



This newsletter is intended to inform families about upcoming screenings in schools and other health related information.

Massachusetts State Law requires that each child be examined by a primary care provider every 3 to 4 years. **FPS requires documentation of a physical within 12 months prior to entry into school and in the 4th grade during elementary school.** If you have a 4th grade child, please see that the nurse gets a copy of the physical that is completed just before or during this year.

- Parents of 3rd graders! Please schedule physical exams for your children—now-- so that they will have needed documentation for the required 4th grade physicals.
- **NO MEDICATIONS** (over- the- counter or prescription) are allowed to be brought to school by children. The school nurse must have doctor's orders in order to give any medication in school, even over-the -counter medicines. ***Any medications to be given in school must be delivered to the nurse by a parent/ guardian accompanied by orders signed by a licensed prescriber. Medications must be in the original pharmacy-labeled container.*** Faxed orders from a licensed provider are acceptable. The medication consent form can be obtained from the school nurse or printed from the general FPS website.
- As per our school handbook, please note---" daily attendance in school is mandatory by law. Parents/guardians may excuse students for reasons of illness a maximum of *FIVE* school days per year. After the 5th absence students will be marked as unexcused unless a doctor's note is provided to the school".
- If your child is diagnosed with strep throat, please inform the school nurse. Strep throat is a bacterial infection and requires a course of antibiotics to be completed. Strep season is all year long, especially late winter into early summer months.
- Lip balm is a great way to keep chapped lips from happening, so please do allow your child to keep one to school in their backpack and use it.
- December 4th-10th is **National Hand-washing Awareness Week**. Please encourage your children to wash their hands often with soap and water for a full 20 seconds, especially after using the bathroom and before handling or eating food!