

Cornerstone News



November 18, 2016

Bad Weather/Snow Day Protocol



That one kid in the Junior Class is still wearing shorts and there seems no end in sight to these warm temps. But we are not fooled. The last of the thyme,

sage and mint are hung and drying in the Junior Class, and we notice that people are sporting 35% more sweaters these days. As we roll through the last weeks of November, it's always best to review our protocol for snow days. I know, I know, but I swear that talking about it doesn't jinx us.

As you recall from September registration, each family provided a telephone number to be called in the event of a school closing. If you would like to confirm or change the number you provided, please call Pam (772-4349). This is our third year of using this system, but you may also want to avail yourself of our usual protocol, including checking available resources, such as radio, television, and the internet.

In nearly all circumstances, when SAU 16 (Stratham/Exeter) cancels school, we will also cancel. In all cases, you should hear Cornerstone's (in Stratham) name announced as a separate school listing on the radio or TV.

Tune to WERZ(107FM), WOKQ(97.5FM), or WMUR-TV for these announcements after 6:00am, or click on our website, www.cornerstoneschool.org. In the case of a delayed start, school will begin at 10:30a. Primary students who are dismissed at 11:30a will not have

school that day. **Primary students who normally go to Children's House at 11:30a should arrive at 11:30a and go directly to Children's House.**

It may be necessary to close school early. In this case, the school will notify you or the person designated by you on the early dismissal permission slip. Please call the school only if your regular plans are changed. The school will gather information from parents concerning arrangements for their child in the event an early closing is necessary.

Many students have quite a long ride to school and we are aware that weather conditions can vary greatly between Newburyport, Newfields, and Berwick. Traveling to school in any bad weather with poor road conditions is always up to parental discretion. Should you choose to stay home due to bad conditions, please notify the office.

The winter months often take their toll on our health and our patience. The unpredictable nature of Seacoast weather in particular makes it a challenge to gauge what the next day or even that afternoon's climate will produce. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the above policy, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Cornerstone Closings and Delays (information should be available by 6:00 am):

WERZ radio (107FM)

WOKQ radio (97.5FM)

WMUR-TV

www.wmur.com/closings/index/html

www.cornerstoneschool.org

PVG Links - NEW

This year the Parent Volunteer Group is utilizing two websites to facilitate events and opportunities to volunteer at Cornerstone. The link will stay constant, but the events and opportunities will change so Favorite or Bookmark these sites!

1. SignUpGenius - [PVG Volunteer opportunities](#). Here you can find all volunteer opportunities and sign up at your convenience.
2. EventBrite - [Cornerstone Family Connections](#) - A PVG initiative to promote connections amongst Cornerstone families/caregivers via social events outside of school. Anyone can post an event (ex. apple picking, hiking, beach clean ups, walks, coffee meet-ups, etc.). Please contact Tamara (a parent volunteer) at tdenneen@comcast.net to add your name for new events, notices and to post an event idea.

Parent Volunteer Group Updates



Thank you to everyone who joined the PVG on the Cornerstone Family Connections hike at Stratham Hill Park on November 4th. There were parents from every class level (Toddlers-Junior). CFC will have one more event in December before the Holiday break, so stay tuned for more information.

Monday, November 21st the PVG will be collecting cash, checks, and/or food donations for the annual Turkey Drive. All donations can be dropped off in the Cornerstone gym.

We still need a few volunteers to help shop for dinners right after drop off on Monday, November 21st, to volunteer please follow this [link](#). Thank you for your help and Happy Thanksgiving!

Please join the PVG for the last Parent Coffee of 2016 on Tuesday, December 6th in the Cornerstone gym after drop off. We will have some special guests to talk about the role Cornerstone plays in community service, and Lee Anne will join us to talk about the Music, Art, and Spanish curricula. We will also hear about Silent Journey parent education event from a parent's perspective, and more. We look forward to your participation!

Fundraiser

Save those box tops and drop them off in the front office! We collect them throughout the school year. This is another great way to get the whole family involved, someone mentioned that grandparents particularly like this one!

Annual Appeal

Our Annual Appeal begins in December. Our goal is for 100% family participation (of any dollar amount). These funds go toward improving the school/classroom environment. This year's appeal, will focus on our outdoor play equipment.

Solstice Festival Date - December 15th 3:15pm - Cornerstone Gym

Cornerstone's Annual Solstice Festival, featuring performances from students from Primary through the Junior Class, is a December tradition.*

The show begins at 3:15pm, in the gym, and culminates with an Upper Elementary presentation of "The Mummings Play," a Traditional English winter rite that has not failed to bring Spring for thirty-one years running.

**Please note that not all Primary children participate in the performance. Teachers will be in contact with detailed information.*

Flor's Present Drive



Our own lovely Flor Bowen from LE2 has been a volunteer at the Family Reception Center in Strafford County Jail since its inception. The goal of the center is to provide a setting where families experiencing the incarceration of a loved one may receive support. Santa will visit the center on Dec. 13 and give presents to these children going through a difficult time. Please consider a wide variety of age groups, from Infants to 14 year-olds in your contributions. There are no guidelines as to type of gift, but teens appreciate movies tickets and gift cards. Toys should be unwrapped. If you would like to specify a certain gender and age group, feel free to put stickies on the gifts.

Presents may be dropped off on the bench near the office from now until Tuesday, December 13th. Thank you for supporting this wonderful community effort!

Junior Class Fun Night



The Junior Class will once again be holding a FunNight™, on Friday, December 9th, from 5:00p - 7:30p, to allow parents a night out for perhaps some holiday shopping, while at the same time supporting the Junior Class' upcoming academic study trip to London in April. \$25.00 per child, \$20.00 for siblings provides a nutritious dinner and two and a half hours of fun and games. **At the time of this writing there are only 3 spots left!** You may sign up by emailing junioreclassy@gmail.com or look for a form going home with your child. Thank-you for your support!

Called to a Lesson (a regular feature explaining key components and concepts of a Montessori education)



A Cornerstone Thanksgiving

We're thankful for Toddlers the youngest among us, for the promise they show us each day.

We see them fearlessly tread
In their matching pants of red.
'Cross our fields while their teacher leads the way.

We're thankful for Primary, Early Birds to 'Stended Day; they are busy each day in their rooms.

With newfound knowledge and power,
They build and rebuild the pink tower.
Or wash snack tables and sweep with their brooms.

We're thankful for Lower El, and all that they do, writing stories and finding numbers to crunch.

They learn from whence we came,
study angles, and use the bead frame.
And somehow they still find time to have lunch.

We're thankful for Upper El, and the power they show, learning volume and advanced parts of speech.

Listen, you can hear them!
Reciting the Pythagorus theorem!
Yes, their grasp is only exceeded by their reach.

And don't forget the Juniors, we're thankful for them too; we know their time here is soon done.

They can quote from the Bard,
Juniors work and play hard.
And try to sell you every product under the sun.

We're thankful for Cornerstone, for all it provides, for all of us, no matter our role or our age.

The book we continue to write,
Can inspire, touch, or excite.
We are all thankful to turn each brand new page.

**Happy
Thanksgiving
Everyone!**

"We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe, and are connected with each other to form one whole unity."

Maria Montessori



Rob Keys directs micro-economies in the Junior Class and Cornerstone Admissions. He is the author of "Follow the Child", available in the office and at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Questions, comments and suggestions to newsletter@cornerstoneschool.org



SILENT JOURNEY

