

72 Main Street Chester, VT 05143 Phone (802) 875-2108 • FAX (802) 875-3998 E-mail: katherine.fogg@trsu.org Katherine Fogg Principal

Kevin Fay Assistant Principal

Principal Report 4/10/20

Principal Communication 3/28/20

These times are unlike any other that we have seen in our lifetime. I feel like I am on a roller-coaster ride of emotions.

The decision to close schools for the remainder of the year felt sudden. Many of us learned about it during our PTG Zoom meeting. I am heartbroken that we can't hope to get together again as a school community and that we will not be able to have all of the activities we planned for in May and June. Having said that, we are making plans to have Keewaydin happen at the beginning of next school year. I am working with Lauren Fierman to make this happen. We will send our current 5th and 6th grade students from CAES and CTES together as planned, along with any new 7th grade students at GM. Other events may be pushed back to happen in late summer.



I couldn't be more proud of the teachers and staff with

their swift and successful transition to home learning. Our goal is to keep students connected and sustain the learning they have gained thus far. On April 6th we will roll out new materials in student bags like we did two weeks ago. These materials will be to help students start with new learning that they would be doing at school. Teachers will have a half day in-service as planned on April 7th to focus on the new home learning plans. The parent partnerships we are witnessing are just outstanding! I know how hard this is for families to take on this role of helping with home learning. Please reach out to teachers if you need help with any of the materials that are given to you or if you need technology assistance. I believe we will also be including seed packet orders in the delivery bags on April 6th. Many students left personal belongings in the building so we are working on getting things bagged up and labeled with names and classrooms for the next few pick up days as well.

It is most important that we all stay healthy and safe during this time. Please refer to our TRSU web page for information regarding resources to help with learning and Covid 19 information <u>TRSU Covid 19 info</u> for families. Emotional wellness is a very important part of this situation. Here is a link to the guidance teachers web page <u>Guidance Department</u>

If you have not joined our CAES PTG Facebook page I encourage you to do so. It is an easy place to get information, connect with other families and see positive things about our school. Yesterday a group of parents posted a beautiful message to CAES that really made my day! The moments of joy that I experience each day come from seeing the work that the children are doing. I have really loved seeing some of the posts from the families and I especially enjoy when I have a zoom meeting and I can wave to the children.

I will begin dropping into morning meetings this week now that things are feeling a bit settled. Please reach out to me via email or CAES Facebook if I can be of any assistance to you.

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Every day the things my mother used to say keep popping into my head. "One day at a time", "This too shall pass", "God only gives us what we can handle", "Hard times make us stronger" and my favorite "It takes a village". ~ Katherine

4/3/20

We need to acknowledge that we are all stressed by our current situation with Covid 19. It has changed our daily lives dramatically and has added a new "anxiety of the unknown" to everything. As humans we want to be able to control things and we want to know what will be happening in the future. On top of all of that, we can't connect with each other in the ways we normally would.

Please be forgiving of each other and of yourselves right now. We all need to create new routines and habits that work for ourselves and our families at this time. I have been hearing from parents and teachers

that they are overwhelmed by all that needs to be accomplished.

Take a breath, and just do what you can. We all need to do less and expect less.

On Monday teachers will be looking at updated plan for the Continuity of Learning. Once we all are comfortable with what is in the plan the Superintendent will share it with



families. The gist of the plan is to set time parameters and choose a few key learning indicators. The most important idea is that we all need to reduce stress levels for students, staff and families.

I am very proud that almost all of our students are attending morning meetings and are engaged in their work. This has not been an easy task for many families. We know you are trying to work and many are managing the care of multiple children and their learning. All of this is new for teachers and families and we are working to the best of our ability each and every day. The Guidance Department has a great link to help you create schedules and manage time: Link for information on routines.

If you are struggling with technology, have questions about student work or any other needs, please reach out to a teacher and then to me or Kevin Fay if needed.

We have had such positive feedback from our community which has truly helped us to stay motivated. I know it's tempting to post frustrations on Facebook but I would ask that you please reach out to teachers or administration instead. We are here to help in any way that we can. Please use the CAES Facebook page as well if you are in need of help with something. Teachers, myself and other parents respond fairly quickly on that site and it is a positive, supportive environment.



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Monday morning will be extra special. We will have an all school assembly for the first time using zoom. It will also be the first day of Spirit Week so remind your students to wear something red. Teachers will send an invite to all students and staff through email.

Also, on Monday we will be delivering learning packets via the food delivery run in the morning. Pick up hours for these packets will be from 7:30-10:00am and 4:00-5:30pm on Monday only. If you can't make it during these times please be aware that staff are only in the building from 7:30-10:00am most days. Please call ahead if you plan to come on a different day.

Teachers will have an afternoon of in-service on Tuesday where we will be reviewing the Continuity of Learning Plan and giving teachers time to plan together for what that looks like with their district level teams.

Thank you to the team that has been preparing and delivering food to our students! Yesterday they even



I hope you all have a wonderful, restful weekend. ~ Katherine

4/10/20

We are working to create schedules for each grade that will be easier on everyone. Teachers will be

focused on the critical indicators outlined in the letter from the Superintendent. We hope to post the schedules and information on our web page within a day or two after break. Report cards from the second trimester will be going home on April 24th. These will reflect student work only up until our last actual school day on March 13th and will not include a narrative. On May 7th teacherswill be sending home a narrative form that reflects how students

Week of April 6 - April 13 at Chester Andover Elementary School



are currently meeting the Elementary Critical Indicators. For instance, they may say something like

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"John is able to retell a story in the correct sequence of events. He should work to include more detail in his writing."

I have been hearing from many people about how stressed they are due to the pandemic. Loss of work and routines, the lack of being with family and friends and the adjustment to distance learning is a lot for all of us to handle. We must all keep health and well-being at the forefront of our minds and just do the best we can with everything else. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you need help with assignments.



I'm sad that I won't be traveling to see my parents this week but I am grateful that they are safe and in good health at the age of eighty-eight!

I have been in Zoom meetings all day for several weeks and I am looking forward to having more time this week to be outside.

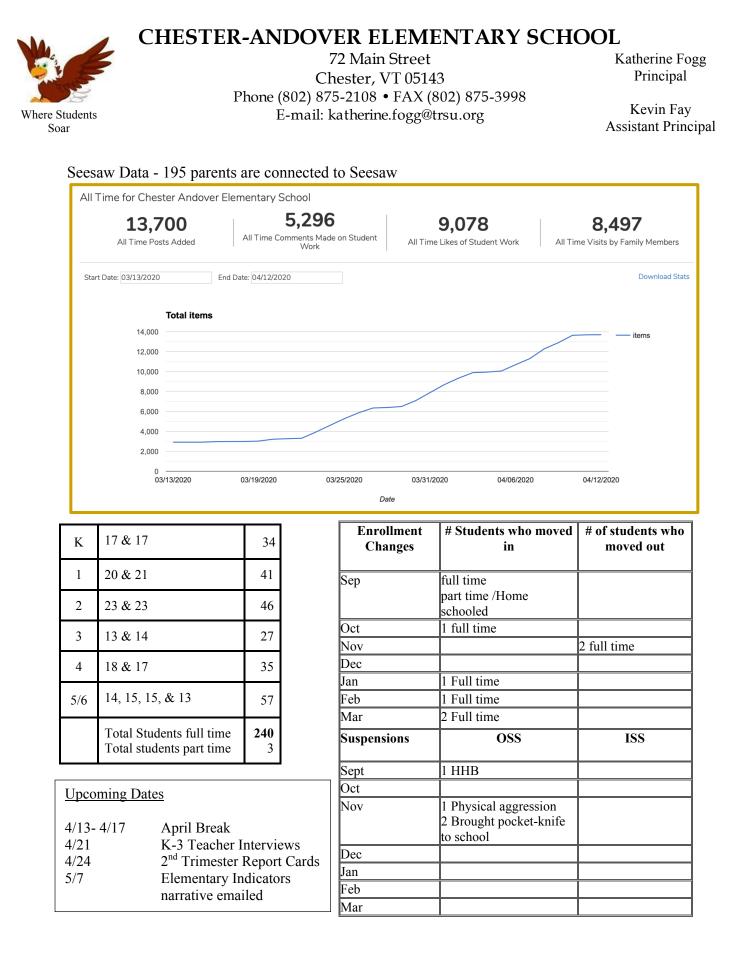
Wishing you good health and sunny days this week!

~ Katherine

Teachers are more than willing to explain things to parents and spend extra time with students who need assistance. Please be sure you are on Seesaw to communicate with classroom teachers. If you are not already on, email the teachers for information to do so. Also please join the CAES PTG page on Facebook for updates and information. Thank you to the parents who joined me for Coffee Hour yesterday. It is important for me to hear what parents are thinking and they seem to appreciate the support they receive from each other. We still have several student learning packets at the school. The office will be open on Monday from 7:30to 11 a.m. so that you can pick up your child's packet. Please call the office during this time if you are notable to come to the school and we can arrange for another way to get this information to you. Just a reminder that we will be delivering meals during the upcoming spring break.

CAES Spirit Week Monday 4/6 School Colors Day (dress in red in honor of the schools we miss). Super Hero Day (in honor of the hospital **Tuesday 4/7** workers, first responders, grocery employees, and all other essential personnel) Wednesday 4/8 Crazy Hair Day (in honor of staying home and letting our hair be wild) Thursday 4/9 Pajama Day (because let's face it, pajamas are the best part of remote learning) Vacation Wear (in honor of the vacation we're going to have even though we're staying home)

cture of your spirit wear and post it under Guidance on Seesaw!



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