



John Eliot School

Bulletin

May 1, 2020

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

Principal's News

Hello Eliot Families,

I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy. For the past few days, staff at Eliot school have been planning for the next phase of the remote learning plan. The Superintendent will be sharing information with the community this weekend regarding changes to the plan as we seek to strengthen our existing model. After his email, I will send out information to families about what that means for Eliot families. I will host another parent open house on Friday May 8 at 1:00. Please fill out [this form](#) to receive a zoom link.

The district has determined the Learning Goals for each grade level for the remainder of the school year. This document can be found on the district website and [HERE](#).

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SEARCH

During this last budget cycle, Eliot school was granted additional administrative personnel. Mona Maas is currently in a split position as a .7 Special Education Coordinator and a .3 Assistant principal. Next school year, Mona will be a full time special education coordinator and we will hire an additional .6 building administrator to serve as assistant principal.

Prior to the school closure, a rigorous process was planned including an Eliot parent forum, visit to the applicant's current position and a half day visit to Eliot school to meet students, faculty and staff. Now that schools are closed for the remainder of the year, this process is no longer possible and it would be difficult to find the best fit for our community virtually. As a result, the position will be an interim. The interim candidate will have the opportunity to apply to the permanent position when this process is restarted next spring.

Last week, a small panel including two teachers: Stephanie Calvo and Melanie Sullivan, Mona Maas, a parent: Melyssa Taylor and myself interviewed 7 interim candidates. From these interviews, 3 strong candidates emerged as finalists. These three finalists will continue with a virtual process including an interview by a group of 5th graders, a virtual forum with staff and an additional interview with Karen, Mona and other district leadership. Through this virtual process, we are confident we will find someone that will support our students, families and staff at the level expected by the Eliot community. I will be in touch with any updates.

ELIOT RETIREMENTS

I am sad to announce the retirement of two very valuable members of the Eliot community, Susan Rains, our lead secretary and Kim Carroll our bookkeeper and office assistant. Kim and Susan began at Eliot at the same time 15 years ago. Although I am thrilled they will be moving to this next much less hectic period of their lives, I am saddened that the abrupt school closure did not allow us to honor their service to Eliot school in person. Kim's last day will be on Wednesday and Susan will retire at the end of June. Please join me in wishing these two amazing ladies a fabulous retirement!

I hope you and your families get a chance to enjoy the beautiful weather later today. The Bourns will take advantage of the beautiful weather to get some work done outdoors. Take care of yourselves and as always, please feel free to reach out to me if you need anything.

Karen Bourn
Eliot Principal