

News from the beach

As 2020 is quickly drawing to a close, the Duxbury Beach Reservation is already busy prepping for next season. In order for the town to allow recreational vehicles on Duxbury Beach, which includes the road, parking lots and beach, DBR must file a permit with the state by Dec. 15. This 50-page permit request allows management flexibility (driving within a listed species habitat and reduced fencing) outside of federal and state management guidelines. Working closely with the town, DBR needs to prove, through management tech-



niques, written plans and reporting, that all regulations are being implemented correctly and only then will the state consider issuing a permit. Once the permit is issued, the state requires ongoing proof that the mandated regulations are in place and carried out. Regulators conduct

on-site visits and DBR must submit seasonal, weekly and, sometimes, even daily reports, on bird and recreational activity. The Reservation funds and manages an intensive monitoring program every spring and summer in order to protect nesting birds and allow recreation on the beach. Over the next few weeks, DBR will begin the process of hiring staff to contribute to the protection and data collection. The goal of the DBR is to stay with the regulations to allow folks public access and recreation on Duxbury Beach.

Remote classes on snow days

Continued from page 1

The chance of getting much learning done on an extra day tacked on in June was limited. “The quality of a learning day in January or February is much more robust.” While he compared it to the blizzard bag program that was tried out the last two years, Antonucci said the teaching “wouldn’t be a throwaway,” comparing it to how Wednesdays, when all students do remote learning, operate. One difference would be that teachers would work from home rather than coming to school.

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ing class online, that would be good, but if it’s like a typical Wednesday, she’d prefer the kids be allowed to play. For some parents, and others, snow days were seen as a welcome break. Children, said Chandler School parent and Pine Street resident Michael Cole “deserve the pleasant surprise of a snow day. If we have to make up days at the end of June, so be it.” Alden School parent Catherine Mueller of Temple Street agreed, noting that students already have three remote learning days and snow days would give them a chance to get away from their screens. Saint George Street resident Kate Teague called snow days “a rare treat for them in a year full of bad news, and we should cut our children some slack,” that would serve

as “a well-deserved mental health day.”

Antonucci said he wasn’t firm on the idea, noting that power outages are common in Duxbury when the weather is bad and it might be hard to do something on short notice. When asked, parents had differing views on whether learning on what would have been a snow day was a good idea. Edith Barnes of High Street, who has children at DHS and DMS said she would prefer not to have the school year push into late June. Franklin Terrace resident Julia Vonella, whose children attend Chandler, Alden and the Middle School agreed, saying that if the day is treated like a Wednesday, students might be motivated to finish their work quickly so they could go out and play. DHS parent Ylana Stewart of South River Lane offered a mixed opinion, stating that if students are actually attend-

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