

## **OTES Family Update November 5, 2021**



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**Important Reminder: No School on Thursday, November 11th in Observance of Veterans Day!** 



### **Winter Weather and School- A Message From Superintendent Walker**

Regional School Unit No. 34 maintains a policy of keeping school in session under all conditions; except when weather and road conditions are hazardous and therefore jeopardizing student safety. In general, when bus schedules are disrupted due to road conditions, schools will not be in session. Regardless of our decision to open or not open schools, we respect the right of parents to make the decision not to send your child(ren) to school when you feel their safety is at risk due to travel conditions. In these cases, the absence will be excused when we receive a note from you stating you chose to keep your child at home for safety reasons. NO-SCHOOL announcements will be made using our Emergency Notification system and posted on our website [www.rsu34.org](http://www.rsu34.org). We will also notify area television stations that accept early morning school closing notifications.

Under most circumstances children are kept in school for the full day once they have reported to school. Early dismissal of students would occur only when weather conditions would appear to be too hazardous to remain the full day, loss of power for an extended period or when travel conditions are predicted to significantly worsen prior to normal dismissal times. In this case, students would be dismissed early. Parents who are not at home during the day should make early dismissal plans for their child(ren) and make the school aware of these emergency plans. Advance planning for a neighbor, friend or family member to care for your child(ren) if they are dismissed early is critical. We may also delay the start of school if travel conditions so warrant. This too might require advance planning on your part if your child(ren) are not boarding the bus at their usual time and/or the school is not open to accept students until a later time.

I STRONGLY URGE all parents to make plans in advance before the winter season.

Feel free to call my office (827-7171) or any of the school offices if you have questions or if we can assist you with making plans for your child(ren). The safety and wellbeing of your child(ren) is most important to us. - David A. Walker, Superintendent of Schools



### **Winter Weather Gear and Extra Clothes/Shoes**

We go outside daily at OTES except on days with extreme cold, heavy rain, or dangerous icy or muddy conditions. Please plan to send the correct outside gear with your student, especially with the upcoming cold and snow. It is always a good idea to have a change of clothes in your

child's backpack or in another bag (a gallon ziploc or grocery bag works great) to keep in their cubby so it is ready when needed.

### **Box Tops for Education**

Collecting Box Tops is an easy way to support OTES with the shopping you are already doing! Check out this website: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/> or download the Box Tops for Education app. Quickly set up an account, choose OTES, shop for groceries at your regular store, and scan your receipt. Any earnings come right to us! Thanks!

### **Celebration of JB Day**

Our head custodian, Bob Stinson, better known as "JB", which stands for Janitor Bob, is retiring on Friday, November 12. We will see him off with a day in his honor on Wednesday the 10th. Many students have contributed to his farewell video or made cards. We will also line the bus loop to express our appreciation while he does a victory lap. Bob has been instrumental in keeping OTES safe and beautiful for all of us for many years!

### **Upcoming Events**

Sunday, November 7: **Daylight Saving Time Ends, Turn Back Your Clocks and Check Your Smoke Detector Batteries!**

Tuesday, November 9: Pooled Testing

Wednesday, November 3: Celebration of JB Day!, 5th Grade Musical Practice Until 3:15

Thursday, November 11: **No School in Observance of Veterans Day**

Friday, November 12: Walk to School 7:15am Perkins Avenue Park

Thursday, November 18th: PCHC COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic for Children Ages 5-11 Located at Old Town High School 4-7pm

Friday, December 10: Picture Retake Day