



MRSD

MASCENIC REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
16 School Street • Greenville, NH • 03048 • 603-291-2017

Elizabeth Pogorzelski, Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools

Melissa Gray
Assistant Superintendent
Director of CIA

March 19, 2025

Dear Mascenic Staff, Students, and Parents,

I wanted to take this opportunity to address a matter that is both sensitive and significant. In our community, open and honest communication is vital, especially when it comes to understanding and supporting each other through challenging times. While many of you may already be aware of the circumstances surrounding the Phillips family, with their permission, we felt it was important that we share the following information.

Debbie and Chris Phillips are active and valued members of our community. Deb is also a 5th grade teacher at Boynton. Their three children are also in our schools: Pippa at BMS, Isaac and Charles (Chuck) at MRHS. Isaac has been fighting a battle with cancer for the past few years. Despite promising scans over the summer, recent scans show the growth of several tumors. While there are medications that may extend Isaac's life, at this point, the doctors have given him months to live. Fortunately, at this moment Isaac is not in any pain. While this goes without saying, this is a challenging time for the entire family and their friends.

At this point, Deb is taking a leave of absence from Boynton. Pippa and Charles are attending school as regularly as possible until/if the family chooses to travel and fulfill adventures on Isaac's bucket list. Isaac may choose to attend as able. Please remember that while our intentions may be to offer support, sometimes the best way to show we care is by respecting their need for normalcy and time to process their situation. Let's ensure our school remains a safe and comfortable environment for both Isaac and his siblings. Deb regularly posts updates on Facebook, and the schools have a point person who will relay information through the SAU as it becomes available.

In situations like these, many want to know how to support the family:

- Paint the town GOLD: Update your profile picture to a "go gold" image, display a gold ribbon outside your home (mailbox, tree, front door). Let the family "see" the signs of love and support!
- Contribute: The MRHS Booster Club is spearheading fundraising events to help the family fund Isaac's bucket list items as quickly as possible. There will be raffles, giveaways, and company match opportunities- please visit them on Facebook for more information.
 - You can Venmo ISAAC to @Macenic-Boosters directly! Or use the QR code below:

It is the policy of the Mascenic School Board, in its actions, and those of its employees, that there shall be no discrimination on the basis of age, sex, race, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, religious creed, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity for employment in, or operation and administration of any program or activity in the Mascenic Regional School District.
The Title IX and District 504 Coordinator is Melissa Gray, 603-291-2006.



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Mascenic Boosters

@Mascenic-Boosters



venmo

- B & B Blanks has reopened the “shirt store” for community members to buy shirts to support the family. Proceeds from the sale of the shirts go directly to the family. [Here is the link.](#)

We recognize that this news may evoke a range of emotions and discussions among both students and staff. It is completely normal to have questions, concerns, or feelings that need to be expressed. We want you to know that it’s okay to seek support during this time.

To that end, counseling staff in our buildings, supported by our social worker and school psychologists, are prepared to talk openly about this issue and any other feelings or concerns it may bring to the surface. These discussions will be held in a supportive and confidential environment where everyone can express themselves and find comfort in knowing they are not alone.

Sincerely,

Liz Pogorzelski, Ed.D.
Superintendent, MRSD