



**John Eliot School  
Bulletin  
May 22, 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,

We hope your families are doing well during this time. Thank you for your patience as we organize a safe and efficient way to get your child's materials to you. We have arranged two dates, **Tuesday, June 16 for grades K,1 and 2** and **Wednesday, June 17 for grades 3,4 and 5** for family pick up of student belongings. Your child's classroom teacher and other teachers will be there to wave goodbye to their students and this might be a nice opportunity for your child to wave goodbye as well.

Please know, this is not the way our staff would have preferred to see your children as we close out the year. The staff are working on ways to relax remote learning in the last week of school to allow activities for closure. We know that during this time, families will often give a gift to their child's teacher as a token of appreciation. In an effort to stay safe, we ask that families not provide a gift this year. We are feeling fully supported and appreciated from our Eliot community and have really appreciated your kind words and flexibility during this time.

Please review the procedures below:

**To adhere to social distancing guidelines, we ask that you arrive only by car to retrieve your child's materials. Please do not exit your car.**

**Specific guidelines for the pick up process:**

- We will use the school's morning drop off line and morning bus line to connect with families. Grade levels and classes will be assigned time frames to collect belongings.
- Please display a sign with your child's name and his/her classroom teacher. A staff member will bring a paper bag of your child's belongings to your vehicle.
- There are two ways we can give your child's belongings to you. The preferred method is for you to open your trunk and we will place it there. If that is not possible, we will leave it outside your car door for you to pick up yourselves, once staff has moved away from the area. Per the advice from the Board

of Health, it is recommended that you not remove the items from your car for at least 4 days to prevent any contamination to your homes.

- For families that cannot make this specific time please contact your child's teacher and we will make arrangements to have pickup at a later date. If needed, staff will be available to drop off materials as well.

#### Parent Pick Up Schedule:



<b>Tuesday June 16</b> <b>Grades K,1,2</b> <b>Please note location and time</b>		
Grade	Teacher	Pick up and Location
2	Rapp	9:30 am <b>Front entrance</b> of building
K	Cohen	10:00 am <b>Side of building</b> (bus line)
2	Maxwell	10:30am <b>Front entrance</b> of building
K	Slotnick	11:00 am <b>Side of building</b> (bus line)
2	Wolfe	11:30am <b>Front entrance</b> of building
K	Bagley	12:00 pm <b>Side of building</b> (bus line)
2	Kaefer	12:30pm <b>Front entrance</b> of building

1	Schwarm	1:00 pm Side of building (bus line)
1	Earley	1:30pm Front entrance of building
1	Altschuler	2:00pm Side of building (bus line)

<b>Wednesday June 17</b> <b>Grades 3,4,5</b> <b>Please note location and time</b>		
Grade	Teacher	Pick up and Location
3	Badger	9:30 am Front entrance of building
4	Kerr	10:00 am Side of building (bus line)
3	Hession	10:30am Front entrance of building
4	Westphalen	11:00 am Side of building (bus line)
3	Wythe	11:30am Front entrance of building
4	Kozin	12:00 pm Side of building (bus line)
4-5 Hoffman	Hoffman	12:30am Front entrance of building
5	Wankowicz	1:00 am Side of building (bus line)
5	D'Angio	1:30am Front entrance of building
5	Calvo	2:00pm Side of building (bus line)

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

## END OF YEAR PROGRESS REPORTING

Please see the following communication from Terry Duggan, Director of Teaching and Learning

Dear Parents,

At this time of the year, we usually begin to prepare for the close of school and a much needed summer break. Needless to say, the second half of this school year has largely been one of "doing things differently" on many fronts. Teaching and learning was happening remotely, our daily routines were being upended, and practices and processes we had long been accustomed to were being re-envisioned. At this point in the year, one thing we will need to "do differently" is the end of year progress report.

Over the last few months, our students have been faced with such a range of different conditions that have influenced their learning experiences. Reporting on the content and skills that appear on the existing progress

report would not be a true reflection of what a student knows. Consequently, we will be suspending the end of year progress reports in lieu of a brief 10-15 minute "closure meeting" with each family. Including your child in this meeting, if appropriate, would also be encouraged. Special educators and/or related service providers may or may not be attending these meetings.

The purpose of the meeting is to lend closure to the school year for everyone. The expectation is that the "closure meeting" is brief. It is designed to provide an opportunity for students to reflect on their hopes and dreams for the year and to talk about possible future goals. The student may speak about/share a remote learning activity that they particularly enjoyed or that they are proud of. The brief "closure meeting" is not intended to replicate the traditional conference model.

Your child's teacher will be reaching out to you within the next couple of weeks to schedule a time for the meeting. Please remember that the end-of-the-year "closure meeting" is supposed to be:

- Brief; (10-15 minutes long)
- An opportunity to put closure on the school year and say goodbye
- A time in which students are encouraged to reflect on their learning and set goals for the upcoming year.
- A replacement for the end of year report card

The meeting will not, however, replicate the traditional spring conference; provide you with data on student progress, or provide you with answers to questions about the NPS re-opening or next year's placement.

Our intent is to share with you a more informed assessment of your child's learning and growth when we can hopefully resume conferences in the fall. Know that your child's teacher remains committed to maintaining a strong relationship with you and your child. 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 be able to return to our schools in September.

Respectfully,

*Terry*

Terry Duggan, EdD.

Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning

## Other News

### NEF Funds Four Spring Grants — including one for Eliot!

In its spring grant cycle, Needham Education Foundation (NEF) awarded four grants totaling \$22,301 that will benefit students throughout the Needham Public Schools, including one that will directly impact students at Eliot:

- A multi-school grant will fund a 30-unit Virtual Reality Expeditions kit to be shared across all five elementary schools which will allow teachers to take their classes on virtual field trips.

To learn more about all of the spring grant awards and how you can help the NEF support innovative and enriching programs at Eliot, please visit [nefneedham.org](https://nefneedham.org).

### **Parent Survey: How Can We Help?**

Needham Youth & Family Services is working hard to meet the needs of the Needham community during this current health crisis. We would like your input as to what resources and/or services would be beneficial to you and your family. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions.

In addition, we would like to gather data on youth mental health and substance use. This data will be used by the Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham (SPAN) to help shape the work of the coalition.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9SQGPG8>

### **For High Rock and all elementary schools**

The Needham Free Public Library regrets that we are not able to accept donations at this time. Due to the Coronavirus, the library building is closed and staff are working from home. While we always appreciate the support of those who wish to donate materials, the current situation makes it more important to safeguard everyone's health. Thank you for your understanding.