



John Eliot School Bulletin

November 22, 2019

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<http://eliot.needham.k12.ma.us>
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Principal's News:

TARDY LETTERS

Next week, students with 10 or more tardies will receive a letter in the mail from the school with an attendance record. 10 tardies represent 20% of the school year to date. As a reminder, school begins at 8:20 but students may enter the building at 8:05. If there is traffic in the car line, or the bus arrives late, students are not marked tardy. If you do receive a letter, please review the attendance document and reach out to your child's teacher or guidance counselor if there is anything we can do to assist. Students do best when they are in school on time and a late start can very dysregulating for children. Thank you.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

The PTC and teacher leaders are working together to create a natural outdoor learning space for Eliot students. After visiting the new Sunita Williams school and their beautifully designed outdoor spaces, Eliot staff were inspired to create a similar space of our own. The outdoor classroom will be located in the front of the building in wooded area in the middle of the carloop. We thank the PTC and Eliot community for partnering with us as we create a beautiful space for our students to learn and grow.

SPOTLIGHT ON 4TH GRADE

In 4th grade, students have been learning all about insects. This biology-based study begins with a look at how entomologists (insect scientists) classify a creature as an insect, within all the amazing variation of these little creatures. Students will then have a chance to learn about all the amazing insects in our world and then imagine their very own insect. Insects have amazing adaptations to

survive in difficult environments and have huge impacts on the world around them. Using materials found at home, 4th graders will construct a 3D model of their invented insect and bring it in to show off to families at Eliot's upcoming insect fair on November 26th. Created insects have been fine-tuned with adaptations to survive in either an arctic, rainforest, or desert habitat.

ELIOT SPIRIT DAY

The student council asks that kids and grownups wear all Blue to school on Tuesday. Tuesday is **blue** day!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

As a reminder, students do not have school on Wednesday, November 27th. On that day, Eliot teachers will participate in professional development to help deepen our understanding of culturally proficient practices.

Around this time of year staff and students take pause and reflect on being thankful. Personally, I am so very thankful to have the opportunity to serve as principal of this remarkable school community. I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving and families get an opportunity to reconnect and celebrate together.

LOOKING FOR HOST FAMILIES FOR STUDENTS FROM DAXING, CHINA

For the 10th consecutive year, Needham families will have an opportunity to host elementary and middle school age students from our sister schools in Daxing, China! This year, we are trying to find host families for **25 students** between the ages of **ten and twelve** years old.

We've learned much from our previous exchanges, and the process has become smoother and more rewarding each time! This year's visiting students will arrive in Boston in January and will stay at the homes of Needham host families from *Monday afternoon* on **January 13** through *Tuesday, January 21*.

We are asking for families to participate in this program by opening their homes and welcoming these children. If room is available, some families in the past have found it helpful to take in two students. Some students are often more comfortable when they are paired with a friend.

If you are able to host a child or two, could you please go to the High Rock School main webpage <http://highrock.needham.k12.ma.us/> and complete the Google form "2020 Hosts for Daxing Exchange" to indicate you will host students by **Monday, December 16**. If you have any questions please contact Jessica Downey, Principal of High Rock School, at jessica_downey@needham.k12.ma.us.

An **informational meeting** for families that are committed to hosting students will be held on **Monday, January 6 at 6:30pm in the High Rock Media Center**. Ying Liu and Wendy Wu, representatives from the sponsoring agency, Boston Ivy, will be on hand to share information and answer questions. Former and repeating host families will be there, as well, to share their past experiences.

Some helpful information:

- Chinese students have a varying degree of competence in English.
- We have set up communication tools to assist both host families and visiting children.
- Boston Ivy staff are available around the clock for any medical or emergency issue.
- There will be administrators and teachers from the children's school staying in a nearby hotel.
- All students have health insurance and will have money for purchasing souvenirs.
- Chinese students will ride the bus to and from school with the host family child if the host family uses the transportation service.
- The town provides lunch at school for the Chinese students and will receive a temporary PIN number for the cafeteria.
- There will be a database set up so multiple host families can connect in order to plan outings or social connections.
- It is not expected that you go out of your way to entertain these students. The main goals of their visit are to experience our culture and improve their English.

This program is one of a kind in Massachusetts (and probably the country) and it takes a village to keep it going! Please consider hosting a student or two. It will be a most enriching and memorable experience for your family and the student.

Again, I ask that you go complete the Google form "2020 Hosts for Daxing Exchange" located on the High Rock School webpage <http://highrock.needham.k12.ma.us/> to indicate you will host students by **Monday, December 16**.

On a personal note, my family and I hosted two Daxing students a few years ago and it was a wonderful experience for all of us. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions!

In Partnership,
Karen Bourn

Eliot Happenings - Two fundraisers starting on Monday, 11/25/2019

Donation boxes will be found in the school lobby. Thank you.



	IMPORTANT DATES	
11/27/2019	No School - Professional Development Day	
11/28-29/2019	THANKSGIVING RECESS	
12/11/2019	Early Release Day	Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.
12/17/2019	Winter Chorus Assembly for students	Performance Center at 8:45 a.m.
12/17/2019	Winter Instrument Assembly for students	Performance Center at 1:30 p.m.
12/17/2019	Winter FAMILY Concert	Performance Center at 6:30 p.m.
12/23 - 1/1	WINTER RECESS	
1/2/2020	School Resumes after winter recess	



See you next week!