

# Winthrop Public Schools

Achieving Excellence

**William P. Gorman Fort Banks Elementary**

**101 Kennedy Drive, Winthrop, MA 02152**

[William P. Gorman Fort Banks Elementary School / Homepage \(winthrop.k12.ma.us\)](http://winthrop.k12.ma.us)

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## Important Dates to Note

Thursday - November 30th	Family Game Night at the Fort
Wednesday, December 13th	GFB/District Half Day Schedule Prek - 10:30am Kindergarten - 10:40am Grades 1 and 2 - 11:00am
December 25th-Jan 2nd	WPS Closed - Holiday Break!
Tuesday, January 2nd	Schools open!

**Hello GFB Families** - It has been great to see all of the adults who have come to the Fort to support our students during the first day of our annual Book Fair. Yesterday was a huge success; I look forward to another wonderful day, today! Thank you to the PTO and all of the parent volunteers who are working to make the library and Fair a safe and welcoming place to be!

## **GFB Winter Clothing Drive**

### **Cold Weather Clothing Considerations for Your Children**

The winter months at the Fort are coming. With the GFB harboring its own micro-climate, it is important for all families to appropriately prepare their children with cold weather gear (hats, gloves, jackets, boots). Students will be going outside as much as possible during the winter season and we want to be sure everyone is prepared!

**NOTE:** There is already a sizable amount of unclaimed jackets at the Fort - **PLEASE LABEL** your child's clothing clearly with a permanent marker. All items should find the owner when lost. Thank you so much!

### **All Call For Substitute Staff at the Fort**

In an effort to build a team of reliable staff substitutes, I am reaching out to the community for anyone who is interested in supporting our daily programming when staff are absent.

If you would like to work at the GFB as a sub, please contact the main office at [kdoucette@winthrop.k12.ma.us](mailto:kdoucette@winthrop.k12.ma.us) - thank you so much for considering.

UPDATE - 11.30.23 - A couple of parents have contacted the office and have met with me to consider working at the Fort; thank you so much!

### **Winthrop Parents Network Presents - Family Nights 2023 - 2024**

**WHEN: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Thursdays**

**WHERE: Gorman Fort Banks Cafeteria** (\*date change)

**11/30/23 – Family Game Night (having fun as a family) TONIGHT**

**2/15/24 – Yoga Body Movement and Stress Relief**

**3/21/24 – Healthy eating – tips for healthy snacks**

**4/25/24 – Money Wise – teaching your kids about money**

**\*5/16/24 – Summer Safety (learning how to be safe and still have fun!)**

\*1/18/24 - International Night(location TBD) - will be looking for volunteers to represent various countries from around the world (more information to follow)\*\*\*

## GFB PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION NEWS!

### Feature Organization of the Month

Thank you to our November Featured Organization – The Home for Little Wanderers - Harbor Area Family Resource Center  
[The Home for Little Wanderers- Harbor Area Family Resource Center](#) is located in Chelsea, MA and serves our Winthrop community. Attached is the presentation and some great information for our Winthrop Families. More info found [HERE](#)

Do you have a suggestion for a featured organization of the month? We are always open to bringing in wonderful organizations within our community so families can gain more knowledge about the resources available to them! Please email us at [fortbankspto@gmail.com](mailto:fortbankspto@gmail.com)

**Next PTO Meeting - Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the GFB Cafeteria.**

### Winthrop Public Schools Updated Health Protocols 2023-24

Please keep your child home from school if they display any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 100 degrees or more, and until the child has had a normal temperature for 24 hours; **without** the use of Tylenol or Advil
- Vomiting or diarrhea during the night or in the morning before school
- Rash of unknown cause
- Signs of infection of the eyes, ears, nose, throat, skin or scalp. For example conjunctivitis or pink eye, open sores in the mouth, untreated strep throat, impetigo or open weeping wounds
- If on antibiotics for less than 12 hours for infectious conditions such as strep throat or conjunctivitis or impetigo

### COVID Management

Please stay home from school, call primary care provider and get tested for COVID for any of the following symptoms: **Symptomatic Individuals**

1. Consult with your child's primary care provider
2. Covid 19 testing is recommended and if the initial test is negative, a second test within 48 hours is recommended
3. Can return if fever free for 24 hours without medication and symptoms have significantly improved
4. Mask is recommended until symptoms resolve

Please note we continue to support any individual who wishes to mask.

**COVID Positive** - If your child tests positive, please do the following:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills</li> <li>• Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath</li> <li>• New loss of taste or smell</li> <li>• Muscle aches or body aches</li> <li>• Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sore throat, <i>when in combination with other symptoms</i></li> <li>• Nausea, vomiting, <i>when in combination with other symptoms</i></li> <li>• Headache, <i>when in combination with other symptoms</i></li> <li>• Fatigue, <i>when in combination with other symptoms</i></li> <li>• Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies), <i>when in combination with other symptoms</i></li> </ul> |
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1. Notify the school nurse
2. Call your child's primary care provider for **a doctor's note to excuse the absences**
3. Keep your child at home through day 5. To count days for isolation, Day 0 is the first day of symptoms OR the day the day positive test was taken, whichever is earlier
4. Return to school on day 6
  - a. If fever free without the use of fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours and symptoms are improving
  - b. If the Antigen test is negative on day 5, a mask is not necessary,
  - c. If the Antigen test is still positive, mask indoors except when eating until the test is negative or through day 10

## COVID Exposure

1. Mask is recommended until Day 10 with testing on day 6
2. If symptoms occur, test for Covid 19. If the initial test is negative, a second test within 48 hours is recommended

Reference [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov)

### **Gorman Fort Banks Website**

The [GFB website](#) is a great place to find resources and answers to frequently asked questions. You can also find information about our staff and APS curriculum

I truly appreciate you and your efforts as the GFB's administration is committed to clear and timely communication, with the intent to embrace Diversity, Equitable approaches, outcomes, and Inclusive practices.

My Best,

Mark