



John Eliot School

Bulletin

September 6, 2019

135 Wellesley Avenue, Needham, MA 02494
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Principal, Karen Bourn
Assistant Principal, Mona Maas

<http://eliot.needham.k12.ma.us>
Editor, Susan Rains

Principal's News

Dear Eliot Families,

We had a very successful start to the school year. Kids are getting to know their teachers, routines and meeting new friends. For the past few days, I have had the chance to visit classrooms and introduce myself with a book or activity. The kids have been so attentive and have lots of questions. In my visit, I re-introduced myself as discussed my job as a principal which is to be sure everyone, including staff and students are happy, safe and learning. It is my goal to make sure I provide this environment at Eliot school.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce several new staff members to our school community this year.

Laura Altschuler (Grade 1 Teacher) Laura has been a classroom teacher for 6 years with recent experience as a 5th grade teacher at Alcott Elementary in Concord and a 4th grade teacher at Parkville Community School in Hartford CT. A graduate of Sacred Heart, Laura also has experience teaching reading in a bilingual classroom.

Kathleen Earley: (Grade 1 Teacher) Kathleen has been a first grade teacher for 10 years with her most recent experience at the Park School in Brookline. Kathleen is a graduate of Lesley University and Stonehill College.

Heather Kozin: (Grade 4 Teacher) Heather comes to us from the Lilja school in Natick where she taught 4th grade for 6 years. A graduate of Boston College, Heather enjoys teaching math and volunteering with her therapy dog, Baylee.

Megan Westphalen: (Grade 4 Teacher) Megan has just completed her licensure for as an elementary reading specialist from Northeastern University. Megan comes to us from the Broadmeadow school in Needham where she was a long term substitute in 3rd grade.

Titi Westover: (School Nurse) Titi comes to us from the Boston public schools where she was a per diem nurse. She is currently working on her masters degree as a nurse practitioner from Simmons College and has experience teaching culturally proficient practices to members in the medical field.

Barbara Tennyson: (Instructional Technology Coach) Barbara has been an instructional technology coach in the Needham schools for the past 5 years with her most recent experience at the Broadmeadow school. Prior to that Barbara was a technology specialist in the Brookline Schools and Chestnut Hill school.

Monique Vullo: (Guidance Counselor) Monique comes to us from Austin, Texas where she was a bilingual social worker. She has a masters degree in Social Work from Boston College and excited to be back on the east coast.

Ben Aronson: (School Psychologist) Comes to us from Needham High School where he served as an intern as a school psychologist. He is currently working on his doctorate in School Psychology at William and James College and is also a member of Needham Youth services.

Tonya Grace:(Cafeteria Manager) Tonya comes to us from Needham High School where she worked in the cafeteria. A graduate of Mass Bay Community College, Tonya has lots of ideas to make nutritious meals more accessible to all students.

We also welcome 4 new teaching assistants to Eliot school, Molly McDermott, Jeanne Ackerley, Molly Pomposelli, Liz Racine as well as Shelby Thompson, a social work intern from Boston College, Patrick Conaway, a lunch and recess Aide and Matt Sylvestre, our part time PE teacher.

Breakfast

A "Grab and Go" breakfast is available for purchase by all students every morning from 8:00 - 8:20 am. Students can grab a breakfast in the cafeteria and bring it to their classrooms to eat prior to starting their day.

Morning Drop off

As a reminder, students may enter the building at 8:05 am and the morning bell rings at 8:20 to begin the school day. If there is traffic in the carline, we will not mark your child tardy. We strongly encourage families to stay in their cars in the morning drop off and not use the crosswalk in front of the building unless necessary. This will help us keep the traffic flowing and help all students enter the building on time. If parents would like to drive to Eliot and walk students to the building, Ardmore and Taylor Streets are good places to park. Thank you!

From the Guidance Office

Greetings Families,

Welcome back to school! We are so excited to be your Guidance Counselors at Eliot!

Guidance staff include Jennifer Sullivan, Monique Vullo, and student intern, Shelby Thompson. Jennifer Sullivan is at Eliot full time and will be working with students in grades K, 2, 3, and 5. Monique Vullo will be working with students in grades 1 and 4, and will be meeting with students on Tuesdays (11:30-3), Thursdays (11:30-3), and ALL day on Fridays. Monique Vullo has a dual role as part time Guidance Counselor at Eliot and is also serving as the chronic absenteeism counselor for the district. We are thrilled to welcome Monique to Eliot! We are excited to have Boston College student intern, Shelby Thompson, with us on Mondays and Wednesdays. Shelby is working toward her Masters Degree in the School of Social Work at Boston College.

We look forward to working with the students this year and are planning to do "Eagles Nest" lessons again focusing on the following character education traits: **E**xpected Behaviors, **A**cceptance, **G**rowth Mindset, **L**iving in the Moment, and **E**mpathy. This is a great opportunity for us to read books and do fun activities with the students to encourage these positive character traits that help our students excel in and out of the classroom. Eagles Nest lessons will be taught by Jennifer Sullivan, Jenny Adu, Monique Vullo, and Shelby Thompson.

In early October, all classroom teachers will be starting Second Step lessons with all classes. Second Step lessons will continue to be taught by classroom teachers and promotes the development of students' social and emotional competence. "Home Links" will be shared with families to reinforce and familiarize parents with what students are learning in the Second Step lessons.

We will be starting "lunch bunch" groups over the next few weeks. Throughout the year, we will invite various students to join us in the Guidance offices to eat lunch together and play some games. These groups will focus on social skills, building healthy friendships, making positive choices, and helping students problem solve. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding lunch group, or want to share any information regarding the social emotional needs of your child. Also, please let us know if you do **NOT** want your child participating in a lunch group.

Thank you very much and we look forward to supporting the wonderful students and families at Eliot School! Feel free to reach out to us any time!

Our very best,
Jennifer Sullivan & Monique Vullo

ELIOT Events: Curriculum Night, Fall Book Fair & Photo Day

FALL BOOK FAIR 2019

We will be having our annual fall book fair Tuesday, September 10th through Thursday, September 12th. The book fair will be run by "Best Book Fairs". Proceeds from the book fair will benefit the library and technology programs at our school. Classes will come during the school day and then the fair will be open to the public after school.

All parents are invited to join their child at the book fair during their scheduled time. Children may bring money to school and buy books during this time. If they do not bring money, they may fill out a "Wish List" of titles and parents have the opportunity to purchase these titles during the book fair's public hours.

Public hours will be:

Tuesday, September 10th 2:45 -3:45

Wednesday, September 11th 2:45-3:45

Thursday, September 12th 2:45 - 3:45 and 5:30 - 8:30 (during curriculum night)

Also, if you would like to donate a book from the book fair to your child's classroom teacher, there is a classroom "Wish List" display offering suggestions for books each teacher would like to add to their classroom collections.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Mullin, our school librarian. Thank you.

Photo Day

Our school Photo Day will take place on **Tuesday, September 17**. Please check your child's backpack on Monday for a flyer informing you on how you can place your photo order online, by going to: Mylifetouch.com and adding Eliot School's picture ID #MV039175Q0

Community Events

Vote to win \$25,000 for the Needham Fire Department! #Close Before Your Doze

Some of our elementary school students have entered the town of Needham in a fire safety video contest sponsored by UL Firefighters Safety Research #CloseBeforeYouDoze. Half of all home fires occur between 11pm - 7am and their video explains a bedtime routine that can stop the spread of a fire. Show your kids the video and VOTE FOR OUR TOWN at https://closeyourdoor.org/contest?contest=video-detail&video_id=31578 (Neighborhood Kids Fire Brigade presents "Close Before You Doze") by Sept 15th to win up to \$25,000 in public safety education outreach funds for our very own Needham Fire Department!

Parent Talk's Fall Used Kids' Clothing, Toy and Equipment Sale Sunday October 6

General Sale: 8:30am – 11:30am

Clearance Bag Sale: 12:00pm – 12:45pm

Location: Newman Elementary School

1155 Central Avenue, Needham, MA 02492

All members of the community (Parent Talk members and non-members) are welcome to participate

<https://parenttalk.org/used-clothing-toy-equipment-sale>

For more info on donating, volunteering, consigning or shopping visit our website or email

clothingsale@parenttalk.org

Parent Talk Lecture Series: End the Mealtime Madness

Help for Parents of Picky Eaters feat. guest speaker and health coach Jacky Lamenzo

Wed Sep 11th 7-8:30pm at Charles River School 6 Old Meadow Road Dover

Free for Parent Talk members & CRS families, \$10 for non-members

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/end-the-mealtime-madness-help-for-parents-of-picky-eaters-tickets-66971424333?aff=social&fbclid=IwAR2iPPOzQQ7I6YJqfwPNhzc-yAiPVizjwYAlYHUKZmZw69UCBrMv2gHeEQ>

Cub Scouts Pack 8

Registration is open to join Needham Cub Scouts Pack 8. Boys and girls in grades K-5 and their families are invited to our first Pack Meeting on Tuesday Sept. 17th, at 7pm, at Grace Lutheran Church, 543 Greendale Ave. Come learn about all the fun our scouts will have this year and meet current families. More information at <http://www.pack8needham.com>

5th Annual Jog Your Memory 5K Run and 1.5 Mile Walk

Please join us for our 5th Annual Jog Your Memory 5K Run and 1.5 Mile Walk on Sunday, September 16th at 9am, starting and finishing at Mitchell School! To register or for more information, please visit www.jogyourmemory5k.org! Jog Your Memory 5K, Inc is a Needham-based not-for-profit with the mission to raise awareness and funds to support research efforts, as well as individual families suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

Child Assault Prevention Program (CAP)

The Child Assault Prevention Program (CAP) is now accepting applications for volunteers for the 2019-2020 school year. Please join our dynamic and dedicated team of volunteer Prevention Specialists who go into the Needham Elementary Schools in teams of three and teach the children that they have the right to be Safe, Strong and Free with their friends and peers, when they meet adult strangers, and with those who are trusted to take care of them. No prior experience required as training is provided. The next training begins on October 20th. For more information please contact Caren Nemtzow, Director, at 781-444-2415 or cnemtzw@needhamcommunitycouncil.org or visit our website at www.Needhamcommunitycouncil.org.

Needham Youth Hockey

Registration is now open for the 2019/20 Needham Youth Hockey In-house program, a fun and instructional introduction to ice skating and hockey for girls and boys ages 3-12. For more information and to register please visit www.nyha.org.

St. Joseph's In Town Basketball Program Registration

**Online registration for the 2019-2020 season of St. Joseph's In Town Basketball Program (boys and girls grades 5 through 8) can be found at: www.stjoesbasketballneedham.com. Sign ups for this year close on October 27. Call Program Director Steve Blomberg at 781.444.7782 if you have any questions
Book fair notice for bulletin**

NEEDHAM DESTINATION IMAGINATION

[Registration is open for the 2019 - 2020 Season](#)

Hear from our Alumni about how DI changed their lives:

[Destination Imagination Alumni Video](#)

Watch our tutorial to find out how DI works:

[What is Destination Imagination?](#)

Needham DI is run by a team of dedicated volunteers. We are a non-profit fully inclusive program. Please visit our website to learn more: www.needhamdi.com

Elementary Honors Chorus is open to students in the 4th or 5th grade

The Needham Fine and Performing Arts Department is proud to announce the auditions for the 2019-2020 Elementary Honors Chorus. This is one of our advanced elementary ensembles, along with the Honors Band and Honors Strings. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Elementary Honors Chorus is to provide a more advanced singing experience for 4th and 5th graders. The group will perform more challenging music than the typical non-select school chorus and will continue working on vocal development. The music performed will engage highly motivated singers who have demonstrated a commitment to developing their singing voice. The Elementary Honors Chorus will provide these selected students a locally accessible outlet for their talents with additional performance opportunities. **SELECTION:** The Elementary Honors Chorus is open to students in the 4th or 5th grade who attend one of Needham's elementary schools. The chorus will number between 40-60 students (approximately). Students will be selected to represent all of Needham's elementary schools. **AUDITIONS:** for the Elementary Honors Chorus will take place on: **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 3:15-5:00pm** **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 3:15-5:00pm** in the Broadmeadow School music room (133). Students will sing the song "America, the Beautiful". The audition procedure and song will be reviewed in each child's school chorus rehearsal and the song is available on the Elementary Honors Chorus website, address is below. **AUDITION SIGN-UPS:** Please sign-up online for an audition time **BEFORE** the audition days. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c44a8a929a1ff2-auditions2> The link is also on the Elementary Honors Chorus website (see below) and linked from the Needham FPA website. Please email Heather Tryon if you have any problems or questions with signing up. **NOTIFICATION:** The conductor, Heather Tryon, will email the parent whether or not the student made the group after auditions are over. Unfortunately, due to the large numbers of students and the fact that students' voices develop at different rates, there may be a few who audition who are not yet ready for the group. We encourage all to try, but to also be prepared and understand if not accepted. **FEE:** Honors Chorus members are required to pay an Honors Chorus participation fee of \$125/student/year. Fees will be collected the first week of rehearsals. (checks payable to "Needham Public Schools")* If there is a financial hardship, contact LeeAnn Sutton, Director of Fine & Performing Arts to request financial support. leeann_sutton@needham.k12.ma.us ***NOTE:** Payments can also be made online using MySchoolBucks.com.

REHEARSALS: Rehearsals will start on Thursday October 3rd and take place every week from 3:30 to 4:30 pm at the Broadmeadow school on Wednesdays. Parents/Guardians are responsible for providing transportation to and from rehearsals. **CONCERTS:** Concerts will be on January 23rd and May 21st at 7:00pm the Newman School. Please put these concert dates on your calendars now so that you will definitely be able to take part. The concerts are the highlight of our year and the showcase of all the great work we do all year. It is expected that accepted students will perform in these concerts. Other concerts may be added. For more information about the Needham Public Schools' Elementary Honors Chorus, please contact the director, Heather Tryon or call Leanne Sutton, Dir. of Fine and Performing Arts at 781-455-0800 Ext 2440, or visit the website: <http://needhamelementaryhonorschorus.weebly.com/> We strongly encourage Needham's finest 4th and 5th grade singers to audition for this group. Remember to sign up for the audition as soon as possible.

Important Dates

9/12/2019	Curriculum Night for parents/guardians of all K-5 students 6 - 8 P.M. 6:00-6:45 Grades 3-5 6:45-7:15 Principal Presentation and meet the specialists 7:15-8:00 grades K-2 and BOOK FAIR	Performance Center and Cafeteria
9/17/2019	School Photo Day	
9/18/2019	PTC Meeting - 9-10 a.m.	Performance Center

9/25/2019	First Early Release Day	Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.
9/30/2019	No School - Rosh Hashanah	
10/26/2019	Pumpkin Run	Playground - 10 a.m.
10/9/2019	No School - Yom Kippur	
10/14/2019	No School - Columbus Day	
10/4/19	Fairy Tale Fitness	6:30 p.m.
10/23/19	Early Release Day	Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.

See you next week!

