

China Primary School

Regional School Unit No. 18 - www.rsu18.org

Belgrade – China - Oakland - Rome – Sidney

Engaging Learners ~ Strengthening Communities ~ Creating Global Leaders

Carl W. Gartley
Superintendent of Schools

Keith Morin
Chief Academic Officer

Darlene Pietz
Principal

November 10, 2020

Veterans' Day Holiday - No School - Wednesday, Nov 11
Thanksgiving Holiday Break - No School - Wed. Nov 25 - Fri. Nov 27

Teacher In-Service - Early Release - Tuesday, Dec 1
All Students Dismissed at 12:00 Noon

Free & Reduced Price Lunch Survey

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you know, due to provisions in the CARES Act, RSU 18 is able to offer free breakfast and free lunch to all students this year. We are so pleased to be able to offer this to all families in this difficult time.

In a normal year, the free and reduced lunch application is what determines a students' eligibility for free lunch. Even though we sent these applications out to everyone this year, understandably many people did not return these forms because free lunch was already set for the year. However, these forms also have a direct impact on the amount of state and federal funding we receive. If we cannot collect enough Economic Status Data for our district it will mean less money for our schools. This will result in a reduction of services for our students and/or an increase in taxes. I am sending out this survey to collect the data we need as we work with the state and federal government to determine our funding levels for next year.

I urge anyone who did not return your free and reduced lunch form, regardless of income, to fill out this survey as soon as you can. It should take only a couple of minutes to fill out. If you are not sure if you returned your form, go ahead and fill this out.

[Click here to fill out the survey.](#) **THANK YOU!**

Sincerely,
Carl Gartley, Superintendent of Schools

Parent / Teacher Conferences at CPS

Trimester 1 Parent / Teacher Conferences are taking place *virtually* from now through Friday, Nov 13. ***Our common night for conferences is Tuesday, Nov 10, from 3:00-7:00pm.*** We are looking forward to seeing all of you at parent / teacher conferences.

Picture Retake Day - Next Wednesday, Nov 18

School Picture Retake Day is Wednesday, Nov 18, at CPS. All students who were absent on our original picture day (Oct 7) and students who enrolled after that date will be photographed. If you would like a new picture order form sent home, please contact our office at 445-1550. If you don't love your child's portraits, simply return your original portrait package on Picture Retake Day and we will retake your child's portrait.

News from the Nurse

Maine Law, Title 20-A MRSA 2902, Vision & Hearing Screenings for Pre-K, K, 1, 3, 5th and 7th grades will begin immediately. Students who currently wear glasses will be tested with the glasses on. Any student considered to fail the screening will be referred to their parents and provided with a referral form to bring to their health provider or specialist. A student whose parent objects in writing to screening shall not be screened unless a sight or hearing defect is reasonably apparent.

Also, height and weight measurements are recommended for grades Pre-K, K, 1, 3, 5th, and 7th, as this is the most practical method for assessing children's growth, and assist with calculating Body Mass Index (BMI). A student whose parent objects in writing shall be excused from the height /weight portion of screening. Thank you, B. Newcombe RN, CMS, A. Saucier RN/ CPS.

Winter Weather Has Arrived - (*yes, it's warm today, but the cold weather will return*)

With the arrival of winter weather and colder temperatures, it seems like a good time to remind parents and students about a few issues that may arise:

- **No School Announcements:** If winter weather causes cancellation of our school day, announcements will be made over local radio and television stations and on our website www.rsul8.org. You may also choose to "opt in" to receive text message alerts on your mobile device by texting YES to 68453 from your mobile device.
- **Delayed Start:** If school should be delayed by 1 hour we will still serve breakfast at school. If it is a 2 hour delay, we will not serve breakfast. But if any students need to be fed, teachers can contact the kitchen and they will find something for those children.
- **Unexpected Early Dismissals:** If it becomes necessary to close school early on any day, announcements will be made over local radio and television stations and on our website www.rsul8.org and an automated call will go out to all families. Please make prior arrangements with your child(ren) about procedures for house keys, sitters, and similar concerns. It is much less stressful for your child and our staff if you have:
 - 1. Talked with your child beforehand and he/she knows what to expect, and
 - 2. informed us ahead of time about your unexpected early release instructions.

On days such as these, our phone lines are often jammed with many incoming calls, and it may be difficult getting a message through to us. Please help us be prepared well ahead of time - make sure your child knows what will happen, and that we have your instructions on file and ready to go. Call our office @ 445-1550 with any questions.

- **Outdoor Recess:** Recess is a time for children to play and socialize outside in good weather. Parents are asked **not** to send notes requesting that their child stay inside unless there are very unusual circumstances or a doctor's note. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for outside play - warm coats, hats/hoods, mittens, ski pants, and boots are necessary for your child to enjoy their time on the playground. *Students without ski pants and boots must remain on the paved portion of the playground when the field is wet and/or snow-covered.* On days of extreme cold (temps below 10 degrees, factoring in the windchill) or rainy days, students remain in their classrooms during recess.

- for outside play - warm coats, hats/hoods, mittens, ski pants, and boots are necessary for your child to enjoy their time on the playground. *Students without ski pants and boots must remain on the paved portion of the playground when the field is wet and/or snow-covered.* On days of extreme cold (temps below 10 degrees, factoring in the windchill) or rainy days, students remain in their classrooms during recess.
- **Health Concerns:** You can help your family stay healthy this winter by encouraging your child(ren) to wash their hands before eating, after using the bathroom, and after sneezing or blowing their nose. ***Continue to conduct your daily COVID-19 screening before sending your child to school - see page 9 for detailed procedure.*** Your child should not attend school if he/she exhibits one or more of the following symptoms: diarrhea, fever, flu, bacterial or viral infections (including conjunctivitis, impetigo, and strep throat), rash, or vomiting. Children with these symptoms cannot comfortably participate in program activities, and they unnecessarily expose others to their illnesses. If you have any questions whether your child(ren) should attend school, please give our school nurse a call. By using these few guidelines, we can all stay a little healthier.
- **Student Absences:** If your child is absent from school, please call the school office by 9:00 AM on that day to explain the reason for the absence, or send in a written excuse note upon his/her return to school. If we do not hear from you by 9:30 AM, you will receive an automated call reminding you to contact the school office with the reason for your child's absence.

Student Transportation News:

RSU 18 bus drivers were mandated from the beginning of the school year to assign seats for the purpose of dealing with the COVID-19 safety issues. Our drivers have done a great job for the most part around this, but we need your help in maintaining this procedure. We will honor parent/guardian requests for changes in bus transportation dealing with daycare or essential needs, but requests for bus changes in order for students to attend social organizations or to socially go to someone's home after school will not be approved.

The COVID-19 virus is on an uptick and so is the request for students to take a different bus in order to attend social events or to go to a friend's home. In order for the drivers to be able to maintain seating charts that meet social distancing protocols, it's vital to continue with this process.

Thank all of you for your continued support in these trying times, and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact RSU 18 Transportation Director Lennie Goff at 207-465-2102

RSU 18 District - Wide News

Want to keep up with district news? Follow us at <https://rsu18messenger.com/>

Upcoming Events:

- Trimester 1 Parent/Teacher Conferences Nov 2 - Nov 13, *Common Night Tuesday, Nov 10 - 3:00pm - 7:00pm*
- ***Veterans' Day Holiday Wednesday, Nov 11 - NO SCHOOL***
- Picture Retake Day w/Lifetouch Wednesday, Nov 18
- School Board Meeting Wednesday, Nov 18, 7:00pm
- Trimester 1 Ends Tuesday, Nov 24 - Report Cards will be sent home Friday, Dec 4
- ***Thanksgiving Holiday Break Wednesday, Nov 25 - Friday, Nov 27 - NO SCHOOL***
- Trimester 2 Begins Monday, Nov 30
- ***Early Release for Teacher In-Service Workshop Tuesday, Dec 1, Students Dismissed at 12:00 Noon***

- School Board Meeting Wednesday, Dec 3, 7:00pm
- China Schools PTO Meeting Thursday, Dec 4, 6:00pm via Facebook Live

China PTO News

Want to join the PTO: We would love to have you! We meet on the first Thursday of every month at 6:00pm via Facebook Live. Email us at chinaschoolsPTO@gmail.com to get your name on our list.

Shop with us at our Virtual Craft Show now through 12/1/2020! Simply shop on a crafter or vendor's page and follow the directions on that page to purchase your chosen items. Follow this link to shop with us: <https://chinamainecraftsho.wixsite.com/chinamainecraftshow>

The Kids Holiday Shop is back again this year, and it's also gone virtual! Shop now through 12/1/2020. All purchases raise money for the China Schools PTO, and all gifts will arrive before our holiday break. Shop the kids holiday shop here: <https://wonderlandgiftshoppes.store/>

*At checkout, enter either China Primary School or China Middle School and the school address to ensure prompt delivery in December.

Don't forget about the Basket Raffle! Purchase raffle tickets by emailing BasketsPTO@gmail.com. Tickets will be on sale until December 1, 2020, and will be drawn on that day.

PTO Theme Baskets

PreK & K - Everything Christmas Wish List
Grade 1 - Family Fun Night
Grade 2 - Everything Sports Basket
Grade 3 - Dunkin Donuts

Grade 4 - Arts & Crafts Basket
Grades 5 & 6 - Food & Restaurant Gift Cards
Grades 7 & 8 - Gift Cards for the Shopaholic

Thank you for supporting the China Schools!

**NOW THROUGH
DECEMBER 1ST!**

**CHINA MAINE
(VIRTUAL)
CRAFT SHOW**

GO TO
[HTTPS://CHINAMAINECRAFTSHO.WIXSITE.COM/CHINAMAINECRAFTSHOW](https://chinamainecraftsho.wixsite.com/chinamainecraftshow)
CLICK ON THE MENU BAR AND BROWSE OUR CRAFTERS AND VENDORS.
TO ORDER FROM CRAFTER/VENDOR: USE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION AT
THE TOP OF THEIR PAGE.

contact ChinaMaineCraftShow@gmail.com with any questions



Dear Parents,

The holidays are near and our school will be running a special Virtual Holiday Shop at www.wonderlandgiftshoppes.store this year!

Wonderland Gift Shoppes' new online store is a kid-friendly shopping website designed to be a fun and interactive holiday shop experience. Parents, try not to peek when your student wants to purchase a gift for you. **Plus, 20% of every purchase is donated back to support our school!**

Students will have the opportunity to choose quality, affordable gifts for family and friends while experiencing the gift of giving during the holidays. Gift prices are as low as \$0.50, with 70% of gifts priced under \$6, and all gifts are under \$20.

Special cumulative prizes for virtual shoppers:

- All orders receive a mini noise putty
- + \$25 orders receive a glow string toy
- + \$50 orders receive zipper earbuds
- + \$100 orders receive a Secret Life of Pets plush toy

Visit www.wonderlandgiftshoppes.store and be sure to fill in all school and student information when you are checking out! See you in Wonderland!

.....



WHEN YOU SHOP WITH AMAZON

You can now select CHINA
SCHOOLS PTO as an AMAZON
SMILE Charity.

How to generate AmazonSmile donations

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible smile.amazon.com purchases. Tens of millions of products are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages at smile.amazon.com or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app. Recurring Subscribe & Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible to generate donations.

Community News

Cub Scout Pack 479 News: Cub Scout Pack 479 is still selling masks through the China Town Office as a fundraiser. Masks are \$2 each, or \$8 for a 5-pack of masks. We also are happy to deliver in town, if you email to make arrangements. Please contact scouts479@gmail.com for more information or to order.



**THE NEXT
GENERATION OF
BOX TOPS IS HERE.**

NO MORE CLIPPING - SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

Box Tops is changing to fit today's families. The new and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.

GET THE BOX TOPS APP NOW



MORE CONVENIENT
Redeem anywhere, anytime within 14 days of purchase

EASY TO USE
No more clipping or sending Box Tops to school

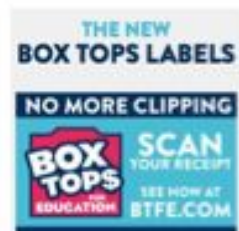
REAL TIME
Your school's earnings are automatically updated online

EXTRA CASH
Access special bonus offers on top of your Box Tops earnings



Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store. You can still clip and send them to school.

Every valid Box Tops clip is worth 10¢ for your school. Make sure each one has a clearly visible product acronym and expiration date.



Eventually the Box Tops program will become digital-only. Participating brands are starting to change their packaging from a traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Top label.

If you see this label, use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt. Box Tops are still worth 10¢ each for your school. The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online.

EARN \$ FOR YOUR SCHOOL NOW

Mills Administration Updates COVID-19 School Health Advisory System - November 9, 2020

[\(Click on link here\)](#)

COVID-19

Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

Within the past 24 hours
have you had a fever
(100.4 and above*) or
used any fever reducing
medicine?

YES =



Do you feel sick with any
of the most common
symptoms of Covid, had
vomiting/diarrhea, or felt
unwell?
(see symptom list to the right)

YES =



Have you been a close
contact of a person with
Covid in the past 14 days?

YES =



Have you traveled
outside of the state in
the past 14 days?

YES =



Stay home with any YES response to the questions above OR with two or more of the "less common" symptoms listed to the right.

Attend school when all answers are NO and your child is feeling well with no other symptoms of illness. Call or see your school nurse or other designated person at school if you have questions.

Updated 10.9.20



Maine
Department of
Education

Most Common Symptoms of Covid 19:

Cough
Shortness of
breath
or difficulty
breathing
Fever (100.4°F/
38 °C or greater)*
Chills
Sore throat
New loss of taste
or smell

Less Common Symptoms:

Muscle pain
Nausea or
Vomiting
Diarrhea
Fatigue
Headache
Congestion/runny
nose

*Fever is 100.4°F/
38°C regardless of
measurement
location (oral,
temporal).