



John Eliot School

Bulletin

March 6, 2020

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<http://eliot.needham.k12.ma.us>
Editor, Susan Rains

Principal's News

PLACEMENT REQUESTS FOR THE 2020/21 SCHOOL YEAR

It is now the time of the year when we consider class placement for the fall. The primary goal of our placement process is to construct balanced classes and the process is a complex and collaborative activity that involves the entire Eliot staff. The system-wide guidelines which drive the process state that we must create classes that are balanced by many factors including: gender; social, physical and academic potential; peer relations (social and emotional development); and equitable student/teacher ratio. Current teachers, guidance counselors, specialists, and building administrators consider each child in order to create an optimal learning environment for the group. Once class lists have been formed, Mona Maas and I will assign a teacher to each class. If there are special or unusual circumstances that should be considered in terms of your child's placement with peers, please send an email to Eliot_Placement@Needham.k12.ma.us by Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Please note, this deadline is BEFORE spring conference to allow us more time for the placement process; and to allow you to focus on your child's achievement during your spring conference. Since children change over the course of a year, we do not automatically carry forward requests from previous years. While we value your ideas and will make the very best effort for your child's placement, there are no guarantees that every request can be honored. Honoring requests for a specific teacher (or not for a specific teacher) is not possible due to the complexity of the placement process. Letters requesting specific teachers will be disregarded.

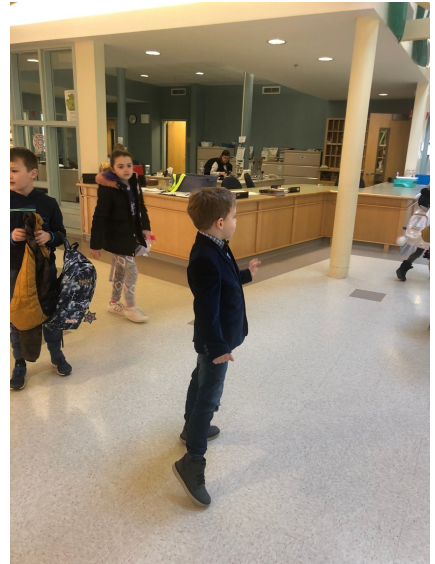
Finally, and most importantly, I urge you to trust the process and wish to assure you that our teachers and specialists know and care deeply about your child, and have spent the whole year developing an understanding of how your child learns best. They have had multiple opportunities to observe your child working with peers in the school environment and to consider all of those factors when creating classes. Thank you for your support and partnership.

PRINCIPAL OF THE DAY

Today, Jacob Murray, a kindergartener in Mrs. Cohen's class served as principal of the day. Jacob was the winner of a raffle from the Eliot cultural festival. While meeting with Mr. Murray today, he provided me with three specific ways to make Eliot school the "best" school in Needham:

- 1- Students should be allowed to eat lunch as soon as they arrive at school
- 2- The outside of the building should be repainted in rainbow colors
- 3- All teachers should provide extra time for kids to read in their classes.

Thank you Jacob for the wonderful advice! Here are a few photos from the day.



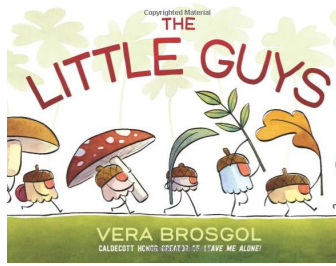
SPOTLIGHT ON THE LIBRARY

Recently all of the 4th and 5th graders at Eliot participated in our annual mock Caldecott unit during their weekly library time. The Caldecott medal is given out every year by the American Library Association to an illustrator for the "most distinguished illustrations in a book for children". Our students looked at and evaluated a selection of 2019 picture books and then voted for the book they thought had the best illustrations. We have named our school award the Eldecott Medal.

The students considered the following questions:

- Are the illustrations excellent?
- Are the illustrations critical for the understanding of the story?
- Do the illustrations match the mood and theme of the story?
- Do the illustrations appeal to children?

The Eldecott Medal 2020 goes to.....



The Little Guys illustrated by Vera Brosgol

Three Eldecott Honor books were also named:

Camp Tiger illustrated by John Rocco

Nobody Hugs a Cactus illustrated by Carter Goodrich

Sea Bear illustrated by Lindsay Moore

TOP BOOK PER CLASS

Miss Kozin: The Little Guys, Nobody Hugs a Cactus, Hum and Swish

Mr. Kerr: The Little Guys, The Undeclared, Fear the Bunny

Miss Westphalen: Camp Tiger, The Little Guys, Because

Mrs Hoffman: The Bell Rang, Nobody Hugs a Cactus, Sea Bear

Mrs. D'Angio: Camp Tiger, The Little Guys, Hum and Swish

Mrs. Calvo: Camp Tiger, The Little Guys, Sea Bear

Mrs. Wankowicz: The Little Guys, Nobody Hugs a Cactus, Fear the Bunny

Ask your fourth or fifth grader which was their favorite.

The top ten books are on display this week in the school lobby.

School News

IT'S YEARBOOK TIME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Eliot Yearbooks are now on sale and it's better than ever!

ALL YEARBOOKS MUST BE ORDERED ONLINE directly through Memory Book. Please see the instructions below. It is super quick and easy. If you have any questions about ordering your yearbook(s) contact

Suzanne.stein@comcast.net

Your child will receive their yearbook the last week of school.

All orders are due no later than MARCH 13.

ONLINE INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1: Visit www.memorybook.com/online-pay/parent-pay/

Step 2: Enter your school code 096654 then click next "Go to your school account log in"

Step 3: Click on the link below your school name

Step 4 Login if returning or register as a "new user"

Step 5: Buy one or more yearbooks for \$20 each

ALL YEARBOOKS MUST BE PRE-ORDERED. THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA BOOKS THIS YEAR

Eliot News

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



Dear Eliot Families – The annual 'Hoops in the Heights' basketball game is coming 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!

Here are the 2 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>

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

An announcement from Mary Lammi

Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services

An interview process for the position of Executive Director of Special Education will be held in March and will include a Parent/Guardian Forum on March 18th at 9:30 at the School Administration Building.

Introduction to High Rock School

Introduction to Special Education at High Rock School

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 6:30 pm

High Rock School Gymnasium

Hosted by Judith Murphy, Grade 6 Special Education Coordinator

This informational session is for parents/guardians of students who receive special education services and will be attending High Rock in the fall of 2020. This program will be in the High Rock Library/Media Center and will give a broad overview of the special education program including:

- what is a learning center
- how services are delivered
- a typical day for a special education student
- support services and personnel
- method of communication

*All parents/guardians of current 5th grade special education students are strongly encouraged to attend both the March 3 and March 10 introductory sessions.

Cheer on the Teams at the NEF Spelling Bee March 15th!

Join friends, neighbors, Needham Public School students, members of our local business community and civic leaders at the annual NEF Spelling Bee on Sunday, March 15 at 3pm in the Needham High School Cafeteria.

Admission and refreshments are free thanks to the generous support of many sponsors, including Needham Bank, Roche Brothers and Veryst Engineering. At the Bee you can support the NEF by purchasing raffle tickets for items donated by local businesses and special, bee-adorned cupcakes from Treat Cupcake Bar.

New this year: send some encouragement to your favorite team with a "BeeGram!" Your personalized message will be displayed at the Bee and given to the team to take home afterwards. BeeGrams can be purchased either in advance at www.nefneedham.org or at the Bee.

Our celebrity pronouncers will be Kathy Curran, award-winning journalist and member of WCVB's 5 Investigates, and Gary Gillis, a Needham native, partner at Last Minute Productions, and former television and radio reporter in Boston. Dan Gutekanst, Needham Public Schools Superintendent, will be the pronouncer for the elementary school round. For more event information, go to www.nefneedham.org

Intelligent Lives - Film Screening and Panel Discussion

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00pm • Pollard Middle School Auditorium

Intelligent Lives challenges perceptions of intelligence as it profiles three pioneering young adults with intellectual disabilities, and points to a future in which people of all abilities can fully participate in higher education, meaningful employment and relationships. The film highlights the important role that educators, employers, friends and family can play in supporting successful inclusion.

A panel discussion will follow the film featuring:

- John Byrne, Senior Director of Employment and Day Services, Charles River Center
- Erin Gibbons, Ph.D., Pediatric Neuropsychologist, NESCA
- Brian Ziman, BCBA, Needham High School

We hope you can join us as we consider what we can do to make our community more inclusive for people of all abilities. For more information, please visit NeedhamSEPAC.org.

Presented by Needham SEPAC in partnership with Needham Diversity Initiative and Needham Human Rights Committee.



SEPAC PRESENTS

intelligent lives
a film by dan habib

FILM SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION

March 25, 7pm
Pollard Middle School

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



The [Needham Science Center](#) is currently in search of someone to help care for our small live animal collection. The animals are used to support elementary science teaching in five elementary schools. We are looking for candidates with experience caring for animals that could devote ten hours a week.

For more information, see [job posting](#).

Also, the Science Center is seeking large empty disposable plastic lettuce/spinach containers with matching lids. We need the largest size sold, which is about 6x10 inches and 3 inches high. Depending on the contents, the container might be labelled anywhere from 11 ounce to 16 ounces. Any brand is fine.

Please have your child deliver the container to the classroom teacher. Or, you can drop off the containers to the Science Center, Newman School.

Kindergarten scientists will use the containers to create mini gardens. Thank you!

Needham Happenings

Shrek The Musical

Needham High School is proud to present "**Shrek The Musical**". Performances on March 13 & 14 at 7:00 p.m. and March 15 at 2:00 p.m. at the Newman Elementary School auditorium. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and may be purchased on myschoolbucks.com or by contacting Betsey Pratt at betsey_pratt@needham.k12.ma.us to request a ticket order form.

An event to benefit the Plugged In Band Program

British Invasion of Needham, featuring *Beatlejuice and Friends*; Saturday, April 4, 2020: 7PM at Powers Hall. This 21+ event provides amazing music, dancing, a cash bar and delicious dinner options from Captain Marden's Cod Squad. Proceeds support our Student Scholarship and Inclusion Fund. Admission includes Dessert: \$35 per person in advance at www.pluggedinband.org

IMPORTANT DATES

	MARCH	
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.
3/15/2020	NEF Spelling Bee	NHS Cafeteria @ 3 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.	
6/3/2020	Annual School Picnic Art Show in lobby	Playground
6/4/2020	Spring Concert for Families Art Show in lobby	Performance Center 8:45 a.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.