

## WEEKLY CHECK IN NOTES





## Heads of Small Schools Check In For more information, contact: Amy Wasser amyw@prizmah.org

## **September 23, 2020**

What to do when many teachers are out for medical reasons (some Covid) and when in a small school; need monitors in the room even when teachers are remote. Teachers are retiring and resigning. How do we replace the best teachers and keep up morale, theirs and mine!

It is possible to impact a whole family when 2 kids attend and both parents teach in the school: child and one parent exposed: do they all have to stay home?

Self care was services and synagogue but it is hard when that is taken away due to closures or quarantine. Important to focus on what IS working and what fills us. It's been so hard, but our decisions are keeping people safe and healthy. Minds do not know how to shut off- HOS need to establish boundaries.

Issue of people bullying the student/ family who has Covid. How do we work with our team to welcome that child/teacher back; what work is done when the class is still at home? Do we have examples of letters? Are we teaching adults and children how to talk to and about families who were sick? (pocket sentences) How do we prevent bullying? Do we give names?

Question about protocols: do we shut down one class or group or should we all reset and work from home if there is a case- it is so complicated with so many gaps. Continuity and emotional well being. On the other hand why should the whole place close because of one case? They need to be in school for social emotional well being, so only shut down the cohort or grade...

Some schools are just focusing on contact tracing and only sending home those people but small schools may not have the time and effort to do this.

Civil discourse pre-election, OK to talk policy but not politics, how do we talk about this and frame it

Issue of security around the election- when feelings are heated we get additional security

Sukkot- drive through pizza in the hut, shake lulav and pick up food, decorate sukkah, not share lulav for safety, sell the lulav sets through school, mourning loss of traditions (like sukkah hop) maybe parents can use the sukkah and sign up for a time.... Maybe have parents send in a bracha for the kids a surprise and post them at school, chalk the walk saying Happy Sukkot-#wishwecouldbetogether at each person's home

Shabbat under the stars- pot luck by grade- usually happens but this year still doing something so it's shabbat under the virtual stars and the dinners are being delivered that night and service online (a donor is providing the Shabbat meals for all families)

Special costumes for Sukkot to bring joy

Please share letters being used around Covid issues and community mandate of flu vaccine; we can use these as templates with realizing each state has its own protocols and regulations