



# OSPREY NEWS

MARCH 7TH, 2021

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Dear MBS Families,

Welcome back! We are excited to have students back in the building this week after vacation. Teachers spent the first few days back from vacation re-teaching students our schoolwide positive behavior expectations as well as our hand washing routines, distancing, and mask wearing expectations. Students and teachers also delved right into learning too - see the pictures below! Here are a few updates for the week ahead:

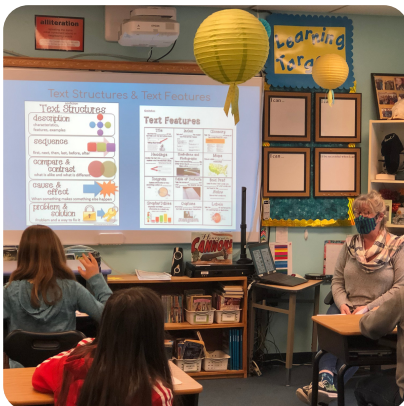
Our staff really enjoyed connecting with families during conferences and we had a very high rate (80%) of participation! **Please complete this google form about family conferences.** Your input will help to inform our planning for conferences in upcoming school years.

This May our students will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment. **Page 3 of this newsletter has additional information from Curriculum Director, Gwen Carmolli's letter on page 3 about the upcoming Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC).**

Finally, report cards will go **home with students on Monday, March 8th after school and our next MBS PTA Meeting will be Thursday, March 11th at 6:00 pm.** An invite with a zoom link will go out to families approximately 20 - 30 minutes before the meeting begins.

Respectfully,

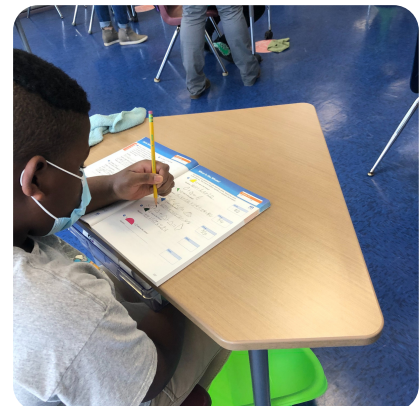
*Ms. Burke*



**Learning about non-fiction text structures in 5th grade!**



**Physically Distanced Phys Ed!**



**Fractions as parts of a whole in 4th Grade**

# NURSE

As more and more Vermonters are vaccinated against Covid-19, we can finally start to see a light at the end of the tunnel and have hope that things are starting to improve! Until more Vermonters are vaccinated, it's important to remain diligent with the guidelines to get us through the next couple of months. Please keep kids who are sick home from school and avoid gathering with other households.

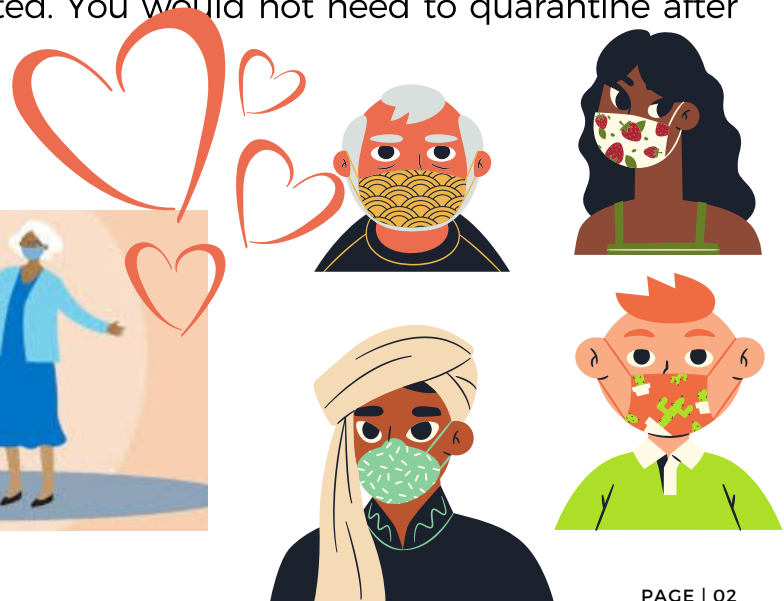
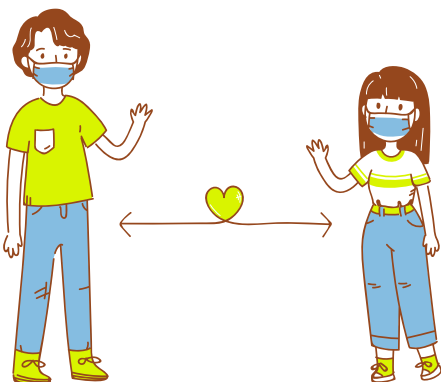
Recently, some guidelines around gathering and travel have changed for individuals in Vermont who are vaccinated and I've received some questions around this. **Here are some FAQs about these new guidelines:**

**If I'm vaccinated, do I need to quarantine after travel?** Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine after traveling out of state. You must be at least 2 weeks past your second vaccination.

**Does this include children who travel with me?** No. Since children and teens are not vaccinated yet, they would still need to quarantine for 14 days upon returning to Vermont. A quarantine can be shortened by testing negative on day 7.

**Can different households gather together?** If you are fully vaccinated (it has been 14 days since your final vaccine dose), you may gather with one other household at a time, even if the people in the household are not vaccinated. This also means that if everyone in a household is fully vaccinated, then they can gather with another household that is not vaccinated. Since children cannot get vaccinated at this time, a household with children is not considered a fully vaccinated household.

**Can out-of-state visitors stay with us?** Under the current gathering guidelines, visitors from one household are allowed to stay in your home only if they are all fully vaccinated or if everyone in your household is fully vaccinated. You would not need to quarantine after hosting vaccinated visitors.







# Colchester School District

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**Amy Minor**  
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**Carrie Lutz**  
 Director of Student  
 Support Services

**Gwendolyn Carmolli**  
 Director of Curriculum  
 & Instruction

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Each spring students across Vermont take a set of statewide assessments of learning in the areas of language arts, math and science. **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)** is an assessment of reading, writing, listening and math for students in grades 3-9. **Vermont Science Assessment (VTSA)** is an assessment of science for students in grade 5, 8 and 11. These assessments provide information about a student's proficiency on state standards for that particular grade, and they show a student's growth over time.

Statewide assessments are required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and our state accountability plan. All students are expected to participate in statewide assessments. To meet our state requirements we need to give the assessments in-person in our Colchester schools, even to those who have learning remotely. Each school is developing an assessment schedule for their in-person and virtual learners.

The district will follow health and safety protocols throughout the testing that will include current health and safety measures (daily health checks, social distancing, masks) and any additional measures needed based on the assessment.

There are three allowable exemptions to the assessments:

- **Medical Exemption** for a significant medical emergency that prohibits a student from testing during the testing window;
- **First Year English Learners** to exempt students from English Language Arts SBAC for students in their first year of a US school;
- **Medical Fragility Special Circumstances** for fully virtual learners who are medically fragile or have a family member who is medically fragile, who will be unable to appear for in-person testing at any time during the testing window.

Please contact your school Principal or the Director of Curriculum if you are in need of an exemption.

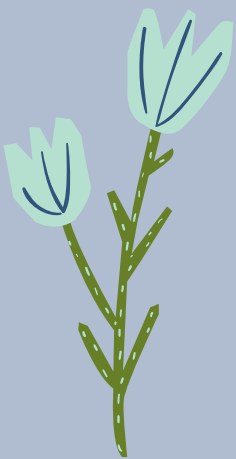
Thank you for your help in assessing the learning of our students!

Sincerely,  
*Gwen Carmolli*

Gwen Carmolli  
 Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
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 802-264-5987

# Family Input Forms

Please click the link to complete your rising student's input form. This will help us when making class lists next year. Please note: your child's current teacher and teacher next year will read this form. We do not accept teacher requests. The rising 4th, 5th, and 6th grader's forms are due March 19th, and rising 3rd grader's forms are due Friday, Friday, March 26th.



[Rising 3rd Grader Input Form](#)

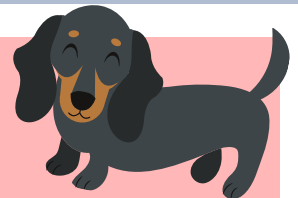
[Rising 4th Grader Input Form](#)

[Rising 5th Grader Input Form](#)

[Rising 6th Grader Input Form](#)



## PAL Dogs



Hey, kids! Read to a PAL dog on Zoom!

Six days a week, PAL dogs are listening to kids read on Zoom. This is a fun, low-stress way for kids to gain skills and confidence reading aloud. During the free 30-minute sessions, children read to two different PAL dogs. Join us by [clicking here to sign up](#) or [clicking here if all the slots are full!](#)

