



John Eliot School

Bulletin

April 17, 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,

As we move into our third week of remote learning, I would like to share how our specialists are connecting with students while providing remote instruction in their special area. In addition, names of students who would like to connect with certain specialists from the survey have been forwarded to specialists and they are working on ways to connect with them.

ART- MRS. MCALLISTER

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, 10:30-11:00 AM and Thursday, 10-11 AM

EMAIL: christine_mcallister@needham.k12.ma.us

The Elementary Art Teachers are working as a team to develop art lessons we hope you find thoughtful and engaging. Students are not required to complete the art lessons, but the best part of my day is seeing your beautiful creations. There are two (preferred) ways you can share photos of your artwork:

1. A parent can email me directly at my address above (no student emails allowed).
2. You or a grown up can add a photo to the [Eliot Art Folder](#): Please be aware that this folder is public.

Please be aware that I can't see work in SeeSaw.

I have enjoyed time spent with classes during Morning Meetings, and small groups, because I actually get to see students! I look forward to attending more meetings in the upcoming weeks. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

MEDIA- MRS. MULLIN

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and Thursday 9am-10am

EMAIL: molly_mullin@needham.k12.ma.us

The Needham Elementary Librarians have been working as a team to produce the library activities for our schools, kindergarten through fifth grade. I think it is fun that, over time, students are getting to meet the librarians from all the other elementary schools in town.

Students are not required to share your work, but we look forward to receiving emails with anything you want to share from the lessons, or just letting us know what you have been reading at home.

I have been attending morning meetings with classes and commenting back to all students and families that have been sending me work via email. I am contacting any students who indicated that they would like to connect with me directly. Anyone else who would like to get in touch, please email me at the address above. Please use a parent/guardian email address if you would like to contact me as we cannot respond to students directly.

I am also working on my next book order for our library, so if you have any ideas for books that we need (things you would usually put in the suggestion box in the library), send me the titles in an email. Keep up the good reading!

MUSIC - MR. VALLATINI

(OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Wednesday 10:00-11:00)

Email: george_vallatini@needham.k12.ma.us

If you would like to share a musical photo, video or audio with me, please upload it to this [Student Music Work](#) folder. Thank you!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - MR BRENHEISER

OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Wednesday 11:00-12:00

[Mr. Brenhisers Contact Info](#)

Hello! There are few ways for students/parents to contact me with questions or if you want to share work. There is no homework that needs to be turned in to google classrooms or Seesaw for physical education. We hope the students have enjoyed the 4 different challenges each week!

- 1) My email is listed in the contact information above if you wish to share a picture, accomplishment or possibly have a question. Please use a parent/guardian email address if you would like to contact me as we cannot respond to students directly.
- 2) Use the [virtual photo album](#) to post pictures of students completing the physical education challenges for the week! Directions of how to post pictures are in my contact info above. (this is a completely optional public photo album - students can be in the picture or not!)
- 3) I will be reaching out to students who wished to connect with me next week! Look forward to connecting with everyone soon!

SPANISH- SEÑORITA JODRIE

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday and Thursday 10:00-11:00

EMAIL: delia_jodrie@needham.k12.ma.us

¡Hola! I have been checking in to morning meetings in order to see students face to face. I have also reached out to students who said they were interested in connecting through the survey that was sent home by classroom teachers. There is no homework that needs to be turned in, and if you want to share work here is how you can do that:

1. Some students have been sharing their work with me through google classroom which is fantastic because I can see their work and also comment on it.
2. Students have also been sharing work by emailing me through an adult email account, and also just emailing to say hi which I love too!
3. Another way for students to start sharing what they are doing is by taking a photo and adding it to our running "bulletin board" of Spanish activities:

[Eliot Spanish Activities](#) - click this link and then click on "add photos" and share what you have been working on if you would like (this is a public photo album - students can be in the picture or not!)

SPRING CONFERENCE UPDATE

Please see the notice below from Terry Duggan the Asst. Superintendent for student learning

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we continue in the fifth week of our “new normal,” I hope everyone in your household remains safe and healthy. Given the extraordinary situation presented by the outbreak of COVID-19, the teachers and administrators of your child’s school are working hard to maintain strong connections and relationships with you and your family; to engage your children directly in the curriculum in thoughtful ways, and to provide services and supports to help meet the many needs of the entire school community. With that said, we readily acknowledge that the remote learning experience cannot replicate the physical classroom environment and the kind of learning that takes place with a child’s teacher every day in a physical classroom.

At this time of year, you and your child’s teacher usually schedule conferences to discuss your child’s progress. For these conferences, teachers would gather a range of artifacts of student work as well as data from spring benchmark assessments in mathematics and literacy to help inform their discussions with you. Under the current situation, our students are faced with such a range of conditions that influence their learning experiences and teachers are unable to gather the information about your child’s work and the assessment data that they need in order to meaningfully discuss your child’s progress.

We have, therefore, decided that the traditional spring conferences this year needs to be different.

Acknowledging that teachers do not have the information at hand to discuss student progress, if you have something else you would like to talk over with your child’s teacher, you are most welcome to reach out to them during their regularly scheduled “office hours.”

Our intent is to determine each child’s progress when we return to school, hopefully within the next few weeks, and to provide you with a more informed assessment of your child’s learning and growth when we resume conferences in the fall. Know that your child’s teacher remains committed to maintaining a strong relationship with you and your child and will continue to provide for their learning. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child’s teacher, your school principal or me with any questions.

On behalf of our very dedicated and caring teachers, we thank you for your partnership with us during this difficult time and remain optimistic that we will soon be able to return to our schools.

Sincerely,

Terry Duggan, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning

781-455-0400 X11240

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OPEN HOURS

The school committee will hold a virtual open house tomorrow, April 18th at 9:00 am. Parents and community members will have an opportunity to meet and speak informally with their school committee representatives. Join the open house via zoom webinar. [REGISTRATION](#) is required and you will receive an invitation and link to the meeting. Attendees are encouraged to send questions in advance to the School Committee. The Open House will also be carried on the Needham Channel and live streamed on the [Needham Channel](#) website.

BUS REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The bus registration period is still on hold. We are in the process of setting up bus registration in a way that will give everyone a fair opportunity to register and keep everyone safe. We hope to complete the process soon. When we do, we

will provide enough notice so that families will have time to react and prepare for the registration. Please use the link below to join the transportation listserve to receive updates and information.

<https://lists.needham.k12.ma.us/mailman/listinfo/transportation>

Other News

HEARTS FOR BID HEALTHCARE HEROES

BID Needham invites the community to share your heart – and appreciation – for our caregivers who are working tirelessly to keep our community safe. Draw a heart with a note of encouragement or thanks, post it on your social media account with #HeartsforHealthcareHeroes and your picture will be shared with our physicians, nurses and employees, showing them we are not alone. We are in this together! Check out the BID Needham Facebook or Instagram pages for more information.

AN UPDATE FROM THE NEEDHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library building is closed, but the staff of the Needham Free Public Library is still busy providing virtual programs and services for children and families.

The Children's Department has created a section on the Library web page called Children's Activities at Home. <http://www.needhamma.gov/4854/Childrens-Activities-at-Home-free-resour> It has information for parents and children on Covid-19, tons of free ebooks for children, all kinds of educational sites and fun activities. There is a free ebook of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone and a month of related Harry Potter activities. We are also celebrating National Children's Book Week online on this page with party ideas and printable activity pages around the books *The Princess in Black* and *Mercy Watson*.

There are recordings of oral storytellings - a telling of a story from the Orkney Islands of Scotland and a telling of the 3 Billy Goats Gruff followed by ideas for a STEM activity. If children complete the suggested activity by building or drawing they can post a picture of the project in the comments under the library Facebook post of the story

<https://www.facebook.com/NeedhamFreePublicLibrary/> . The storytelling videos are also viewable on YouTube. Teachers are free to use either the storytelling videos or the craft videos if they are helpful to the <https://youtu.be/StqeXJ5FkEm>.

Assipittle and the Muckle Mester Storworm Story: <https://youtu.be/StqeXJ5FkEm>

Three Billy Goats Gruff Storytelling

<https://youtu.be/BaETtRR9G8o>

On the library Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NeedhamFreePublicLibrary/> is a recording of the rhymes and songs we use in Storytime, so parents can do them at home with their children [#digitalstorytime](#) [#wheelsonthabus](#) . There are also recordings on Facebook of library staff reading poems out loud for National Poetry Month [#nationalpoetrymonth](#) [#librariansreadingpoetryaloud](#) and several how-to recordings of craft activities to do at home with children. Many of our musicians who perform at the library are posting recordings of their music programs on the library Facebook page.
