



# John Eliot School

## Bulletin

March 29, 2020

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>

## Principal's News

Dear Eliot Families,

I hope you are all doing well. The Bourn family is continuing to figure out how to balance keeping our kids busy, engaged in school, and managing the stress of the crisis at hand. The staff and I look forward to the day when we can be together again.

Last night, the superintendent sent an email to all NPS families letting you know that we're working to roll out remote learning opportunities for all grade levels in phases beginning the week of April 6. Changing teaching and learning for 600 employees and the 5,666 students of NPS (who range in age from 4 to 18) in 11 working days is a big lift. However, it's one that the faculty and staff in Needham are up to. Please know we are doing all we can to roll this out to families while keeping in mind the range of accessibility of materials, student needs and supports at home. I will send more specific information on remote learning as it becomes available.

Here are other updates:

### UPDATE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

Kerry Bickford, the school nurse, will hold office hours from 10 - 12 Monday through Friday. Please feel free to email her at [Kerry\\_Bickford@needham.k12.ma.us](mailto:Kerry_Bickford@needham.k12.ma.us) and she will get back to you. Here is a link to her latest newsletter: [From the Health Office](#).

### BUS REGISTRATION

Due to the current situation we are all faced with, NPS is postponing the bus registration period for the 2020/21 school year, which was originally scheduled to begin on April 1st. The transportation department will follow up with the new opening date once it has been established. The new date will be determined over the next couple of weeks. We understand that this is a difficult time emotionally and financially. We will do our very best to communicate the next steps and make every effort to accommodate your bus registrations.

## THANK YOU ROOM PARENTS!

Yesterday, Eliot students participated in a virtual playdate with the teachers and friends. It was great to see all of those smiling faces and hear what kids had been up to these past few weeks. Thank you Eliot room parents for organizing this important event.

## PLACEMENT REQUESTS FOR THE 2020/21 SCHOOL YEAR

The window to submit a placement letter has been extended to April 15th. Please review the communication sent last month that details the placement process.

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](mailto:Eliot_Placement@Needham.k12.ma.us) by **Wednesday, April 15, 2020**. 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.

### DAILY QUARANTINE QUESTIONS:

1. What am I GRATEFUL for today?
2. Who am I CHECKING IN ON or CONNECTING WITH today?
3. What expectations of "normal" am I LETTING GO OF today?
4. How am I GETTING OUTSIDE today?
5. How am I MOVING MY BODY today?
6. What BEAUTY am I either creating, cultivating, or inviting in today?

Take Care,

Karen Bourn, Eliot Principal