



Minot Forest Elementary School  
January, 2020 Newsletter

[www.warehamps.org](http://www.warehamps.org)

[jseamans@wareham.k12.ma.us](mailto:jseamans@wareham.k12.ma.us)

[www.facebook.com/MinotForestElementary School](https://www.facebook.com/MinotForestElementarySchool)

The OWL winners for the month of December for demonstrating our theme of Respect, Responsibility and/or Kindness were Mr. Marcus, Mrs. Scannell, Ms. Kuklinski, Ms. Nash, Mr. Denson, and Mrs. Ferro

---

Dear Families,

Welcome to 2020. I hope everyone had a great holiday season and enjoyable vacation time.



**Principal's Coffee:** The next Principal's Coffee will be held on January 27 at 9:00 AM in the Middle School Library. The Principal's Coffee is a time to communicate information to families and/or for parents to ask questions about topics of interest or address any concerns.

**From Mr. Hart, Band and Chorus Teacher:** Here is what is happening in the Band and Chorus world...



Save the date! Wednesday, January 22nd - Winter band and chorus concert at the Wareham High School, 6:00 PM. The following are practice dates:

Tues., Jan 7- Chorus, 7:40AM

Wed., Jan. 8- Band, 7:40AM

Thurs, Jan. 9- Chorus, 7:40AM

Tues., Jan 14- Chorus, 7:40AM

Wed., Jan. 15- Band, 7:40AM

Thurs, Jan. 16- Chorus, 7:40AM

Tues., Jan 21- Chorus, 7:40AM

Wed., Jan. 22- Band, 7:40AM

**No School:** There will be no school on Friday, January 17 due to Teacher Inservice and no school on Monday, January 20 due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

**From our Counselor:** This is the time of year when winter weather and children's illnesses can take a toll on school attendance. But it's important to get your children to school every day possible when they aren't sick. Absences, even if they are excused, can add up to academic trouble. Children who miss too much school in kindergarten are less likely to read well by third grade. By middle school, absenteeism can predict who will graduate from high school. A study of weather-related absences in Massachusetts found that each missed day affected a student's test scores and grades. This was especially true on snowy days when school stayed open but some students missed class. Schools' attendance is now closely monitored by the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE), formerly known as the Department of Education. Attendance is important so if your child is not sick, he/she should be in school. Our Counselor, Mrs. Ottaviano and Social Worker, Mrs. Atwood are available to assist families if needed.

Retention Letters: At this time of the year, letters are being sent home to families if teachers think there is a possibility of retaining a student in their current grade level. During the next few months, teachers will continue to work with students to strengthen areas of need. In March, if retention is still a consideration, a second letter will be mailed to families indicating this possibility. Final decisions are not made until late May. If you receive a letter, talk to your child's teacher to see how you can support your son/daughter at home.

Grade 3 Swimming: The next group to participate in the YMCA's swimming program will be Mrs. Martins and Ms. Drinkwater's classes. They will participate on Fridays from January 3-February 14. Students need to bring a bathing suit and towel. If they bring a comb or brush, please remind them that they cannot share it with other students. There is no swimming class on January 17 due to In-service Day.

Items to Leave at Home: Many items are becoming a distraction during instructional time. Please be sure your child leaves Pokémon or other cards or other toys at home. It also is not recommended that students have cash on them as it is too tempting to "buy" something from a friend. Families can add money to their child's lunch account online. Follow the link at <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/login/getmain?requestAction=home> or go to [www.warehamps.org](http://www.warehamps.org), click on Departments, Food Service, and the My School Bucks box.

Cell Phones: We are finding students who are taking out their cell phones on the bus. This is a violation of the handbook. Recent violations have included students taking pictures and/or videos. This is prohibited as we have students who cannot be photographed, some for safety reasons. Please talk to your child about keeping cell phones off and in their backpacks.

### *Calendar of Events*

- 1/1 Happy New Year, 2020!
- 1/2 School Opens
- 1/3 Nutrition session 2 classes begin for some grade 4 classes
- 1/3 Friday swim classes, session 3 begin for Mrs. Martins and Ms. Drinkwater's classes
- 1/6 School Building Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, MSC room 228
- 1/8 Wednesday swim classes begin today for Session 3
- 1/14 Elementary PTA meeting, 6:30 PM at the WMS Library
- 1/17 Teacher Inservice-**No School** for students
- 1/17 No swim classes today
- 1/20 **No School**-Martin Luther King Jr. Day. MLK Breakfast at the Boys and Girls club.
- 1/21 Minot Forest School Council meeting, 3:45PM in room D121.
- 1/22 Band and Chorus concert, 6:00 PM, Wareham High School Auditorium
- 1/22 First letter mailed home for students who may possibly be retained in their current grade
- 1/24 New Unified Arts classes begin today
- 1/27 Principal's Coffee, 9:00 AM in the Middle School Library
- 1/28 Ms. Money presentation for students today
- 1/31 Gateway Youth Hockey Day-Wear blue today

Sincerely,  
*Mrs. Seamans*  
Principal

*Mrs. Murphy*  
Assistant Principal

*Ms. DeFilippo*  
Dean of Discipline