



John Eliot School

Bulletin

April 10, 2020

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Principal, Karen Bourn
Assistant Principal, Mona Maas
<http://eliot.needham.k12.ma.us>

Principal's News

Dear Eliot Families,

I hope you are doing well. I know for me and many of you, it is a struggle learning how to balance working from home, or in many cases, needing to work outside the home, with keeping your families safe, and parenting our children during this uncertain time. Please know the staff at Eliot are here to support you in any way we can. I want to thank those of you who provided us information on how your families are doing. Please continue to fill out the following form, <https://forms.gle/bfQ5JZsQHATfdAfv7>, to let us know how we can support you. So far, we have gotten feedback about 180 of our students, and we would like to hear about how all of our 415 students are doing. I will close the survey on Sunday evening.

Here are other updates:

CHANGE IN SCHOOL CALENDAR

By now you have heard from Dr. Gutekanst that April vacation has been canceled and "that we [will] continue to provide instruction for all students through our Remote Learning Plan. We will also continue providing meals for students in need during this week. The continuity of instruction and vital services is important, and the inability of families to travel makes this an appropriate move in this unusual circumstance. Monday, April 20th is Patriots' Day, and the district will observe this holiday and not hold classes. The School Committee also voted to have the last day of school be Friday, June 19th. Please check out the [district's website](#) to view calendar information"

<https://app.blh441.net/click?id=qHTJriMqtyMbdYf%2FjllPGRKgK1Jxj%2FxySPEAskLMmh2APOip0vYdac9Q05uy8uvmLNW%2BnxVyCLLZY9be691kigeng9gflUW2n>

MEALS FOR STUDENTS IN NEED

Needham Public Schools Child Nutrition Services Program will continue to distribute "grab and go" bags containing breakfast and lunch for any child or teen in need in Needham. These FREE meals-to-go will contain a variety of breakfast items including cereal, bagels, muffins, yogurt, fruit and milk. Lunches will include a variety of cold sandwiches, entrée salads, individual pizzas to heat up, fruits, vegetables and milk. Meals will be available in a drive-through format on **Tuesdays and Fridays between 11:00 – 1:00 at High Rock School**. On each of those two days, a bag will be given for each child, which will contain breakfast and lunch meals for each day (including

weekend days) until the next service day. HOURS: **11:00AM - 1:00PM Tuesday & Friday** The distribution site will be High Rock School (77 Ferndale Ave):

See below for the directions to and instructions for the meal pick-up site at High Rock.

- Cars will enter the drive-through loop on Linden Street, and proceed to the meal distribution carts just beyond the first small parking lot. • Bags will be distributed in a drive-through format; Residents will remain in their vehicles.
- If children can not be present at the meal pickup site, the parent / guardian or designee will need to give the student name/s to receive meals.
- In order to maintain appropriate social distancing, meals should not be consumed on site.
- Recipients DO NOT need to be qualified for free or reduced lunch. Any child or teen in need is eligible to receive the meals.
- Cars will continue through the loop and exit onto Sylvan Rd

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 and she will get back to you.

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 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.
