



## John Eliot School Bulletin May 29 2020

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Phone #781-455-0452 & FAX #781-455-0852

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

### Principal's News

#### STAFFING NEWS FOR NEXT YEAR

- Emily Charton has been hired as Eliot's Interim Assistant Principal. Emily is currently the principal of Jewish Community Day School in Watertown where she has been for three years. Prior to that, she was the Principal of Boston Collegiate Middle School for three years. Originally from Minnesota, Emily has a bachelor's degree from Washington University in English Literature and a Masters degree from New York University in Teaching English Literature. Emily participated in three rounds of interviews including a panel interview, an interview by 5th grade Eliot students, a faculty forum, a meeting with PTC Co-Chairs and a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools. We believe Emily's warm personality, commitment to cultivating meaningful relationships and experience will make her a perfect fit in the Eliot Community. Emily begins on July 1st.
- Laura Altschuler was hired into a permanent position at Eliot school. This past year, she served as a long term substitute for Gia Jeas who will not be returning to stay home with her family.
- Jenn Kaefer will be moving to the second floor next year to create the 4th section of 3rd grade and will join Erika Hession, Maria Wythe and Maria Badger.
- Liv Nash has been hired as Eliot's new Lead Secretary. Liv has spent many years as an executive assistant in financial firms. A Needham resident, Liv served as the PTC treasurer and an active PTC member at the Broadmeadow school. She will begin on July 1st.
- Please welcome Marianne Reynolds as our new bookkeeper. Marianne has been a bookkeeper in a construction company for several years and is looking forward to working with our staff and students. Marianne begins on June 1st.

#### ELEMENTARY SUMMER OFFERINGS FOR YOUR CHILD

We are happy to share information about activities and programs available this summer.  
More information will be provided soon.

As we typically do, Eliot School will share information about summer reading lists before the end of the school year. In addition, you can find ideas for enrichment and review in the [Elementary Remote Enrichment Plan](#). Lessons and activities will also remain available in your child's online platform, SeeSaw or Google Classroom through August 1, 2020.

### **Camp Kinda**

For an additional enrichment experience, Camp Kinda, <https://campkinda.org/welcome>, is a free virtual camp for students grades K-8.

### **Jump Start**

Boston resident students entering the Needham Public Schools through METCO will receive information about a virtual Jump Start Program soon. The program is scheduled for July.

**Want to keep your child's reading and math skills sharp over the summer?** The district is providing virtual opportunities through free access to two online learning platforms: Lexia® Core5® for Reading (current Kindergarten and Grades 1-4) and Freckle for Math (current Grades 1-5). These programs individualize reading and math learning for students in order to help them develop and maintain core skills and are designed to be fun and engaging! Only a small amount of online participation, just a few times per week for 10-20 minutes, can have a big impact on student skill retention and development. More information on these free online reading and math programs will be sent to families in the final two weeks of this school year.

**If your student has an Individual Education Program (IEP) that includes Extended School Year (ESY) services**, the program will be held remotely with the possibility for in-person instruction if that option becomes available based on health and safety guidance.. You will receive additional information in the first two weeks of June regarding your child's ESY schedule. If you have any questions regarding ESY, please contact your student's Special Education Coordinator or Director.

**Needham Community Education (NCE) is excited to offer virtual enrichment opportunities for your kids this summer.** Programs for rising grades 1–8 will be offered as weeklong classes, 40–60 minutes each day, June 29–July 24. Our live-taught classes will be small group interactions focused on creating social connections and providing engaging games, crafts and activities for your kids to enjoy. Classes will be taught by Needham Public Schools staff members and are affordably priced at \$59–\$89 per weeklong program. Each offering's activities and class format is created for a specific grade range but siblings of other ages are welcome to join the fun. Start your days with NCE this summer! For more information visit: [http://www.needham.k12.ma.us/community\\_ed/n\\_c\\_e\\_-\\_summer\\_explorations](http://www.needham.k12.ma.us/community_ed/n_c_e_-_summer_explorations) or email [jill\\_ash@needham.k12.ma.us](mailto:jill_ash@needham.k12.ma.us) regarding scholarship support.

### **END OF YEAR STUDENT MATERIALS PICK UP**

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:**



| Tuesday June 16<br>Grades K,1,2<br>Please note location and time |         |                                      |
|--|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Grade  | Teacher | Pick up and Location                 |
| 2  | Rapp    | 9:30 am Front entrance of building   |
| K  | Cohen   | 10:00 am Side of building (bus line) |
| 2  | Maxwell | 10:30am Front entrance of building   |

|   |            |                                      |
|---|------------|--------------------------------------|
| K | Slotnick   | 11:00 am Side of building (bus line) |
| 2 | Wolfe      | 11:30am Front entrance of building   |
| K | Bagley     | 12:00 pm Side of building (bus line) |
| 2 | Kaefer     | 12:30pm Front entrance 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><br><b>Grades 3,4,5</b><br><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 LBC   | 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)   |

## Other News

### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MEDIA AND DIGITAL LEARNING

Dear Needham Public School Families:

Please note that both Zoom and Google Meet Grid View require some updating. Please follow the instructions below to update to the latest versions.

#### Zoom

Zoom has a required update and we will all need to update to Zoom 5.0 by May 30.

Here is a [link](#) to the Zoom download center

Students using district CBs should use these directions to [make sure the Chrome OS is up-to-date](#). Zoom will then update on its own.

### Google Meet Grid View -

If your student is using a personal device and has previously installed the grid extension in Chrome, they will need to remove it and install this new [version](#).

If your student is using a district Chromebook, the previous version has been pulled back and the new version has been pushed out.

### FROM FOOD SERVICES:

NPS Nutrition Services is excited to announce that we have signed up to be a part of a new USDA grant, a Fresh Fruit & Vegetable program to support families and farmers during COVID-19. We will start this program of distribution of **FREE** produce this Friday, May 29th from **NEEDHAM HIGH SCHOOL**.

The details are as follows:

- Free for all recipients
- Distribution will be on Friday afternoons from the Webster Street entrance of Needham High School
- Distribution time will be from 3:00 - 4:30 every Friday, while supplies last
- Please drive in the Webster Street entrance and continue through the bus loop (the driveway closest to the building)
- You will continue driving toward the staff and volunteers, put your car in park and then pop your trunk, the box will be placed in the trunk for you
- First Come First Served (we only have 112 boxes each Friday)
- **One 20# box of produce per household**
- For Needham residents only (not just for children)
- Different combinations of fresh vegetables and fruits will be in the box each week
- We are guaranteed that the program will run through June 30th, it will probably be extended through the summer months but do not know for sure at this time, we will send our communication as we know it.

Important to know:

- Social distancing guidelines will be followed. Gloves and masks will be worn
- Please do not come to the pick up line if you are feeling sick

Many other towns and cities in MA are also participating in this program as well. If you live in another town besides Needham, contact your local Nutrition Service Departments for information.

We are expecting this program to be very popular and unfortunately may run out of boxes before everyone that would like a box receives one. There is quite a bit of produce in a box so if you can share the produce with a neighbor or a family member(s) that also lives in town, this would be wonderful! Possibly three households could split two boxes.

Here is what was in the box we piloted last week:

- 1 Bag of Apples
- 1 Bag of Navel Oranges
- 1 Bag of Onions
- 1 Bag of Potatoes
- 2 Heads of Romaine Lettuce
- 1 Bag of Carrots
- 1 Cantaloupe
- 1 Pint of Grape Tomatoes
- 3 Pears
- 1 Cucumber

- 2 Green Peppers

Quite a bit of great fruits & vegetables! Enjoy! You can contact us with any questions at [joan\\_o'brien@needham.k12.ma.us](mailto:joan_o'brien@needham.k12.ma.us)

## **VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR**

Dear Needham families,

[Welcome to the first Needham Virtual Book Fair!](#) The NPS School Librarians, in partnership with Wellesley Books, are pleased to offer this community event to support reading. 20% of all purchases made from the [Wellesley Books](#) website with "NPS Book Fair" in the order comments at checkout will be given back to empower families in need to participate in this fair. The NEF is generously funding the initial gift cards for families in need. Any purchase, not just books, from Wellesley Books is eligible for this fundraiser. If you are looking for suggestions, [visit the Virtual Book Fair page](#) to see age-appropriate recommendation lists created by your school librarians.

Since this is a virtual event, feel free to share widely as purchases can be shipped across the country!

If circumstances make purchasing difficult, please complete this [confidential form](#) to request support by Friday, June 5. Let us know if you have any questions and as always, thank you for your support.

Best,  
NPS School Librarians

**Please direct any questions to:**

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