

February 6, 2023

Dear Members of the J. Turner Hood School Community,

Cold Weather- Last week made it official. It is cold outside. The coldest part winter season is upon us. I would like to remind you to send your children to school dressed appropriately for outside recess. Coats, hats and gloves are very important. We will always go outside for recess unless it is dangerously cold (like last week). At the J. Turner Hood School, we encourage outside play as often as it is allowed. At the school we follow the national guidelines in terms of weather in determining indoor/ outdoor recess.

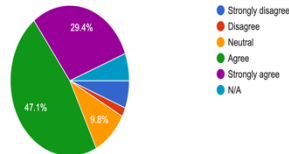
A few friendly reminders:

1. Please have your child wear an appropriate jacket/coat to school
2. Hats and gloves on really cold days
3. If you label your child's apparel it is easier to find in the lost and found

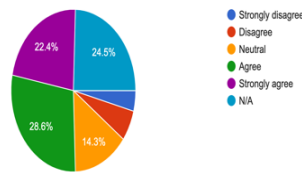
Therapy/ Comfort Dog- As noted in a separate letter our Therapy/ Comfort Dog pilot is over and we are moving toward full school Therapy/Comfort Dog Implementation. As noted, please let us know prior to Friday, February 17, 2023, if your child will **not** participate by completing this form: <https://forms.gle/oXovKsZpgZYH9JQTA>

Traffic Pilot Update- Here is the data from the traffic survey:

The change in the traffic pattern has improved my experience dropping off my student/s at school.
51 responses



The change in the traffic pattern has improved my experience picking up my student/s at school.
49 responses



As the parent feedback data was favorable, we will continue forward. Thank you to everyone who took the time to help us improve in this area. Over the next few weeks, I will be working with the North Reading Police Department to issue a formal update on this as we had some excellent feedback on lane usage as well as signage and we want to formally incorporate that information into our final plan.

Safe, Responsible, Respectful and Kind- Our internal teacher-led study groups have been very busy. Our Safe, Responsible, Respectful and Kind Study Group has been hard at work updating our schoolwide values and expectations as well as our student recognition program which will be called PAWS. This will be formally presented at the School Committee meeting here at the Hood in March.

Calendar of Events: Our school continues to be a busy place. As such, as previously described, I would like to remind everyone that the school-based calendar is on a google link that you can access via the school website. As the year continues to move forward, all of the school events will continue to be posted here. The link is located on the Hood School Home page. Please know that you are also able to subscribe to the link and integrate it into your family calendar.

Early Dismissals- Please be reminded that dismissal changes after 12:00 create many issues. Please plan all early dismissals accordingly. In early dismissal scenarios, it is best to let both your child's teacher and our amazing Mrs. Mastascusa know about your dismissal intentions. A great practice is to cc Mrs. Mastascusa at: mmastascus@nrpsk12.org

Parent's Association Playground Update- Our Parents Association continues to be a steadfast partner with our school and I cherish this fact. We are excited to work collaboratively toward the installation of a new playground structure. Mr. Quinlan, Mrs. Gorman and I have been working with Mr. Ryan Carroll to make this dream a reality as soon as possible. You will be receiving a lot more information as we proceed forward. Be on the lookout for some family and student preference surveys. We have worked on gathering information to determine a budget, we have met with vendors and began raising necessary funds with the lofty goal of placing an order with the hope of putting a shovel in the ground in September.

Charles E. Jones Excellence in Education Award Nominations- I was proud to have 3 staff members nominated for the Charles E. Jones Excellence in Education Award. While the winner was not a Hood School Teacher, I am proud of Mrs. Arone, Mrs. Gravallesse and Mrs. Joyce for being recognized for this prestigious honor in our larger North Reading Public Schools community.