



John Eliot School Bulletin

January 24, 2020

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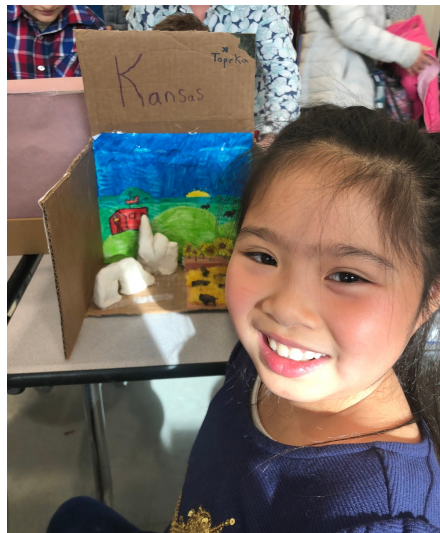
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<http://eliot.needham.k12.ma.us>
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Principal's News

SPOTLIGHT ON THIRD GRADE

For the past few weeks, students engaged in a project about one of the “Fifty Nifty” states. While at school, students collected resources, took notes, planned and completed a research writing project. At home, third graders researched a specific landmark and created a diorama to show off all they learned.

This morning, students in third grade presented their state fair projects to their families and fellow classmates at Eliot. Third grade families were treated to facts and songs that celebrate our country. The fair continued with a “museum” in the cafeteria displaying the creative dioramas the children created. They should be so proud of all their hard work!



FOURTH GRADE HOMEWORK STUDY

As the fourth grade launched a new year as a new team, the grade 4 teachers set a goal to create a meaningful, manageable and targeted homework program. To make homework meaningful their hope was to design assignments that not only align with what students are learning in school and serve as a communication pathway with families, but also to provide students with time to practice skills that will support their growth as lifelong learners. In addition, fourth grade teachers collaborated with colleagues, coaches and administrators to design manageable assignments to ensure that all fourth graders would also have time after school for extracurricular activities and to spend time with family and friends. At the Eliot we take a whole child approach to education, and hope that our homework program allows for time to grow socially and emotionally in addition to academically. Finally, the team created their homework program to target each child's needs to match their strengths and challenges.

Fourth grade weekly homework consists of 10 minutes of math each night, 5 minutes of writing, 30 minutes of reading and one night of writing in response to reading. Math assignments begin with fact practice where students are assigned multiplication or division tables that match their progression. When students master their facts, they have a choice from a variety of interactive online extension resources to complete their nightly assignments. Writing homework aligns with *High Rock's* assignments, where kids are asked to write for 5 minutes each night. In fourth grade, they spend one night brainstorming, a second night planning and two nights drafting. Each Friday, they have the opportunity to share and celebrate their work in diverse ways. To complete reading assignments students are encouraged to select a text of their choice, and their writing about reading aligns with what we are learning in class. For example, if students are learning about naming character traits with matching textual evidence in school, they apply this skill at home and write about characters in their chosen texts!

In addition to weekly assignments, fourth graders have multiple long-term assignments throughout the year. These projects are designed to support students with time management and executive functioning skill development, as well as providing them with an opportunity to show off their creativity! Their insect projects were a favorite so far this year!

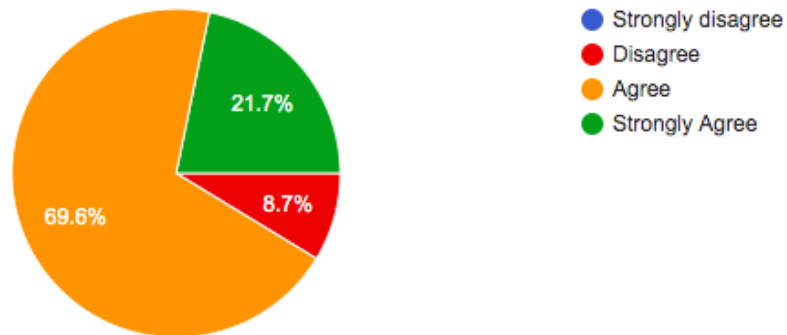
As part of our homework pilot program, the fourth grade team administered homework surveys to both families and students this winter. The results are outlined below (positive feedback indicates an "agree" or "strongly agree" response):

Family Results:

- Question 1: *My child's homework matches what my child needs*, 78.7% positive feedback.
- Question 2: *My child has time for activities other than homework after school*, 91.5% positive feedback.
- Question 3: *My child's homework expectations are clear*, 85.1% positive feedback.
- Question 4: *I can see the value in my child's homework*, 91.3% positive feedback.
- Question 5: *My child knows what to do to complete weekly homework assignments*, 87.3% positive feedback.
- Question 6: *My child is making growth from 4th grade homework* 77.7%, positive feedback.

I can see the value of my child's homework.

46 responses

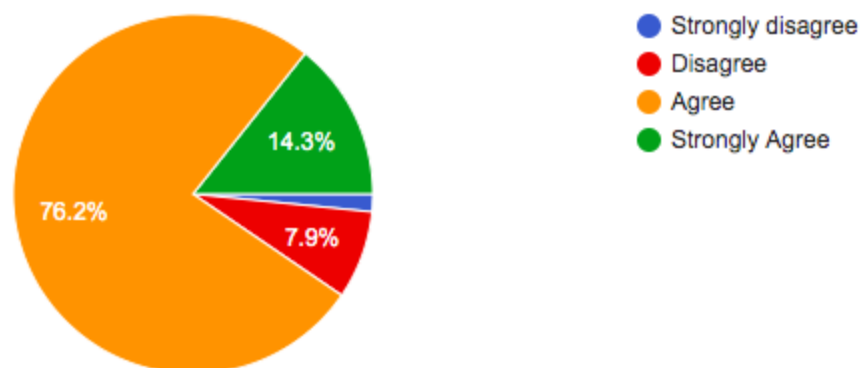


Student Results:

- Question 1: *My homework helps me grow as a learner*, 90.5% positive feedback.
- Question 2: *My homework matches what I need*, 82.5 % positive feedback.
- Question 3: *I have time for activities other than homework outside of school*, 78.4% positive feedback.
- Question 4: *I know what to do on my homework assignments*, 96.8% positive feedback.
- Question 5: *I see the value in my homework*, 84.2% positive feedback.

My homework helps me grow as learner.

63 responses



The fourth grade team is excited to continue improving our homework program by partnering with colleagues, students and families!

Eliot News

HEARTS AROUND NEEDHAM, A NOTE FROM MS. MAAS, ASST. PRINCIPAL

The Eliot School Student Council is again sponsoring our annual school-wide project to spread Eliot School love around the town of Needham just in time for Valentine's Day. This event has been well-received by residents and businesses in the town for the past four years now. We will again need Eliot parent and student support to help us spread the love around town!

The past few years we have taken over 100 hearts to the North Hill community where they have been joyfully received by the residents. Each year we also send hearts to family members of our active military who are currently serving overseas. If you have a family member overseas and you would like us to send hearts to them, or if you have a connection to an Elder Home or if you have elderly neighbors in Needham, please contact Mrs. Maas so that we may send them hearts as well.

Hearts need to be delivered and hung around town at businesses from February 3rd to February 13th. Hearts are **due to Mrs. Maas by Wednesday, Feb. 12th.**

All Eliot School students are encouraged to make hearts (on **9x11 inch** paper—any color) and write the following words on the Heart:

"Eliot School Loves Needham"

For our Military Hearts please write: "Eliot School Loves You"

The heart may be decorated in any way using sequins, sparkles, etc. (We discourage the use of decorations, such as glitter, that fall off when the glue dries.) Paper bags can also be considered for repurposing!!

*If you have any stickers, paper doilies, special accents that can be shared, please feel free to drop them off at the office so that children will have embellishments to add to the hearts!

We hope to see Eliot School Hearts everywhere the week before and after Valentine's Day!! Please consider assisting us in delivering Eliot School Valentines!!

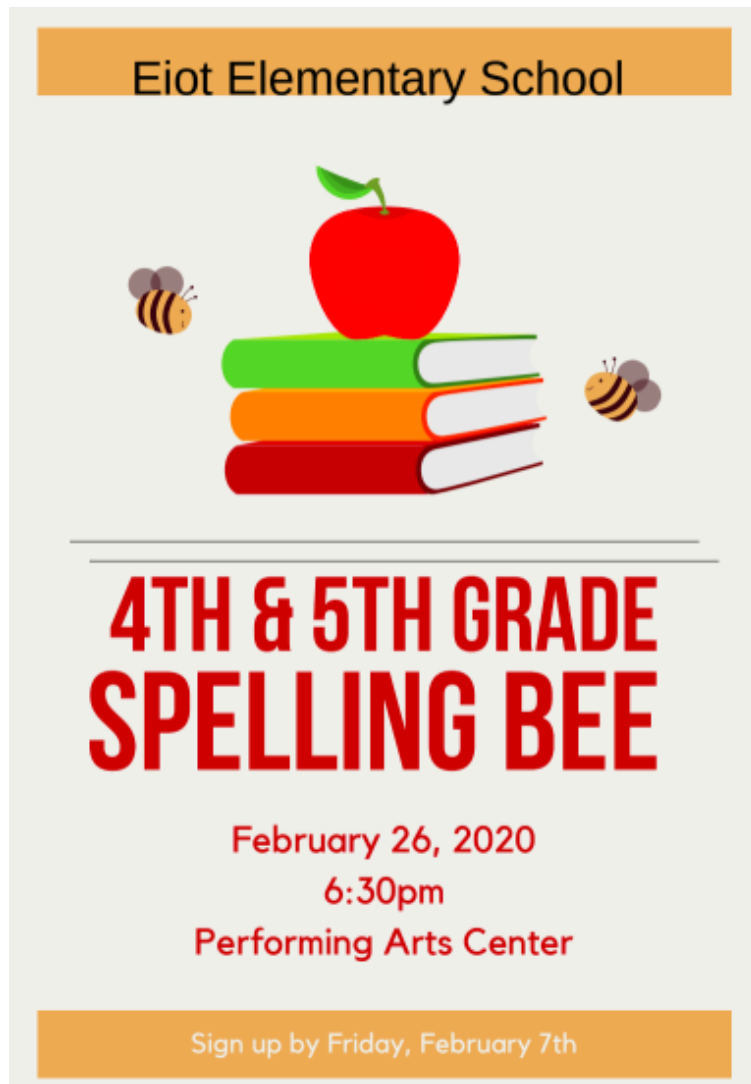
Volunteers Needed to Hang Hearts!

Please email me at Mona_Maas@needham.k12.ma.us if you are willing to *take Valentines* when you run your errands between February 5th and 13th.

Parents and students will need to take along **painters tape and/or tacks** to ensure that we can hang the hearts ourselves and not infringe on the businesses to provide these.

Mrs. Maas will be in touch the week of February 5th to 12th answer any questions about how and where to hang the hearts.





DR. KING CELEBRATION

The Eliot School Children's Chorus participated In annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at Pollard School on January 21st. Thank you Mr. Vallatini for preparing Eliot students to participate in this wonderful celebration!



Needham Happenings

McLeods to Receive Forde Good Person Award

Needham residents Kim and Brian McLeod have been selected as the 2020 Recipients of the Patrick and Patricia Forde Good Person Memorial Award. Kim and Brian are astronomers who have inspired many Needham children and youth with an introduction into real-world astronomy. They have dedicated countless hours of their time to the community, and their work has impacted many Needham students and residents. The Good Person award is designed to recognize Needham adults who helps make the community a better place for youth and families through their volunteer work. The award is recognition that through volunteerism and caring, each person in the community can improve Needham. A ceremony to honor Kim and Brian will be held Monday, January 27th at 5:30PM at Powers Hall in Needham Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

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Registration for Needham Baseball's Little League baseball program - Kindergarten, 1st Grade and Single A (2nd grade) – is now open through February 15, 2019. The Spring season is from April thru June. For more information and to sign up, please go to the registration page at www.needhambaseball.com.

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Needham Rocket Hats Still Available!

The NHS Boy's Hockey Program is selling "old time" Needham Rocket hats as part of a fundraising effort. Hats are \$25, proceeds go to Needham Boys Hockey Program. Cash or Checks to Friends of Needham Hockey. Please contact Carol Curran at 781-799-7703 or carolcurran2@gmail.com

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IMPORTANT DATES

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	
2/1/2020	Multicultural Night	Gym, Perf. Centert & Cafeteria
2/5/2020	PTC Meeting	Performance Center 7-8 p.m.
2/10/2020	Report Cards Distributed	
2/12/2020	Early Release Day, dismissal at 12:15 p.m.	
2/14/2020	Jump Rope for Heart	During school day

2/17-2/21	February Recess	
2/24/2020	School Resumes after February Recess	
2/26/2020	Eliot's 4th & 5th grade Spelling Bee	Performance Center 6:30 p.m.
	MARCH	
3/4/2020	Early Release Day, dismissal at 12:15 p.m.	
3/13/2020	Pep Rally - Hoops in the Heights	Performance Center 2 p.m.
3/13/2020	Hoops in the Heights Basketball Game	NHS - GYM - 6-8 p.m.
3/18/2020	Early Release Day, dismissal at 12:15 p.m.	

MCAS 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



See you next week!