

Paul F. Doyon Memorial School
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Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your family enjoying time together and staying healthy. I would like to thank those families who reached out to me via email to ask questions about the upcoming school year. I will continue to answer your emails in a timely manner with the most up-to-date information. As we continue to be in this pandemic, the uncertainties continue and decisions at the national, state, local, and school level are difficult. In my July 17th newsletter I shared the work the staff and I had been involved in, the next steps that were being taken, and my reasoning for not sending the placement letters and class list. If you know of any Doyon family who is not receiving my newsletters and/or emails, please have them call the Doyon office and we will be sure to correct this in the system.

On Thursday, August 6th, Dr. Blake presented three reopening plans at the ZOOM School Committee meeting. School Committee members voted and approved that Ipswich Public Schools will start the school year in a Hybrid model (meaning a combination of in-person and remote learning). Dr. Blake stated that none of the four schools have the specific details of the plans to share at this time. Nimble Grant Committee members, who have been working all summer on reopening plans, met Monday afternoon and will meet again on Thursday to continue to work on the model. Dr. Blake will submit the Ipswich Public School's plans to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on Friday, August 14th.

We now have the answer to the question of how we are returning, which is the Hybrid plan, but not as to who will be returning and in what manner. The Ipswich Educators Association (IEA) and Dr. Blake are still working on those details. Next, Dr. Blake will be asking families to make a decision whether their child will participate in the Hybrid model or stay home and participate in the fulltime (5 day a week) remote learning.

Due to these uncertainties, I am going to continue to hold off in sending the placement letters and class lists. I know this is disappointing but I believe it is in the best interest of your children. Since school will not be starting until the week of September 14th (actual date TBD), students will have plenty of time to be told this information prior to the start of school.

Since my last newsletter, I have held seven Round Table meetings both in-person and on ZOOM with my faculty, staff, School Council members, and FRIES officers. It was clear that the overwhelming answer to the question "**What do we value about our Doyon Community?**" was the strong relationship we have with students, colleagues, and families. Also shared was how important the social-emotional well-being of our students and colleagues is, most especially at this time. Also shared was how we strive to follow our vision statement to create a joyful learning community of creative thinkers, problem solvers, and passionate citizens of the world. There were many answers and questions when discussing "**What are our concerns for Doyon for the upcoming school year?**" The health and safety of our students and staff was the top concern. I appreciate everyone's honesty and problem-solving ideas which will be incorporated into our planning.

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Mrs. McAdams, Winthrop School Principal, and I both stated in previous newsletters that we would start hosting parent/guardian ZOOM meetings. Now that the School Committee members voted on Thursday evening, and the Nimble Grant Committee met this Monday, I am ready to offer the following times to meet. **All parents and guardians are welcome to join me to share your thoughts and ideas about the Hybrid model for the elementary schools.** I will send a separate **Grade level ZOOM** link invitation from my email.

Grade 5: Wednesday, August 12th 8 - 9 am
Grade 4: Wednesday, August 12th 3 - 4 pm
Grade 3: Thursday, August 13th 8 - 9 am
Grade 2: Thursday, August 13th 3 - 4 pm
Grade 1: Thursday, August 13th 7 pm
Kindergarten: Friday, August 14th 8 - 9 am

News to share: Mr. Ogden is having hip surgery on Friday, August 14th. He has been putting this off for a long time. He had both hips replaced a number of years ago so he is actually having his replacement replaced. We wish him a speedy recovery. If any student would like to make Mr. Ogden a card, feel free to mail or drop it off at Doyon and I will be sure to deliver it to him.

I would like to welcome Mr. Craig Boucher who has been hired as a third custodian for Doyon and started last week. Craig and Shawn Lue will be taking care of the building while Ed is recovering.

In March, we interviewed and offered the job to a new nurse for Doyon and she accepted. Due to the pandemic, she stayed at her current job and planned to start at Doyon at the end of August. I met with her last Friday and she has decided to stay at her current position. With that said, the position is reposted on SchoolSpring.com and applications are coming in daily. The IPS nurses and I are working closely to prepare the Nurse's office space, order supplies, and prepare the student health records for the upcoming year. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please have them apply on SchoolSpring.com.

I truly understand how challenging these times are. I am honored to work with such a dedicated staff. We are fortunate to have such caring and supportive families. I know together we can get through this. Thank you in advance. Feel free to reach out to me by email and/or phone at any time. The office staff, custodial staff, and I are working in the building throughout the summer.

Take care and be safe.

Sheila

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