



WINTHROP SCHOOL

FAMILY UPDATE #4 2020-2021

OCTOBER 26-OCTOBER 30

Virtual Parent Coffee with the Superintendent/Principal:

Superintendent Mary Beth Banios and I held our first Virtual Parent Coffee on Friday morning. It was a great opportunity to connect with parents, to solicit feedback and answer questions. We will hold an evening session on Monday, November 16th 7-8pm. Please join us if you can.

Parenting with Less Stress and More Success:

Parent Workshops with Robert Evans, Ed.D.

Tuesday, November 10 10:00-11:30am

Thursday, November 12 7:00pm-8:00pm

[Zoom Link](#) for both events.

There is no harder job than being a parent. Nothing else touches so much of a person so deeply—or unpredictably—and there is no training for it. This was true pre-COVID, as the pace of life accelerated, media influences intensified, and the future grew less predictable. So it's no wonder parents now find it harder to be confident, how to reduce their children's stress—and their own. Dr. Evans will outline these dilemmas and offer concrete suggestions for successful coping.

Rob Evans is a psychologist, a former high school and pre-school teacher, and a former child and family therapist. He has worked with schools and parents throughout the country, including Hamilton-Wenham. His presentations are known for their lively wit and plain talk. He is the author of many articles and three books, including *Family Matters: How Schools Can Cope with The Crisis in Childrearing*.

Dreambox and Lexia are important components of **every** student's home learning days. Please ensure that your child is spending the recommended time and working independently while on these adaptive platforms. Teachers are monitoring student progress on mastery of grade level concepts, as well as helping to identify areas where students may need reteaching or intervention.

School Lunches: Just a reminder that School Lunches are free through the end of the school year. Here is a link to the district's [Food Services](#) page for more information, including the [elementary lunch menu](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, October 30

FOW Outdoor Halloween

Happening 5-8pm

Tickets can be purchased on the [FOW website](#).

Monday, November 2

Friends of Winthrop Zoom Meeting
7pm

Tuesday, November 3

No School - Teacher Workshop Day
(Change from original calendar)

Tuesday, November 10

Rob Evans Parent Workshop -
10:00am-11:30am
[Zoom Link](#)

Wednesday, November 11

No School - Holiday

Thursday, November 12

Rob Evans Parent Workshop -
7:00pm-8:00pm
[Zoom Link](#)

Thursday, November 12

Due Date: *Acord Food Pantry*
Winthrop Donations
(125 boxes of crackers)

Monday, November 16

Principal/Superintendent Chat 7pm
[Zoom Link to come](#)

Wednesday, November 25

Early Release - Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, Nov 26/Friday, Nov 27

No School - Thanksgiving Break

Overdue Library Books: Please look around your home to see if there are any overdue library books from last school year and have your child bring them on in school days. Remote students can drop books off at Winthrop during school hours.

Acord Food Pantry Thanksgiving Food Drive: Winthrop School has been challenged with collecting 125 boxes of crackers (Ritz, Triscuit) for the Acord Food Pantry's Thanksgiving food drive. Students can bring their donations to school. Remote APL families can drop their donations off at Winthrop during school hours. We will be accepting donations until Thursday, November 12th.

Message from Nurse Jess Baker: Please remember that we are asking families to log in to our **parent portal** to complete our symptom screening each morning that your child is coming to school for in-person learning (please make it part of the morning routine)! You should have received log-in information from **noreply@studentehr.com** for how to access the portal. If you haven't seen it, check your junk folder. If you have any technical issues, please email me at j.baker@hwschools.net.

The Department of Public Health advises parents of the following info: In the event that your child has symptoms suspicious of COVID-19 and needs to be tested please be advised that the Department of Public Health recommends a PCR (molecular) test as opposed to an antigen test. The PCR test is currently considered the "gold standard".

Free COVID-19 PCR Testing Sites in the area:

Square One Mall: 363-365 Essex St., Saugus (781)233-5504
Mon-Sat 2-7pm Drive Through

Salem Board of Health Locations:
(978)741-1800 - Walk Up/Drive Through

Salem High School: 77 Wilson Street
M/W/F 2-6pm T/Th/S 10am-2pm

Salem-Old Town Hall: 32 Derby Square
M/W/F 9am-2pm T/Th/S 3-7pm

Mandatory Flu Vaccinations: 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. Together we can stay healthy!!

Afterschool Coding Club:

What is Coding Club? The Coding Club is a 45-minute weekly zoom meeting, in which high school mentors are able to connect with

Tuesday, December 1
*Cohort A & APL Students -
School Picture Day*

Thursday, December 3
*Cohort B & APL Students -
School Picture Day*

Follow Winthrop & Mrs. Shediak on Twitter
[@WinthropEagles](https://twitter.com/WinthropEagles) [@ShediakC](https://twitter.com/ShediakC)

middle and elementary students as they learn coding and skills related to coding. **Why Participate in Coding Club?** Coding club is a great opportunity for students of all ages to form a community with peers and learn a new skill. Coding is becoming an increasingly important skill as technology advances and the future job market looks for coding literacy. Furthermore, coding can be a fun activity for children of all ages in which they improve their creativity, communication, and problem-solving skills. Given the current pandemic, we strive to form a virtual group in which children (both hybrid and remote) can have fun while learning outside of the classroom! **Times: Monday and Thursdays 3:30-4:15**
Complete this [Coding Club Form](#) if interested.

Friends of Winthrop: Please see the [Friends of Winthrop Newsletter](#) for information about signing up for the Winthrop Family Directory, purchasing tickets for this year's outdoor Halloween Happening, and other important Friends news!

Safe Arrival Line/Dismissal Changes

In person days, please call the safe arrival line 978-468-5344 to report your child absent or tardy. Please call the front office @ 978-468-5340 for dismissal changes.