

General Quarters

Salem Central School

10/11/2019

Edition 2, Volume 2

Building Project

It was my hope to have a detailed plan to print for this newsletter for you to see. However, the detailed work isn't ready at this point, which is actually a good thing. The better informed we can be on the impact the project is going to have on us, the better we can minimize the amount of disruption that we need to have.

We are going through another round of asbestos testing to make sure we have a comprehensive understanding of where the asbestos is and how it will impact the project. While there is a lot of the material in the schools, simply because of the age of the building, updated testing is showing that it isn't as extensive as we once thought. This will be very helpful in costs, efficiency of work, and impact on operations.

However, the amount of removal is still extensive, which is why we need to do everything we can to get the project moving. This, along with some safety considerations, is why we are going to empty the primary building during the school year. While we just let you know that the move from the primary is going to happen, work has been happening for a while now to address the following issues:

- Classroom relocation
- Material, supply, and equipment storage
- Transfer of technology
- Adjustments for new learning environments for faculty, staff, and students.
- Adjustments to daily logistics
- Phasing of the construction work
- Communications about progress and plans

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New Computers are Here!

In breaking news, the new teacher computers have just been delivered. We'll start distribution soon. Please be sure to have everything off your C: drive and Desktop saved to your M: drive or external device so you don't lose any data!

We have tentative plans for the majority of the items on this list. I hope to have more information on the phasing of the construction work next week that will give us enough information to put together a more concrete timeline on how to move forward. However, there are a couple of things we know already.

This is not going to be an in mass move. We will be moving classrooms and offices gradually, over time. We have actually already started moving some folks. We do hope to do a great deal of moving during Christmas break and plan on having the move completed before March. We have a good grasp on the relocation of people and some basic plans for storage of materials, etc. However, we'll need to have some more conversations with the impacted teachers on what might work best. We've had some of these conversations already. More will come soon.

I can understand your concerns about moving. This is going to be inconvenient; but it is not going to be impossible. We'll get everyone back together soon to talk about the moving so everyone has the same understanding. As always, please let me know if you have any question.

Asbestos

In case you now have a new found interest in asbestos, I found a couple of videos that might be helpful for you and even our students. The first video is a very informative. It gives you the full history of asbestos from ancient times until now along with why asbestos is bad for us. However, if you're only interested in the more immediate impact of asbestos today that starts sharply at the 3:45 mark.

<https://youtu.be/KuHL7hiFTnc>

This second video will give you an idea of the work that gets done with asbestos abatement. The video is in someone's home, so the work we'll do here will be more extensive.

<https://youtu.be/eRDg05xiM4A>

I am from Here

On the first day of school, I shared with you our need to start a conversation about race, equity, and our influence on those important issues. This month, we start this important conversation both within the school and with the larger community.

On Monday, October 21, 2019 we will welcome Martha Allen, former Vermont NEA President, to present the documentary *I am from Here*, and a discussion about the issues of race and equity. The hour's work will be in two-parts: first a half-hour video about issues of race and equity in Vermont. The second part is a beginning dialogue about those issues here at Salem Washington Academy. This will be followed by a community showing of the documentary and a conversation starting at 6:00pm.

You are absolutely welcome to take part of the community session. In fact, I would encourage your participation as a strong showing from school faculty would be a strong message to the community about the importance of this conversation. If you're interested in more information, please follow this link: <http://www.racialequityvtnea.org/watch-now-video/>.

Websites

As you work on updating your teacher webpage, please be sure to back up anything that you might have posted or "stored" onto the page. We are planning on changing website vendors in the new update. So, any information left on the old webpage may be lost. We are going to try to see if all the information will move but better to be safe than sorry.

Community Caller List

Just a friendly reminder that we need to know what you're doing in your classrooms, clubs, and extra-curricular activities. We use this information in our social media to let our community know what's going on at school. This year, we've created a community list to let interested community members received a "robo-call" for concerts and other events. But we can't let them know if we don't know too! Please remember to let your principal know of scheduled events.

PLC Day – November 1st

Last minute preparations are underway for the PLC professional development day on November 1st.. Please remember the following:

- If you need transportation, please let me know as soon as possible so we can make arrangements.
- Lunch will be on your own, though I believe one site has made lunch arrangements due to the location of the group.
- When your work for the day is completed, your day is complete with the expectation that your work will last the regular, or marginally shortened (or lengthened), contractual day.

Please make sure that you've registered via the link provided by BOCES, if you haven't already. Again, this is a great beginning to a progressive idea. Thank you for your work in making this day happen!