

*"Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons." ~ Jim Bishop*  
**September 22: First day of Autumn**

*"All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors -- in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver."  
~ Fred Rogers*

***Thank you to the PTA for such a beautiful, festive welcome for families at the Meet & Greet! You certainly modeled your banners: "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!"***

Thank you to... you, for all your support, patience and kind words during these first few days of remote learning! Although there have been a few kinks to work through, such as with a few technology issues, we have seen smiling faces and students seem very happy to be back "in" school! I am pleased to let you know that we have had just about 100% attendance!

At the Penn Brook School, we use the acronym **CARES** -- Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, Self-Control to reflect our values, which are reinforced through a Morning Message, Community Gatherings (which will be held virtually), and within daily classroom lessons and through modeling throughout the day. For the month of September, we are focusing on Cooperation, and these past few days students, families, and teachers have modeled cooperation, as we have all worked together to iron out and issues and make the transition back to school as smooth as can be! As you may already know, on September 17, based on the latest data from the state, and trends for COVID numbers in Georgetown, the School Committee voted to move to a hybrid model of instruction **beginning on Thursday, October 1**. Hybrid learning procedures and details will be sent next week.

Be well and take care,

Mrs. Maher

**If you have not already done so, please read the Remote Learning Expectations with your child and then sign the google form that was sent to you from your child's classroom teacher.**

**Food Service:** Please read the attached information from Director of Food Services, Sean Riley on meal options for remote/hybrid learning.

**Attendance:** Please be sure to call the main office at 978-352-5785 and email your child's classroom teacher if your child will be tardy or absent, even during remote learning. If your child is absent and we do not receive a call, you will receive a call from someone in our front office.

**PTA Announcement:**

PTA is excited to start the 2020-2021 school year! We know it is going to be different, but we know it is going to be a great year nonetheless. PTA has created Google Forms for each grade level to gather names, emails, addresses, interest in being a room parent, and cohorts for each class. Our intention, with your permission, is to share class/cohort information so families can make connections. Please fill out the Google Form for your children. If you have more than one child in the same grade, you can fill out the form twice.

**Lists will be re-sent with additional classmates starting Tuesday, September 22nd, so keep your eye out.**

**Grade 6** <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSfFvBnSFKDOoT.../viewform>

**Grade 5** <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSfgIG2r2jt5He.../viewform>

**Grade 4** <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSfX5wLJ.../viewform>

**Grade 3** <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeHE4Nlx1Uxx3.../viewform>

**Grade 2**

[https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeWo\\_BaHbp.../viewform](https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeWo_BaHbp.../viewform)

**Grade 1**

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSfjbjlNB017QW.../viewform>

**Kindergarten**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOpddUAAjsbFxzzX6suPeSqTI-yj5BRWNR8qtgPDzsiLFu9A/viewform>

**Please see the attached information from Director of Food Services, Sean Riley on meal services.**

From the Health Office:

We are looking forward to welcoming students back into Penn Brook on October 1st! What a long road it has been but the school is sparkling and ready for use!!

The nurses will be inundating you with information in the coming weeks but for now we want to request your assistance in keeping Penn Brook healthy. Each morning before your children prepare for their day please check them for any signs of illness: FEVER 100 or higher; NEW COUGH; HEADACHE (along with other symptoms) DIFFICULTY BREATHING; LOSS OF SENSE OF TASTE/SMELL: SORE THROAT (unrelated to allergies): NAUSEA, VOMITING OR DIARRHEA.

If your child has any of these symptoms PLEASE keep them at home and check with their pediatrician.

Can't wait to see those masked faces!!

*Mary Beth Doherty, MS,RN/Kathy Hatch, RN, BSN, NCSN*

*Penn Brook School Nurse*

**978-352-5785 ext. 2016/18**

### **Mandatory Flu Vaccinations:**

Governor Baker is mandating that **all students** receive a flu vaccination before December 31st. Please submit documentation to our school nurses, Mary Beth Doherty or Kathy Hatch. Thank you.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The state of Massachusetts has mandated that students in grades K -12 receive a flu vaccine by December 31, 2020. The rationale is to prevent an influenza outbreak while simultaneously dealing with the covid-19 pandemic.

Currently there are two exemptions: a medical exemption which requires a physician's note and a religious exemption which necessitates a note from the parent/guardian. The "refusal to vaccinate" form is not an exemption at this time.

As always, please feel free to call or email your school nurse with any questions or concerns!

*Mary Beth Doherty, MS,RN*

*Kathleen Hatch, BSN, RN,*

*NCSN*