

AFTERCARE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



Sharon
Community
Education

Fall is Here at Aftercare: A Season of Change and Connection

As the crisp autumn air settles in, bringing with it a tapestry of vibrant leaves painted in hues of amber, gold, and crimson, aftercare transforms into a warm haven amidst the seasonal shift. Shielded from the chill outside, our environment is alive with the spirit of fall, embracing the bounty of the harvest and the magic that comes with this time of year.

Inside, the aftercare space takes on an inviting glow, adorned with thoughtful decorations that reflect the essence of the season. Handcrafted garlands of leaves and tiny pumpkins add a touch of autumn charm, while the rich aroma of baked goods wafts through the air from our kitchen. Children gather at tables lined with colorful crafts, ready to create their own fall masterpieces—leaf prints and painted gourds adorning the space with their artistry.

Activity boards burst with excitement, announcing events like the "Harvest Festival" and "Thankful Tree," where every child shares what they are grateful for this year. In the gentle embrace of the gathering, connections deepen; laughter echoes through the corridors, forming new friendships over shared experiences.

Outside, the world invites us to explore. Nature walks amid the falling leaves become an adventurous journey where kids collect acorns, study the changing colors of the trees, and discover the magic of nature preparing for its long slumber. Games of tag in the park become an exhilarating race, as the cool air invigorates their everyday joy in play.

At aftercare, we celebrate not just the arrival of season, but the bonds we forge. With each leaf that falls, we embrace the beauty of transition and the nurturing connections that will carry us through the chilly months ahead. This fall, let's create lasting memories, nurtured by kindness, laughter, and the comfort of community. Autumn is here, and so is the spirit of togetherness we cherish so dearly.

Sincerely,

Erin McCabe
Assistant Director
emccabe@sharonschools.net



PROGRAM NEWS

If you need to change your child's dismissal routine (e.g. change from taking the bus to getting picked up, dismiss early for an appointment, etc.), you must email/send in a note to the school office, classroom teacher, Community Education. We recognize that much of our world now communicates digitally, and it's tempting and logical that you would like to email your child's teacher. However, we run into issues when either the teacher is out that day and unable to alert the school office, or if the email comes in during class instruction time. The teacher is usually unable to pass along the message to the appropriate parties. Also, the school office does not communicate to our office when your child is out from aftercare or is going home a different way. With all of that in mind, please send in a hard copy dismissal note to the classroom teacher and email school office as well as emailing the Community Ed. Office at communityedabsences@sharonschools.net before 2:00PM.

We want to thank you for your patience with the Before and Aftercare waitlist. Please know that we at Community Education are continuing to do our best to be able to accommodate as many children as we safely can into our programs with the amount of staff we have. We will contact families individually via email should space become available. If you need to make any changes to your child's schedule we will need it in writing. All changes can be sent to bmaddalena@sharonschools.net

On the Early Release days, it is important that your child has a lunch from home or it is communicated to them that they are getting a bagged lunch from school. Aftercare does not provide lunches.

REMINDERS

October 14th – Indigenous People's Day (No School)

October 16th – Early Release (ALL)

November 1st – Early Release (ALL) **NO AFTERCARE**

November 5th - Early Release (ALL)

November 11th- Veteran's Day (No School)

School Procedures/Policies

The Sharon Public Schools has a zero-tolerance policy for any behavior that interferes with the rights of others. This may include but is not limited to verbal threats, physical aggression, and any actions that endanger the safety of other students or adults. Such actions will result in a student being subject to suspension. The Assistant Director may issue an emergency suspension when the student's actions and/or threats pose a potential danger to persons or property, and will immediately notify the Superintendent. The Police Department may be notified. Suspension is defined as separating the student both from other students and from regular school activities. The suspension may be implemented in school or out of school. When a student's action warrants a suspension, written notification will be sent to the parents.

GENERAL RULES

1. Sexual harassment is prohibited by both federal and state statutes and will not be tolerated in the Sharon Public Schools.
2. Be courteous and kind to others. **VERBAL DISRESPECT IS NOT TOLERATED.**
3. Be considerate of the ideas and feelings of others.
4. Respect the rights and property of others.
5. Follow the directions of adults in authority.
6. Dangerous or illegal materials, or weapons are not allowed in school.
7. Appropriate school attire is expected at all times.
8. Clothing displaying offensive pictures, words, or slogans (i.e., promoting alcohol, drugs, etc.) is not allowed. Anyone wearing an inappropriate tee-shirt will be asked to turn it inside out. Clothing should also be both appropriate to the season and not too physically revealing. (For example, spaghetti straps, very short shorts or exposed midriffs are not allowed.)
9. Chewing gum and candy are not allowed.
10. Pushing, shoving, rough play, and fighting is unacceptable at any time.
11. Use of obscene, abusive, or profane language or gestures is unacceptable.
12. Take care of all materials, property, and equipment throughout the school.
13. Refrain from shouting or using loud voices in a school building.
14. **RUDE OR DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR AT ANY TIME IS NOT ALLOWED.**
15. Have your best manners ready at all times for visitors, guests, staff and presentations.
16. Help keep the school attractive, clean, and safe. Please use trash barrels inside and outside the building.
17. Walk into the school and walk at all times inside the school.
18. Items that are deemed inappropriate for a school setting will be taken away.
19. While school/aftercare is in session, children and adults are not permitted to wear head coverings except for religious purposes.

School Procedures/Policies

It is the belief of the Sharon School Committee and the Administration that the best interests of our students are served whenever teachers and parents work together on behalf of the children. Therefore, it is essential that all attempts to resolve problems be initiated quickly and carefully.

The Sharon School Committee has adopted the following guidelines to be used by parents or the public in order to expedite information giving and/or problem solving:

- (1) Questions and problems concerning individual students must first be addressed to the lead instructor in question.
- (2) If unresolved, these matters and/or problems concerning individual students, departments, or schools should be directed to the Assistant Director of Community Education.

Playground Rules

1. Play in designated areas.
2. No one may leave the playground area without the permission of an adult.
3. On swings, swing back and forth only. No standing, twisting or side-ways movement is permitted on swings.
4. The following activities are considered dangerous and are not allowed on the playground:
 - Tackle football
 - Games played with a hard ball
 - Rock and sand throwing
 - Throwing snowballs
 - Pushing, shoving, kicking, wrestling, and rough play

School Procedures/Policies

TOYS

Children are not allowed to bring toys, electronic devices, iPods/Music players, Trading cards or other fads, or valuable items to school. Too often they are lost, misplaced or traded and are distracting to the learning environment.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices and equipment, including but not limited to cell phones, music players, smart devices (including smartwatches), video-game systems, CD and/or DVD players, laser pointers, voice or video recorders, portable radios or televisions are not to be turned on, used, or visible during the school day unless written or verbal permission has been granted by the administration. (In emergency situations, violations of this policy will be taken into consideration.)

Students found using any of the aforementioned electronic devices in violation of this policy will be directed to the administration at the school and the device will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day.

The Assistant Director has the right to adapt or modify any consequences on a case by case basis.

It should also be noted that the school/Community Education is not in any way responsible for lost or stolen property; therefore, it is our expectation that students who find items of value, such as electronic devices, return them to the office immediately. Failure to do so will subject a student to the disciplinary consequences associated with being in possession of stolen property.

CELL PHONES

Since cell phones/smart watches are very common, they must be turned off before entering the building. Cell phone use including but not limited to the following are not allowed in school: making/receiving calls, text messaging, emailing, use of social media, taking photographs, and recording video. No form of photography or video recording is permitted on school property, including on school-provided transportation. Owners of cell phones should be cognizant of the legal difficulties that improper use can present.



After Care Schedule for 2024/2025 Early Release Days

October 16, 2024 school dismissal until 6:00

November 1, 2024 NO After Care/Lounge (Diwali)

November 5, 2024 school dismissal until 6:00

November 14, 2024 NO After Care/Lounge (staff professional development)

November 27, 2024 school dismissal until 4:00 (day before Thanksgiving)

December 11, 2024 school dismissal until 6:00

January 7, 2025 school dismissal until 6:00

January 29, 2025 NO after Care/Lounge (Lunar New Year)

March 20, 2025 NO After Care/Lounge (staff professional development)

March 25, 2025 school dismissal until 6:00

March 31, 2025 NO After Care/Lounge (Eid)

May 7, 2025 school dismissal until 6:00

EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Early release coverage is available only to students in the Aftercare Program in Sharon Public Schools that are currently enrolled on the designated early release days listed below from their early dismissal time to 6:00PM. Again, students only attend if it is a day they are currently registered for. If the early release day is a day your child normally attends, but will not be coming, **contact the Community Ed. Office at communityedabsences@sharonschools.net or 781-784-1574 no later than 10:00AM that day.**

We also encourage you to contact your child's school office and classroom teacher to let them know as well. If someone else is picking up your child make sure they are on your authorized pickup list and have them bring an ID with them.

Each school will have a grab and go bagged lunch that students will be provided with. If your child does not want the school grab and go bagged lunch option your child should bring a lunch from home.

Early Dismissal Times

Middle 11:10AM
Heights 12:20PM
Cottage 12:30PM
East 12:35PM

VISUAL NEWSLETTER



Dear Aftercare Families,

On Friday, October 4 at 8:00pm you should all receive the Kaymbu email with photos from the week. This is a great way to see what the aftercare students are doing, and they often contain captions that explain projects and activities. Kaymbu is a visual newsletter and it is fun to look at them with your children. This becomes a wonderful opportunity for parents to reflect and family members to reflect on all the wonderful activities the students have engaged in while in our program throughout the week. The staff does try to make sure every child on the approved list is photographed, but their main goal is to document activities for you with pictures. Children who attend every day tend to be in more photos, so please do not be offended if you do not see a lot of pictures of your child. Our staff is busy and does their best!

The Kaymbu app sends **one** email to each family whose email we have listed in our system and you can feel free to forward it to other family members. The individual photos can be downloaded as well for your convenience. If for some reason you do not receive the email, check your junk mail and then let me know if you do not have it. This will only get sent out to families who have selected their child to be photographed. If your child is on the "No Photo" list you will not receive the emails and your child will not be photographed.



ENRICHMENT



Shark Tank Jr. (page 8)



Theatre Club (page 12)



Tennis (page 5)



Sharon Community Education
Enrichment Term 1, 2024-2025
Grades K-5



[SharonCommunityEducation.com](https://sharoncommunityeducation.com)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

visit <https://sharoncommunityeducation.com/>

POP TAB WARS

Back by popular demand are the Pop Tab Wars. Beginning **Monday, November 6, 2023-Friday, May 24, 2024** all programs will be collecting Pop Tabs to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities. Students who would like to participate will receive a large zip loc bag to be filled and return back to the program for deposit. There will also be a bin at the sign-out desks to deposit any loose tabs.

Tabs will be collected at the end of each week and weighed. Last year's winners were Heights who brought in 47.9lbs of tabs, followed by Cottage with 43.9lbs and East with 9.8lbs. Donations will be delivered to the Ronald McDonald House in Providence, RI.

Tab donations help families physically, economically, and emotionally during their health care journey. A Ronald McDonald House program helps reduce stress and financial burden for families when they must travel far from home to access medical care for their child.

Each tab goes a long way!

Pop Tab Fun Facts:

It takes 1,280 pop tabs to make one pound.

RMHC receives approximately 70 cents per pound.

It would take about 63,360 pop tabs placed end-to-end to reach a mile.

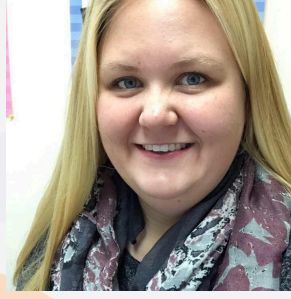


Ronald
McDonald
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Providence

Who To Know At the Office & Program



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