



Upcoming events:

- First two weeks of Feb. 1st-11th
 - [Parent/Teacher Conferences](#)
- **President's Day Break**
 - [NO School – Feb. 15th – 19th](#)

McPolin Elementary School Weekly Office Updates Weds., Feb. 3, 2021

Dear parents and caregivers,

Unbelievable that we have welcomed the month of February and continue our streak of “perfect”, uninterrupted, consecutive months of in-person learning. We cannot deny or forget to celebrate our collective efforts and sacrifices to keep our schools open and most importantly continue offering all students the choice of in-person learning.

I will reinforce how we got here so our streak of consecutive “perfect” days continues for the duration of our 2020-21 school year. At school, we continue to honor all of the successful mitigation strategies and structures including wearing masks, considering distancing in all our activities and more. The other important effort that has supported our success is all of you at home. If for any reason you have concerns about an activity that you or your student(s) attended or if any family member is not feeling well or decided to be tested, **CALL THE SCHOOL AND EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO STAY HOME UNTIL YOU ARE CERTAIN OF ANY COVID EXPOSURE, ILLNESS, INCLUDING TEST RESULTS.** We have undeniable evidence that our schools are safe for in-person learning. The only COVID exposures impacting school are coming from outside of the school environment, thus our suggestion that “if you have a doubt – stay out!” As much as an inconvenience having to manage everyone’s schedules for a day or two creates for one family, once a COVID exposure enters the school, the impact grows leaps and bounds and spreads to other families. Though this journey and effort is long and hard, we are counting on one another – “One for ALL and ALL for One.”

Yes, we have made it to the month of February which means discussions of Valentine’s Day is not far behind. We have already discussed how we can celebrate Valentine’s Day while staying safe. Here are general guidelines that our staff will be considering as grade level plans are completed:

- Safety continues to be the priority which excludes any sort of parent or staff gatherings.
- Classes that do participate in valentine distribution should think carefully about how to minimize potential virus exposures by:
 - Adjusting craft activities such as creating valentine boxes over multiple days to avoid sharing materials/supplies
 - Adjusting valentine distribution over multiple days (1 or 2 students per day). It is not a good idea to have multiple students at a time up and moving around distributing valentines
- Complete valentine distribution by Feb. 11 so that boxes and valentines can sit for a few days before students take them home. This will help ensure contact surface contaminants will no longer be active.
- Remind students/families that all valentine treats should be store bought and individually packaged. It is important that teachers are aware of student allergies and make sure that no food is brought in that may cause an allergic reaction for a student.

This year continues to offer challenges, tests, and opportunities we would never had considered prior to COVID. Our message continues to be one of unity and commitment. We Got This! Regardless of what tomorrow brings, as we continue to support one another, keep safety of our students and each other first, and recognize how fortunate we are to have in-person learning that supports our entire community, we all win. Like never before, in the best interest of all students/families, we must put community first while putting certain of our own wants on hold. This is our opportunity to build a stronger McPolin community that will be the foundation of success for years to come.

Sincerely,
Bob Edmiston