

**APRIL 2021**

# **ACADEMY OF EARLY LEARNING**

## **GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

### **Principal News**

Welcome back to all of our families,

Last week was great for all of us at AEL. It was very exciting to have the children back and they seemed to be very happy as well. I want to thank everyone for making the start of in person learning such a success. I appreciate your patience as you waited in line for drop off and pick up. The line is long but the process will improve as we continue. As always, we were most concerned about the safety of students and staff while making sure our little ones have a productive day.

We have spring break next week, April 19-23. Hopefully the weather will be warm and sunny and everyone can go outside. Enjoy your kiddos in outside activities. We all know that everyone has been cooped up inside for much too long so now being able to get outdoors and off screens would be awesome.

As always, thanks for your support and everyone stay safe.

Nancy Putnam  
Principal



### **From the Nurse**

Please keep your eye out for a message via school messenger regarding pooled testing for AEL students. The email will provide a clickable link for guardians to complete in order to enroll their child in our pooled testing program.

### **Dates to Remember**

April 5—First day of In-Person Learning! Half Day.

April 6—Half Day.

April 19-23—No School—Spring Break

May 28—District Half Day, No Pre-k

May 31st—No school, Memorial Day



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## Transitioning to In-Person Learning

April comes from the Latin verb *aperire* which means, “to open”, so how appropriate that we are opening up schools again for in person learning on April 5th! This is bound to bring a mix of emotions ranging from excitement and relief to anxiety and dread. Thinking about the new schedules, new routines, and any Covid concerns you and your child may have can become overwhelming. To help with this transition, you may want to ask your child the following questions before returning to school:

- What sort of thoughts are you having about going (back) to school?
- 
- What would help you feel safe in school?
- 
- What are you looking forward to?
- 
- What might be hard for you?
- 
- What do you think will be fun?
- 

Once they have returned, here are some follow up questions to ask:

- What was good about your day?
- 
- What was hard about your day?
- 
- What was fun today?
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- How are you feeling about being back at school now?

(Questions are from, “Emotional Support For Children Returning To School” by Melissa Rollock June 10, 2020)

There are several helpful articles with suggestions on how to offer emotional support to children during this transition back to school. These include:

<https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/emotional-support-for-children-returning-to-school/>

[https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/supporting-your-childs-mental-health-during-covid-19-school-return?fbclid=IwAR3hKqQMlcAjFqCF3hk\\_PC4PIKsmDtGGu8kpWrKoU\\_FfnyJpjwgaTUjDJ](https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/supporting-your-childs-mental-health-during-covid-19-school-return?fbclid=IwAR3hKqQMlcAjFqCF3hk_PC4PIKsmDtGGu8kpWrKoU_FfnyJpjwgaTUjDJ)

<https://www.childrens.com/health-wellness/back-to-school-anxiety-during-covid-19>

Please remember we are here to help and don't forget to reach out to us if your child needs additional support!

Nancy Garlock, LICSW

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## Tuition/Wrap Payments

As a reminder, tuition payments are due the first of the month for the month to come. As a reminder, we now accept online tuition payments **online** via the Town of Greenfield, MA website! We also have a drop box located outside the main office entry. Please be sure to seal payments in envelopes and label them if you choose to use the drop box.

