



John Eliot School

Bulletin

February 7, 2020

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Principal's News

PROGRESS REPORT: NEW SEL COMPETENCIES

Next week you will receive a Progress Report that reflects your child's progress for the first half of the year. You may notice that the SEL portion of the Progress Report has changed. The district is now using the CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning) competencies as our framework for SEL reporting. The CASEL competencies are divided into five major categories: *Self Awareness, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Self Management Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making*. We will also be reporting on *Approaches to Learning*, which describes a student's work habits. In addition to the revised competencies, teachers will be employing a different scale to indicate student progress: *Established, Developing, Beginning, or Not Yet Observed*. We are reporting on end of year benchmarks so it should not be surprising to see that your child is "developing" in many areas.

The CASEL competencies (which have also been adopted by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)) are the same for all students (preK-12) but the amount of adult support and the expectations for students shift as students grow older. We expect younger students need more scaffolding and older children will be more independent. For example, students in grades 1 and 2 should be able to recognize simple rules of behavior (e.g. buckle seatbelt, sit with the group for lunch) with adult support whereas students in grades 3-5 should be able to understand and explain why it is important to obey certain rules or laws (eg. traffic laws, home rules, classroom rules).

Please note - this is a new framework for teachers. They have some "look-fors" as an overall guide and there has been a lot of thoughtful discussion at each grade level in order to develop a common understanding of expectations. It should also be noted that not all standards are observable at all times and teachers use their best judgment based on what they have observed.

Finally, I am often asked if a parent should share the Progress Report with their child. My recommendation is to share your overall impression – highlighting areas of strength as well as areas for growth – without sharing the actual document. The progress report has a lot of detailed information that is best digested by adults and

the information would be reduced to how many 2s or 3s from a child's perspective. As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

ELIOT SPIRIT DAY

The student council would like to have a Beach Day on Friday, February 14th. Kids can bring their Hawaiian shirts, sunglasses, sunhats and any (warm) beach related wear to school that day.

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.



Eliot vs. Hillside ('Hoops in the Heights') basketball game



Dear Eliot Families - We are planning one of our biggest PTC fundraisers, the upcoming Eliot vs. Hillside ('Hoops in the Heights') basketball game, which will be played on Friday, March 13th at 6:00 PM at Needham HS. Doors open at 5:30 PM. Plenty of pizza and snacks will be available, so come ready to eat and raise money for the Eliot PTC!

The following three (3) links provide different ways for Eliot folks to engage with this PTC fundraiser:

1) Purchase tickets to the game for \$4.25/ticket at the link below. Tickets sold at the door are \$5/ticket on game night. <https://sunita-williams-ptc.ticketleap.com/hoops-in-the-heights-20202/>

2) Volunteer to help at the concession & souvenir stands.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4cacad22a5fa7-8thannual>

3) Play in the game! Sign up at this link by February 13th. <https://forms.gle/N87nDJsJABxAKXda6>

For any questions regarding this event, please contact Josh Goldfine at j.goldfine@comcast.net.

Eiot Elementary School



4TH & 5TH GRADE SPELLING BEE

February 26, 2020
6:30pm
Performing Arts Center

Sign up by Friday, February 7th

The [spelling bee word list](#) is available on our webpage under Eliot Happenings.

Needham Happenings

Event: Let's Talk about the A Word

Do you have an anxious child and are you wondering how you can help them? The Eliot PTC has teamed up with the Broadmeadow PTC to bring you a free workshop on the subject. Come hear Jon Mattleman, former director of Needham Youth & Family services, present on supporting your anxious child. **Location: Broadmeadow Performance Center, 120 Broadmeadow Road**

Date and Time: Thursday 2/13/2020, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Contact: president@broadmeadowptc.org

Register: <https://conta.cc/2RvTJNf>

SEPAC Educational Presentation:

Understanding Dyslexia and Supporting Struggling Readers

Please join us for a presentation by Dr. Alissa Talamo, a neuropsychologist from NESCA, who will address dyslexia-related topics including:

- How to identify a student with dyslexia
- Best practices in supporting the acquisition of reading skills
- How changing MA laws will help identify struggling readers

Alissa Talamo, Ph.D. specializes in working with children and adolescents with language-based learning disabilities including dyslexia, attentional disorders, and emotional issues. With NESCA since 2007, Dr. Talamo practiced for many years as a child and adolescent clinical psychologist prior to completing postdoctoral re-training in pediatric neuropsychology.

Broadmeadow School Media Center

Thursday, February 27

7:00pm – Networking & Refreshments 7:30pm – Program Begins

Parents, Rally an Adult Team for the NEF Spelling Bee!

We hope you can join us on Sunday, March 15th at 3pm in the Needham High School cafeteria for the annual NEF Spelling Bee. As the NEF's largest fundraiser, the Bee draws spellers of all ages from Needham schools, businesses, and the community. Join in the fun and show your support of the NEF by forming your own adult team. Get together with a few friends from your neighborhood, poker group, book club, or business, and spell your way to victory.

To register a team, fill out a [registration form](#) by February 28th. Your registration fee will help to fund innovative, educational, and enriching programs for Needham Public School students in grades K through 12. Interested in supporting the Bee but prefer to skip the spelling? Sponsor a team with a donation or place an ad in the Bee Program Book. Visit nefneedham.org for details.

IMPORTANT DATES

	FEBRUARY	
2/10/2020	Report Cards Distributed	
2/11/2020	Eliot School Council Meeting @ 3 p.m.	Principal's conference room
2/12/2020	Early Release Day, dismissal at 12:15 p.m.	
2/14/2020	Jump Rope for Heart	During school day

2/14/2020	ELIOT SPIRIT DAY - Beach Day <i>Kids can wear Hawaiian shirts, sunglasses, sunhats and any (warm) beach related wear to school that day</i>	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.	
	APRIL	
4/1/2020	Early Release Day, dismissal at 12:15 p.m.	
4/10/2020	Good Friday - No School	
4/14/2020	Eliot School Council Meeting @ 3 p.m.	Principal's conference room
4/20-4/24	April Recess	
4/27/2020	School Resumes after April Recess	
	MAY	
5/6/2020	Early Release Day, dismissal at 12:15 p.m.	
5/20/2020	Early Release Day, dismissal at 12:15 p.m.	
5/25/2020	Memorial Day - No School	
	JUNE	
6/3/2020	Early Release Day, dismissal at 12:15 p.m.	
6/7/2020	Needham High School Graduation	
6/19/2020	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL with one snow 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!