



# John Eliot School Bulletin

January 10, 2020

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

### ORGANIC RECYCLING PROGRAM

Starting late next week, Eliot School will be the first in the district to pilot an Organic Recycling Program during lunch time. When it's time to dispose of waste, students will have four options: They will put liquids in a bucket, paper and plastics in a blue recycling bin, food waste in a green bin and other trash in a black trash bin. The recycling will be sent to the town recycling center and the food waste will be sent to a company that will turn it into energy. The best part of the program is that Eliot students will no longer have their lunches served on styrofoam trays but on compostable paper trays. We are so thrilled to be on the path to become Needham's first "Zero Waste" School!

### SPOTLIGHT ON 4TH GRADE

Fourth grade has been working on writing opinion essays. This month, students in Mr. Kerr, Ms. Kozin, and Ms. Westphalen's class are learning about the best way to share strong opinions. This six-week unit will end with students publishing essays that will convince readers to agree using strong arguments and data to support their statements.

To create the pieces of writing, students began by collecting ideas of what they love in the world and what drives them crazy. Then, they brainstormed different reasons they feel that way. Fourth graders are currently preparing their arguments with a goal of providing lots of strong evidence to support their opinions. At the end of the process, students will share their work with our class communities and stakeholders such as building administrators. Students look forward to sharing their strong opinions and perhaps change an opinion in the process.

### MCAS DATE CHANGE

There is a slight adjustment to the MCAS dates in the spring. Fourth graders will take the test on April 14 and April 16th. The change was made to accomodate the STMath Conference Eliot is hosting on the 15th for Massachusetts educators. We are honored to host this conference to demonstrate the innovative math program used by Eliot students in grades K-2. (There information on the conference as we get closer to the date) As a reminder, here are the dates:

Grade 3 -	April 6	Monday	ELA session 1
	April 7	Tuesday	ELA session 2
	May 7	Thurs	Math session 1
	May 8	Fri	Math session 2
Grade 4 -	April 14	Tuesday	ELA session 1
	April 16	Thursday	ELA session 2 (Rescheduled from April 15)
	May 12	Tuesday	Math session 1
	May 13	Wed	Math session 2
Grade 5-	April 2	Thursday	ELA session 1
	April 3	Friday	ELA session 2
	April 28	Tuesday	Math session 1
	April 29	Wed	Math session 2
	May 18	Monday	Science/ Tech/ Engineering session 1
	May 19	Tuesday	Science/ Tech/ Engineering session 2

## **BALL IN THE HOUSE**

On Wednesday, the acapela group Ball in the House performed for Eliot students. The four man group showed off their musical talents while engaging students in lessons about music. The students really enjoyed the performance and we thank the PTC and the Cultural Arts Committee for bringing this program to our students. Here is a link to a short clip: <https://youtu.be/D7JQI-CWKU>

## **Eliot News**

The Eliot school children have been invited to participate in the Needham Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration. The celebration will take place on Monday, January 20, 2020 at 10:00 am in the Pollard Middle School. The snow date is Sunday, January 26th, 2020 at 1:00 pm, also at Pollard.

We will be performing one song, "Woke Up This Morning", which was one of Dr. King's favorite freedom songs.

I am teaching the song to all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. It would wonderful if every 3rd, 4th and 5th grader could come out and add their voices to this celebration, and show Needham how much the Eliot School cares about our community. Please email me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Mr. Vallatini, [george\\_vallatini@needham.k12.ma.us](mailto:george_vallatini@needham.k12.ma.us)

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### **INFORMATION for Needham families of incoming Kindergarten students for 2020-2021**

All children residing in Needham who turn 5 by August 31, 2020 are eligible for enrollment in full-day Kindergarten.

In late December, families of eligible-aged children were sent letters explaining the Kindergarten enrollment process. If you have a child of eligible age and did not receive a letter, please contact Susan Rains at: [susan\\_rains@needham.k12.ma.us](mailto:susan_rains@needham.k12.ma.us), she will send you the letter and add your child's name to the enrollment list.

Please note these important dates:

*Know Your Schools Night - January 29, 2020, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m., at the Broadmeadow Elementary School*

*Student Registration - must be completed by March 6, 2020*

*Eliot School Parent Orientation - May 7, 2020, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m*

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### **UPDATE: Sandwich Tuesday**

The Eliot School hosts a sandwich making assembly line 6 times per year (3 were completed already in 2019) to help Generic Ministries, a local organization that gives food and supplies to Boston's homeless population. Along with making the sack lunches, we also donate essential everyday items. Your child can bring in these items at any time during the school year and place their donations in a labeled basket in their pod.

On each of our Sandwich Tuesdays, we collect the items, make sandwiches and then Generic Ministries distributes them alongside the meals.

Below is a list of the items assigned to each grade for this year. Anything you can give helps! Please see the attached flier for more info about Sandwich Tuesday and Generic Ministry. Thank you!!

#### ITEMS COLLECTED BY GRADE:

*Kindergarten: Decorate the Bags in Class (no donations)*

*First Grade: Travel-size Toothbrush & Toothpaste*

*Second Grade: Travel-size Shampoo and Conditioner*

*Third Grade: Hot Hands Hand Warmers*

*Fourth Grade: Travel-size Body Lotion*

*Fifth Grade: Travel-size Deodorant*

#### 2020 TUESDAYS: 4th and 5th grade classes

**January 21st**

**February 25th**

**March 17th**

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**FROM: Ms. Jodrie, Eliot Spanish Teacher**

December: ¡Feliz año nuevo! Happy New Year! Hope you all had a restful, relaxing break. Here is what we did in Spanish class during the month of December.

Kindergarteners are getting really good at saying how they feel, as well as recognizing colors and numbers in Spanish. We are talking about the calendar, and are continuing to work with animals and what they need to live as well. Ask your kindergartener to show you what we have been working on in class!

First graders worked on numbers, the days of the week, and weather in Spanish during December. Ask them to tell you about the weather outside in Spanish!

Second graders talked about what they were thankful for in the month of December, and also reviewed the weather and seasons in Spanish, so ask your second grader to tell you about the weather outside!

Third graders finished up with the unit on fruits and vegetables and took a checkin to show what they know, so ask them about it if you haven't seen it already. They also learned about food in Mexico as that is our country study this year in third grade, so have your third grader tell you something about what they learned!

Fourth graders finished up with the unit on school, and will share something with parents, so look for them to bring it home soon. We also talked about New Year celebrations around the world, and compared them to our traditions.

Fifth graders took a "check-in" on time, so ask them about it if you haven't seen it already. We also spent some time learning about Argentina as that is the country study for fifth graders this year, so ask your fifth grader something they learned about Argentina!

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**FROM: Mrs. Mullin, Eliot's Librarian**

*The following books were donated to the Eliot School library during the month of December 2019.*

Heidi Heckelbeck and the Christmas Surprise was donated by Praniti Bhutan.

Rosie Revere and the Raucous Riveters was donated by Mae Alwart.

Forest of Shadows was donated by Sasha Mia Elena Capobianco.

This Book Just Stole My Cat! Was donated by Perla Santiago.

Space Travel was donated by Parker Matthew Van Dam.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Wrecking Ball was donated by Eric Ayrumyan.

Minecraft: Guide to Ocean Survival was donated by Tamilore Arimoro.

The Cool Bean was donated by Emmett Maxwell.

Because was donated by Lanna Schneider.

Pokemon: Ash's Quest, the Essential Guidebook was donated by Victoria Katz.

The Good Egg was donated by Elon Arie Galh.

Emmy in the Key of Code was donated by Grace Flanagan.

Nobody Hugs a Cactus was donated by John F. McCarthy III.

Nothing Stopped Sophie was donated by Carmen Schuller.

Minecraft for Beginners was donated by Hugh Taylo.

All are Welcome was donated by Aditi Kondakindi.

How to Read a Book was donated by Claire Taylor.

Doll-E 1.0. was donated by Ellie Franco.

Dog Man: Fetch 22 was donated by Sam Fishbein.

The Color Monster was donated by Alex Friedman.

I love you, Fred was donated by Emma Batsevitsky.

Peanuts: 5 Minute Stories was donated by Shane Semprucci.

The Bad Seed was donated by David Becker.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Wrecking Ball was donated by Shepard Whitney Wilinski.

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## **Needham Happenings**

### **Needham School Committee FY21 Budget Hearing**

The Needham School Committee will conduct a public hearing on the School Department's proposed FY21 budget on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 in the Broadmeadow School Performance Center at 7:00 p.m. The School Committee welcomes public participation in the School Department's budget discussion.

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## **Calling all dancers K-5th Grade!**

Looking for something fun to do on the upcoming early release day?  
Come learn a dance routine with the Needham High School Varsity Dance Team  
on February 12th from 12:45-2:45.

For more information and to reserve your spot online,  
please reference the link below.

<https://nhsdanceclinicfeb2020.eventbrite.com>

QUESTIONS? Contact [rachelhesser@gmail.com](mailto:rachelhesser@gmail.com)

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## **A Fundraiser for the Needham History Center and Museum**

Champagne and Chocolate Goes to the Movies - Saturday, February 8, 2020 - 7:00-11:00p.m.  
Powers Hall, Needham Town Hall. Live music, food, chocolate and spirits.  
For details email Gloria Greis at [needhamhistory.org](mailto:needhamhistory.org)

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## **Needham Public Library**

The Winter Sale of the Friends of the Needham Public Library will be held on Friday, January 24 from 12:30-4:30, Saturday, January 25 from 9:00-4:00, and Sunday, January 26 from 1:00-4:00. Sunday is bargain day with all books half-price and a brown bag of books \$8.00. For further information, visit the Friends' website <http://friendsneedhamlibrary.org> or call 781-455-7559.

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## **SEPAC BUSINESS MEETING**

Tuesday, January 14th, 6:00 - 7:30 PM \* EVENING MEETING \*  
The Center at the Heights, 300 Hillside Avenue, Needham

We are very pleased to start our first meeting of 2020 with Denise Garlick, State Representative for the 13th Norfolk District, updating us on the new Massachusetts education bill. This will be followed by updates from the district administrators for preschool through post-grad, including an overview of the 2020-21 Support Services budget proposal submitted to the Needham School Committee in December (more below). The final segment of the meeting is reserved for parent-to-parent discussion.

All parents, guardians, and caregivers of Needham students are encouraged to attend our monthly business meetings.

The annual Needham Jazz Night will take place on Friday, January 24 at 7:00 pm in the Needham High School Auditorium and features the High School and Middle School Jazz Ensembles and the High School Contemporary Music Ensemble. Don't miss this year's guest artist, Venezuelan trombonist, Angel Subero. There is a suggested donation of \$10/adults and \$5/students and seniors at the door with a \$25 cap for families.

Join NHS Friends of Music on Saturday, January 25 at 7:30 pm for A Cappella Go at the Needham High School Auditorium. Performances by Counterpoint, Fermata Nowhere, Subway Dwarves and Treble

Rebels plus college ensembles with NHS A Cappella alums – Boston University Treblemakers (Nathan Simani, '17), Brandeis University Up the Octave (Talia Jacobson, '18), and Northeastern Pitch, Please! (Julia Chase, '18). We strongly encourage you to purchase tickets online at [www.nhsfriendsofmusic.org/tickets](http://www.nhsfriendsofmusic.org/tickets) because a limited amount of tickets will be available at the door.

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## **SEPAC**

### **A Guide to Special Education**

Attorney Michelle Moor will teach families the basics of special education, with information that will help you:

- Understand your child's eligibility for special education
- Know your rights under state and federal law
- Plan and monitor your child's progress
- Be an effective partner with your child's school

*Michelle Moor is an attorney whose practice is devoted entirely to helping children with special needs access appropriate educational services. She worked in the disability and special education law group at Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP for several years, and is currently a partner at Moor, Perlman & Gregg LLC.*

Broadmeadow School Media Center  
Thursday, January 30  
7:00pm – Networking & Refreshments  
7:30pm – Program Begins

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## **NEEDHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS**

Little Labcoats Science Club  
Children Ages 6-9  
Thursday, January 9th, 6:00 PM

Through participatory activities, children will discover how volcanoes form and what causes them to erupt. They will learn the different stages of an earthquake and the effects of wildfires. Registration is required and is limited. To register, visit the Children's Desk or call 781-455-7559 x 204.

Family Activity Morning  
All Ages  
Saturday, January 11th, 10:00 AM

Families with children of all ages are invited to come decorate gingerbread people cookies to eat or take home. Come drop by to join in the fun.

Bookventurers Book Club  
Grades 3-5  
Saturday, January 11th, 3:00 PM

Children read the book, then come to discuss it, participate in activities related to the story and share snacks. This month the book is *El Deafo* by Cece Bell. Superpowers are needed when you are the new kid at school wearing a bulky hearing aid. Copies available at the Children's Desk. Registration required. To register, drop by the Children's Desk or call 781-455-7559x 204.

**Read to Tucker the Dog**  
**Grades 1-5**  
**Tuesday, January 14th, 3:30-5:00**  
**& Saturday, January 18th, 2:30 - 4:00**

Tucker the cocker spaniel is a trained therapy dog and an excellent listener. Children are invited to sign up for a 15 minute time slot to practice their reading skills by reading aloud to Tucker. To sign up, stop by the Children's Desk or call 781-455-7559 x 204. Limited slots available.

**After-School Make and Take Craft**  
**Ages 6 and up**  
**Thursday, January 16th, 3:30 PM**

Use a paper roll, yarn, shortening and seeds to make a bird feeder to take home. Help the winter birds find food and enjoy seeing who comes by for a snack. All materials provided. Come drop-in.

**Free Movie Showing**  
**Friday, January 17th, 3:30 PM**  
**Abominable - rated PG, 97 minutes**

A teenage girl finds a young Yeti on the roof of her apartment building in Shanghai. She and her friends embark on an epic quest to reunite the Yeti with his family on top of Mt. Everest. On the way, they will have to watch out for a wealthy businessman and a zoologist who both have other plans for the creature.

**Public Library Closing**  
**The Needham Free Public Library will be closed on January 20th in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Library will reopen on Tuesday, January 21 at 9:00 AM.**

**Free Movie Showing**  
**Wednesday, January 29th, 2:00 PM**  
**The Lion King - Rated PG, 118 minutes**

In this 2019 animated movie, a young lion named Simba finds his own way into a new life after the death of his father. After several years, he is reunited with a childhood friend and realizes his mistakes. Simba must make important changes to help his family and regain the throne that is rightfully his to save his kingdom.

**How to Create a Graphic Novel**  
**Ages 8 and up**  
**Wednesday, January 29th, 6:00 PM**

Children will learn all about how to create their own graphic novels with illustrator, Jonathan Todd. Jonathan will help children explore the elements of a story, and learn how to plan their story out in panel drawings and thumbnail sketches. Registration is required and is limited. To register, stop by the Children's Desk or call 781-455-7559 x 204.



IMPORTANT DATES		
1/14/2020	Eliot School Council Meeting at 3 p.m.	Principal's Conference Room
1/15/2020	Early Release Day, dismissal at 12:15 p.m.	
1/20/2020	Martin Luther King, Jr. HOLIDAY	NO SCHOOL
1/29/2020	Early Release Day, dismissal at 12:15 p.m.	
1/29/2020	For Incoming K parents: Know Your Schools Night	Broadmeadow School 6:30-7:45 p.m.
	FEBRUARY	
2/12/2020	Early Release Day, dismissal at 12:15 p.m.	
2/17-2/21	February Recess	
2/24/2020	School Resumes after February Recess	



See you next week!