

# THE BECKWITH CHRONICLE

D.L. BECKWITH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Website: [www.drregional.org](http://www.drregional.org)

January 2021



## **Dates to Remember**

- 1/26 School Committee Meeting
- 2/9 School Committee Meeting
- 2/11 Term 2 Report Cards issued
- 2/15-2/19 Winter Recess
- 2/23 School Committee Meeting
- 3/9 - Cohort A Spring Pictures
- 3/9 School Committee Meeting
- 3/10 - Remote Spring Pictures
- 3/11 - Cohort B Spring Pictures
- 3/17 Early Release at 11:30 a.m.
- 3/23 School Committee Meeting

## **From the Health Office**

The following state-mandated vaccines need to be received PRIOR to your child ENTERING 7th grade for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year: Tdap booster (Tetanus vaccine with pertussis/ whooping cough), 2nd Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine, and Meningitis vaccine, an updated physical exam done within the year prior to entering 7th grade also must be provided to the school nurse. Your child may not start 7th grade without proper documentation of the above from your child's pediatrician. If the proper documents are not received prior to your child starting 7th grade, your child will be subject to exclusion from school per the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Regulations. Paperwork can be emailed to Mrs. Mondor at [cmondor@drregional.org](mailto:cmondor@drregional.org)

## **Looking for something to read or listen to?**

Beckwith students can visit the [library website](#) and request a BMS book. Click this video for [instructions](#). Mrs. Fernandes will email the student regarding contactless

pick-up during school hours. Beckwith students also have access to ebooks and audiobooks from SAILS with their D-R login credentials. Students can visit the library website and look for the [Ebooks and Audiobooks link](#). The video just below the link shares [how to borrow digital books](#). Please contact [jfernandes@drregional.org](mailto:jfernandes@drregional.org) if you have any questions.



## **BoxTops for Education**

Please take the time to download the BoxTops app on your smartphone if you have not done so already. By scanning your receipt you may earn money for our school, and you will also find that there are many new special promotions to earn an even bigger reward for Beckwith.

If you have any questions at all, please contact Christina Mitnik at [cmitnik@drregional.org](mailto:cmitnik@drregional.org). Thank you for your support!

## **Principal's Message**

One of my favorite days of the year is Patriots Day. It's the start of vacation week, an early Red Sox game and the Boston Marathon! The day always feels like the kick off to spring... sunshine and warm weather around the corner. For me it was a family tradition to go and attend the Marathon in order to cheer on tens of thousands of strangers we will never know. We cheered for them as they worked to accomplish a goal they set for themselves, sometimes years ago, to help them push on

and show them sometimes a little spirit can go a long way. Also for us it is a little selfish as it is a truly inspiring day. Even when it became a nightmare in 2013, the next year was an even brighter occurrence and again inspiring.

Why do I mention the Marathon? The Boston Marathon is a good representation of who we are as a New England community. It can be grueling (as often our winters are), people are passionate about it (have you ever met a Boston sports fan?), it's fast (like we talk and walk), it can be unpredictable (the race only works when everyone does their job), and lastly most of the participants are running in the name of a charity (because deep down we are good people). With that all being true, the main reason I am talking about the Marathon in my principal's message is that recently I have discussed with the staff at Beckwith how I feel like we are at Heartbreak Hill with the virus. As a person who is not a runner, I reached out to one for his thoughts on this analogy. My brother-in-law has run the Marathon a few times. This is his perspective on the race and arriving at Heartbreak Hill.

*“Heartbreak Hill begins around mile 17 and goes to mile 21. What we don't realize is that Heartbreak Hill is not one hill but three hills with no rest. Running up the hills your legs are burning, your chest is getting tight, you have no energy to climb the hill, and when you finally feel like you've gotten over the last hill there's another one in front of you. At that third hill I thought to myself “I can't do it. I have to stop and walk for a short time.” Then out of the crowd came a man in a suit and started to cheer for me and said, “You can't stop now. You're almost there. You can do it.” He ran beside me and it was just what I needed to continue to push on to the top.”*

*“Right now we are at the bottom of that third hill of coronavirus. We can see the top. We can hold on a little longer. There's hope in sight (the vaccines are going to be pushed out to the public soon). Numbers will start to decrease. We have a better handle on transmission and reducing risk factors. If we can just hold on for a little longer, we will crest this wave and conquer this last hill together, not as individuals but as a team. We need to both be ready to give and receive help as we need to finish this race, this time, this pandemic. And when this race is over and we can begin to return to our normal life, we will look back at our own challenges and we will look back at that stranger in the crowd who stepped up when we needed him most. That's the day we will celebrate together.”*

Throughout the course of the next few months, we will be changing the hats we wear between being the runner and being the man in the suit. Some days will be challenging and harder than ever before, and after the hills we will have some tough miles ahead of us that eventually will lead us to Copley Square. What will get us through this is knowing the role we need to play. Either lift the people up around you or take the support when you need it most. At Beckwith Middle School, we believe it takes everyone to help a student grow. As a community we will continue to be the loudest fan, prepared runners, and run up hills alongside our students.

Remember please be safe, smart, and kind.

Ryan Shea