



John Eliot School

Bulletin

April 24, 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 want to thank all of the families that attended our first remote open house today. I appreciate the feedback and questions families raised and hope the session was informative. [Here](#) is a link to the slideshow presented at the meeting. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to communicate with me directly: Karen_bourn@needham.k12.ma.us.

SPRING CONFERENCE UPDATE

Please see the notice below from Terry Duggan the Asst. Superintendent for student learning. This was also sent last week:

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

Other News

Share Your Pandemic Parenting Stories!

SPAN (Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham) is collecting stories about YOUR experience as a parent during this unprecedented time, to share with our community. We are looking for a broad range of stories, everything from the new hobby you've taken up, to the family argument that keeps happening; from the real issues you're facing, to your favorite way to pass the time. What are YOUR stories from the inside (of your home)?

"**Stories from the Inside**" will be collected and shared (anonymously) on the SPAN Website (www.spanneedham.org) & Facebook page (@SPANNeedham). 500 or words or less, please. Submit your story to storiesfromtheinside2020@gmail.com, or check out <https://www.spanneedham.org/parents> for more information.

Alyssa Kence

Community Benefits Director

Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital–Needham

