

January Weekly Vinal Voice

Week of Monday, January 8 - Friday, January 12, 2024.



Principal's Update

Volunteer Confidentiality Agreement

The Norwell School Committee recently reviewed its policy with regard to visitors and volunteers in school buildings. In an effort to continue to reinforce our school expectations for volunteers, we will be adding our confidentiality agreement (found in our handbook) to our parent sign-in sheet at the office. When a volunteer signs-in they will also be expected to adhere to our expectations below.

There are federal and state laws that protect the privacy rights of students, families, and staff. In a school situation, there are many instances in which confidential information is discussed to better understand students and how we can help them. When working in the schools as a volunteer, there may be times when this information is overheard. Our staff will make every effort to prevent this from happening; however, as a volunteer, you must agree that if you do hear information about a student or family, you will not repeat this outside of the school. This ensures the protection of our students' interest and their families, thus creating a better environment for all.

- Each student with whom you work has the right to expect that nothing that happens to or about him or her will be repeated to anyone other than authorized school department employees, as designated by the administrators at your school. Even when discussing a student with those who are directly involved in a student's education, such as a teacher, principal, or guidance counselor, you may not share otherwise confidential information with them unless it is relevant to the student's educational growth, safety, or well-being.
- You may not share information about a student even with others who are genuinely interested in the student's welfare, such as social workers, scout leaders, clergy, or nurses/physicians (a grave medical emergency, in which confidential information may be necessary for a student's care, is the only exception). Thus, you must refer all such questions to the school employees so authorized and indicated to you, typically the student's teacher or principal.
- Parents, friends, or community members may, in good faith, ask you questions about a student's problems or progress. Again, you must refer all such questions to the authorized

school employees. You may not share information about a student even with members of your own family or the student's family.

Norwell Recycling and Sustainability

We have partnered with the Norwell Recycling and Sustainability Committee to start a new project collecting writing instruments (markers, pens and mechanical pencils) for recycling in partnership with Staples. We began collecting materials on Friday, January 12.

PreK Lottery Open

Norwell Public Schools is now accepting registrations for community preschoolers for the 2024-2025 Preschool Lottery. Any preschooler who will be 3 or 4 before September 1, 2024 is eligible to enter the lottery. Visit our website [HERE](#) to learn more.

NHS World Language Fair

Norwell High School students hosted a World Language Fair for Kindergarten students from both Cole & Vinal.



Breakfast & Lunch Menus

Click [HERE](#) for the January menus.

Upcoming Dates

- 1/17: Vinal School Improvement Council, 3:45PM
- 1/17: Vinal PTO Meeting, 7PM
- 1/18: Student Gov't Meeting
- 1/29: Vinal Outreach Presentation, 7PM
- 2/2: Community Meeting
- 2/5: National School Counseling Week
- 2/7: Elementary Early Release

Updates from Art

Kindergarten students worked on rotational symmetry while learning to cut snowflakes in art class!



Updates from Nurse Kristen

Head Lice is a common concern of childhood that occurs every year to millions of children across the United States.

Both the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the CDC advocate for the following practices to be discontinued:

- whole classroom screening,
- exclusion for nits or live lice
- notification to others except for parents/guardians of students with head lice infestations

That being noted, it can never hurt to check your child's hair if they are complaining of it being itchy or if you are notified of a close playmate who did have it. Lice move by crawling; they cannot hop or fly. If you ever have any questions please reach out at any time.

Counseling Updates

During the months of January and February, kindergarten, second, and fourth grade students will be reviewing Social Health curriculum lessons on privacy and personal safety with regard to keeping their body safe. Students will be reviewing concepts including practice of refusal skills and their right to privacy as well as reporting any potential issues.

Parents are encouraged to review and reinforce what their child has learned while it is fresh in their minds. Hearing this information at school and home will help reinforce the vital importance of these lessons, which will empower students as they go through Vinal School and beyond. Please do not hesitate to connect if you would like assistance with your discussions at home.

Please contact me with any questions/concerns you may have.

Mr. Lewis

School Counselor

Updates from Mrs. LaSalle our School Psychologist

Sometimes our brains have big feelings. Some of those feelings are positive, but some are not so good. And when our brain has big feelings, we can often feel it in our bodies too. We might become tense, or tired, or shaky, or hot, or panicky. In these moments, when the “big, bad feelings” are taking over, it can be helpful to have a toolbox of coping strategies to try! Each week, check in for new strategies. Keep in mind, sometimes a strategy may work, but other times it might not. Don't give up— keep trying that strategy! And if your first strategy doesn't help, never fear. Pick another and give that one a try! Now, let's learn about some small strategies to tame some big feelings!

Draw it out: Actually seeing a visual of something that is bothering us helps us to add details and see all angles of the problem. Grab a piece of paper and illustrate what's on your mind. Add details. If you're feeling adventures, explain this picture to a family member; telling the story from every angle.

Vinal PTO

Please join us for our PTO meeting tomorrow from the comfort of your home! We would love to see you!

1/17 PTO Meeting via Zoom at 7pm. Join with the link [HERE](#)

1/22-1/26 the Vinal Book Bee returns for 4th & 5th graders! We are looking for parents to volunteer. Please sign up [HERE](#)

Did you know you can earn money for your child's school from your normal grocery purchases? It couldn't be easier! Start by downloading the BOXTOPS App from the App Store or GooglePlay. Make an account with the email address you use to shop online then locate the Vinal School. Shop like you normally would either online or at your local grocery store and look for specific products with the special BOXTOPS logo. Each item with a BOXTOPS logo earns 10¢ for your school! Think of how many packaged items you buy in a week - over time this could really add up! Scan your receipt in the BOXTOPS app within 14 days of purchase, or forward your email receipt to receipts@boxtops4education.com! The schools receive 2 checks per year through this easy, effortless fundraiser! Thanks for supporting your child's school - happy shopping!

If you haven't already, please join our [Facebook Group](#) or on [Instagram](#). Our website is up to date too! Check it out vinalpto.com to learn about upcoming events, find out when PTO meetings are being held, support the school, and much more!

If you are interested in getting more involved, we'd love to have you! Please email us at vinalpto@gmail.com.

Thank you for all of your continued support! ~ Your Vinal PTO



The 2023/2024



VINAL BOOK BEE



The Vinal Book Bee is a reading trivia competition created by Ms. Howard and Mr. Fennessey for 4th and 5th grade students. Students are given an optional list of 50 books and are encouraged to read to enjoy throughout the year and then tested on their knowledge of the stories over a period of 3 rounds. It helps foster a love of reading, helps students build upon memory and study skills while enjoying a little friendly competition!

WHICH 4TH & 5TH GRADE CLASS WILL CAPTURE THE TROPHY THIS YEAR?

Fourth Grade:

Monday, 1/22 Ms. Martin 11:30 – 12:15
Tuesday, 1/23 Ms. Glidden 11:30 – 12:15
Wednesday, 1/24 Mrs. Doran 11:30 – 12:15
Thursday, 1/25 Mr. Lynch 11:30 – 12:15
Friday, 1/26 Mr. Fennessey 11:30 – 12:15

Fifth Grade:

Monday, 1/22 Mrs. Story 9:15 – 10:00
Tuesday, 1/23 Ms. Peckham 9:15 – 10:00
Wednesday, 1/24 Mrs. Abbott 9:15 – 10:00
Thursday, 1/25 Mrs. Fitzgerald 9:15 – 10:00

Did you know
that the
Norwell Public
Library has a
Vinal Book Bee
section?



Nathan Thorsteinson

Nathan Thorsteinson is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters