



436 Index Avenue, P.O. Box 237  
Index, Washington 98256  
360-793-1330/FAX 360-793-2835  
Website: [indexschooldistrict.net](http://indexschooldistrict.net)

**Together We Are Inspiring Life-Long Learners**

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

February 2021

Good Morning!

We have jumped into February and discovered Pauxatawney Phil saw his shadow! That would tell us that we can look forward to six more weeks of winter (Good news for skiers, challenging news for non-winter car drivers ☺).



**This week we have moved into our “in-person” learning for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3. We are excited to have many of our students back in the building in a hybrid model!** The older students are continuing with remote learning. Our younger grades work at school for half of the day and at home the other portion of the day. This is done to help us maintain healthy social distancing. Many of our younger students are driven to school by parents or guardians. The number of students riding on the bus is lower. This allows us to safely transport students to and from school. It is so nice to see student’s smiling faces coming back into the school. We are anticipating the next phase when we can safely bring the remaining students back. We will follow the county and state guidelines and work to bring them back when it is safe to do so.

**This pandemic has been a huge stressor on all of us.** I am sure that each of you are equally ready to be done with this challenging time. I am trying to learn from the difficulties and apply these experiences to our school learning process. Some valuable lessons have been gleaned from this time:

- 1) *We have become stronger in our technology skills* and are able to apply these skills to student and staff learning
- 2) We are working on *building stronger communication skills and better listening skills.*
- 3) We are *Finding ways to incrementally strengthen the way we can serve others.*

We also completed a six-week book study (as a staff) around social and emotional learning. This time of discussion was very helpful. If you are interested in reading some good books on this topic here are the titles: “Fostering Resilient Learners” and Relationship, Responsibility and Regulation- Trauma-Invested Practices for Fostering Resilient Learners” by Kristin Souers and Pete Hall.

**Winter Break takes place the middle of this month: February 12-15. We have early dismissal on the 11<sup>th</sup> and only morning K-3 will come to the school in person.** Enjoy your Valentines Day and we trust you will find ways to enjoy time with your family!

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