Greetings Doty Families!

There is a big yellow thing in the sky and it is bright and warm! It’s so nice to be outside again and not have my face freeze! Things around here are still pretty wet so we will be continuing to send home muddy, wet muffins. Please continue to send in boots. Extra socks wouldn’t hurt either, I will never understand how kids can manage to find, and step in, the wettest spots when changing from boots to shoes. It’s a rare talent for sure!

Here at Doty, we have already begun thinking about and planning for next year. I am hopeful that we will be out of pods and we will be able to have some of the whole school time that makes Doty such a strong community. We are taking time to look back on this year and find the good things that have come out of it. We have learned a lot, not all of it about “mitigation strategies.” All of us, students, families, school staff have done some new learning this year and we don’t want to lose it.

Also for next year, two of our teachers will be switching roles. Julie McKinstry will be teaching kindergarten and Ben Larrow will be providing intervention services. I am super excited for this. One of the perks of my job is that I get to support not just student learning, but adult learning too. With this switch, I get to support teacher growth and keep two gifted educators here at Doty. It’s a win-win!

Finally, it was wonderful news from the governor about opening up the vaccine schedule to all adults. If you are struggling with the system, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Nurse Jess. Don’t be surprised if you get a big case of the feels with your first shot. I (and others I’ve talked to) have been super emotional leading up to our first shots. The idea of being able to see and hug friends and family members after so long is overwhelming in the very best way.

Now to await guidance on when we can have a big old Doty pot luck!

As always, thank you for sharing your students with us,

Gillian
Wednesday, Mar. 24 - 12:30pm, Early Release

Wednesday, Mar. 31 - 6:00-9:00 pm, WCUUSD School Board Meeting, Remote

Friday, April 2 - Parent/Teacher Conferences, No School

Parent/Teacher Conference Sign Ups
You can use this link to sign up for your Parent/Teacher Conference on Friday, April 2. These will be held via Zoom.

Early Release Wednesdays for Elementary School
Through the end of the year, all elementary schools in WCUUSD will release at 12:30 on the following days:

Wednesday, February 17
Wednesday, March 24
Wednesday, April 7
Wednesday, May 19
Spring is here and if you’re like me, that means allergies are lurking just around the corner.

- Please see the CDC document included in the Digest which compares symptoms of various illnesses with symptoms of covid.

- Please also note that four symptoms of allergies (cough, sore throat, fatigue, runny nose) are included as symptoms of covid.

I believe many people had already reached out to their family’s healthcare providers for notes regarding pre-existing allergies earlier this school year, but please have documentation if your child tends to have seasonal allergies.

- A note gives me a heads up that kiddos may have runny noses not related to other sickness.

- If your child takes allergy medicine this is also helpful to know. Being consistent with those medications will help to keep symptoms at bay.

**While a note gives us insight into a child’s symptoms, it does not automatically mean that they will not be sent home.** If a child has an excessively runny nose due to allergies, has a persistent cough, is going through multiple masks, or is noticeably having a hard time concentrating/participating in school.

Mask Reminders:
- Please wash masks in between uses

- Please provide 2-4 masks per day for your child. Masks tend to get soiled or wet after recess and PE or if they have allergies.

- Masks should be made of 2 layers and cover nose and mouth securely

Vaccines:
Last week the Governor announced that all Vermonters 16+ would be eligible for vaccination by April 19th. The timeline appears below and you can access information on how to register for your vaccine by going to the site listed below. If anyone needs help signing up for their vaccination, I am happy to assist with that. Just let me know.

[Remaining Vaccine Eligibility Timeline](https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine)
You also may have noticed that Basecamp changed the gathering question, below is the current info from the state’s FAQ page: https://apps.health.vermont.gov/COVID/faq/#4761

What are the current restrictions on gatherings?

Last Updated: Mar 18

Vermont has restrictions on social gatherings based on whether you are fully vaccinated or not. You are fully vaccinated 14 days after your final shot. Since children cannot get vaccinated at this time, a household with children is not considered a fully vaccinated household.

If you are fully vaccinated:

- **You may gather with other fully vaccinated people or households.** You don’t need to wear a mask or stay 6 feet apart when you gather.

- **You may gather with up to two unvaccinated people or households at a time.** The gathering can also include other vaccinated people or households. If you gather with people from more than one unvaccinated household, or with someone who is at higher risk of severe COVID-19 or lives with someone at higher risk, everyone should wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart.

If you are not fully vaccinated:

- **You may gather with fully vaccinated people or households.** You don’t need to wear a mask or stay 6 feet apart, unless someone is at higher risk of severe COVID-19 or lives with someone at higher risk.

- **You may gather with one other unvaccinated person or household at a time.** Fully vaccinated people or households can also be at the gathering. Everyone should wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart.

- **You can do outdoor recreation and fitness activities with anyone.** This includes biking, hiking, walking, running, hunting and fishing, skiing, snowboarding, skating, snow machining and other no-contact outdoor activities. However, you must stay at least 6 feet away from people you don’t live with and wear a mask at all times. Do not gather at trailheads, access areas or other outdoor facilities before or after the activity.

- **If you live alone,** you may gather with people who live in one other household.

- **You can take in and shelter** people from another household who are living in a dangerous, unhealthy or otherwise unsafe situation.

I’m so glad we have a week of nice weather coming to us!

Stay safe. - Jess
### Symptoms of COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptoms of COVID-19</th>
<th>Strep Throat</th>
<th>Common Cold</th>
<th>Flu</th>
<th>Asthma</th>
<th>Seasonal Allergies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEVER</td>
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<td>SORE THROAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHORTNESS OF BREATH</td>
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<tr>
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<td>BODY/MUSCLE ACHES</td>
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✔ Symptom of Illness

[cdc.gov/coronavirus]