 call/text or budine@erving.com

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.





Being Animals with the Hitchcock Center



BEING ANIMALS with the Hitchcock Center *Location to be determined*

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.



****REGISTRATION REQUIRED- Group size limited.**

Registration link: <https://bit.ly.co/94PH>

**All sessions to be held at 10:00am
Location TBD**



Thursday, November 18th

Tuesdays, December 7th, January 4th, February 1st, March 1st

Contact Gillian @ CNC with any questions 413-422-0170 (call/text)



Hitchcock Center
EDUCATION FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

The Union #28 Community Network for Children program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to the Union #28 Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and donations from the Community.



Halloween Safety Tips

Everything you need to know to keep your kids safe on Halloween.

Everyone loves a good scare on Halloween, but not when it comes to child safety. There are several easy and effective behaviors that parents can share with kids to help reduce their risk of injury.

Walk Safely

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.



Drive Extra Safely on Halloween

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert for kids during those hours.

On average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year.



Trick or Treat With an Adult

- Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, remind them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.

Keep Costumes Both Creative and Safe

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

