



John Eliot School Bulletin

December 13, 2019

135 Wellesley Avenue, Needham, MA 02494
Phone #781-455-0452 & FAX #781-455-0852

Principal, Karen Bourn
Assistant Principal, Mona Maas
<http://eliot.needham.k12.ma.us>
Editor, Susan Rains

Principal's News:

SPOTLIGHT ON SECOND GRADE

Second Grade recently participated in the Understanding Different Abilities (UDA) program through the PTC. The focus of the program was about disabilities related to hearing. Parent volunteers taught students how to sign our names and about accommodations for individuals with hearing differences. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who make this important program possible.

On December 6th, second grade students were visited by students from The Learning Center for the Deaf. The students, their teachers and an interpreter shared a slideshow and taught us about their school and families. We all enjoyed their visit and appreciate the time they took to educate us at Eliot.



RECESS AND WINTER GEAR

We are entering the season of extreme cold temps and I wanted to inform families of our indoor/ outdoor recess procedures. We will always have outdoor recess unless there is heavy precipitation or temperatures below 20 degrees. It is always a good choice to send your child to school with appropriate outside gear – and don't forget to label clothing items with their name. Students are only allowed on the snow if they are wearing snow boots and snow pants.

While indoors for recess, students choose from a variety of activities. Students play board games, cards, draw, read, work with legos, or use math materials in creative and interesting ways. Some students develop ongoing projects when there is a stretch of indoor recess days and it's great to see how the creativity flows.

The lost and found continues to grow. Please stop by and check out the clothing rack in the lobby or the lost and found closet in the cafeteria. We will be donating items after the school year. There are some really nice and expensive articles of clothing that I am sure families would not want to lose!

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 Winter Concerts

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Tuesday, 12/17/19 @ 8:45 AM - Instrumental concert for the school

- All band students report to the cafeteria at 8:30 am
- Advanced strings report to the music room at 7:30 am

Remember to:

bring your instruments
bring your music
wear school clothes

Tuesday, 12/17/19 @ 1:30 PM - Chorus concert for the school

Tuesday, 12/17/19 @ 6:30 PM - Winter concert for family & friends

- All band students report to the gym at 6:15 pm
- Advanced strings report to the music room at 6:00 pm
- Chorus members who don't play in strings or band should report to the performance center to watch the concert until it's time to sing.

Remember to:

bring your instruments
bring your music
dress up nicely just like on picture day



**TOY DRIVE COLLECTION ENDS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19th and
USED SOCCER EQUIPMENT COLLECTION ENDS ON JANUARY 10th**

THANK YOU!



FROM OUR PTC

Mini Spirit Wear Sale

Please check your child's backpack, next Monday, for a *SPIRITWEAR ACCESSORIES* flyer announcing a mini-sale for a Pura Vida Bracelet (\$4- each) and a Winter Eliot hat (\$6- each).

If you place an order, please try to make your payment via check (payable to the Eliot PTC) rather than cash. But if you do pay by cash, change can't be made, so, please put the exact amount in an envelope and attach it to your order form.

Thank you.

Eliot Cultural Festival

Hello Parents!

Planning for the Eliot Cultural Festival (formerly Multicultural Night) is underway, and we want your feedback! Regardless of whether your family will attend as guests or participants, please take 5 minutes to fill out [this survey](#).

Every family has a unique culture, and including yours will enrich our festival.

Thanks,

Jenn Scheck-Kahn, Smriti Rao, and Shilpee Sindwani

Needham Public Library Events for December

Read to Annie the Dog

Saturday, December 14th 2:30 PM

and Wednesday, December 18th at 3:30 PM

Grades 1-5

Children can practice their reading skills by reading out loud to Annie, the trained therapy dog. Children sign up for a 15min time slot. To sign up, visit the Children's Desk or call 781-455-7559 x 204.

Bookventures Book Club

Saturday, December 14th, 3:00 PM

Grades 3-5

Children read the book then come to discuss it while sharing snacks and enjoying activities related to the story. This month's book is *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street* by Karina Yan Glaser. Copies available at the Children's Desk. Registration required. To register, visit the Children's Desk or call 781-455-7559 x 204.

Ed Popielarczyk's Flea Circus

Tuesday, December 17th 4:00 PM

Grades K-5

Here is an entire miniature circus with little flea performers - Fifi on the highwire and trapeze, Bruno the world's strongest flea, and Fernando who high dives into a pool of water and gets shot out of a cannon. This humorous little show is big fun for the entire family.

After School Snowman Collage

Thursday, December 19th, 3:30 PM

Ages 6 and up

Children are invited to drop in to create their own puffy paint snowman collage to take home. All materials provided.

Family Activity

Saturday, December 21st 10:00 AM

All Ages

Families with siblings of all ages are welcome to come create a folded paper icicle craft project together to take home. All materials provided.

Holiday Closings

The Needham Free Public Library will close at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, December 24th. The library will be closed on December 25th and will reopen for regular hours on Thursday, December 26th. The library will close at 5:30 PM on December 31.

Free Movie Showing

Toy Story 4, Friday, December 27th 2:00 PM

PG 100 min.

Woody and the gang find out the world can be a large place for a toy when they go on a road trip with Bonnie and a new toy named Forky. A slight detour reunites Woody with an old friend - Bo Peep.

Free New Years Needham Events at Library

Tuesday, December 31 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

New Years Needham events at the Needham Free Public Library are sponsored by the Trustees of the Library and are free to attend. No button is required at the library location only. All other locations require the purchase of a button. Events at the library include:

Vamessa Trien and the Jumping Monkeys song and dance party at 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Storyteller Diane Edgecomb at 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM

Scott Jameson Magic Show at 2:45 PM and 4:00 PM

Holiday Giving Project



Dear Families,

We have mittens hung in the front lobby for Eliot's annual **Holiday Giving Project**. This project enables us to distribute gift cards to some Eliot families who could use assistance this holiday season. If your family would like to donate a gift card to the project, please stop by the **Holiday Giving Project** bulletin board located inside the front doors. On the back of the mittens are the names of local stores where a gift card can be purchased and brought back to school. There is a box on the counter of the main office to put the gift cards in.

We have all experienced challenging times at one point or another. If your family could use an "extra hand" this season, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support. We are grateful to be a part of such a caring community at the Eliot School!

Our best,
Jennifer Kiely-Sullivan and Monique Vullo
Guidance Counselors

	IMPORTANT DATES No Homework Club on 12/17 and 12/19	
12/17/2019	Winter Chorus Assembly for students Chorus School Assembly @ 8:45 Instrument School Assembly @1:30	Performance Center.
12/17/2019	Family Concert @ 6:30 p.m.	Performance Center.
12/23/20 - 1/1/20	WINTER RECESS	
1/2/2020	School Resumes after winter recess	



See you next week!