



**John Eliot School
Bulletin
June 5, 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 the [Superintendent](#) and I mentioned in earlier emails, Eliot School is committed to being an inclusive and safe environment for everyone. As a school community, we are profoundly saddened by the violence that has been directed at our black community and we stand united with all of our students, families, and staff who are feeling the tremendous weight of these tragedies.

The Eliot staff is committed to working to teach and prepare a generation that embraces diversity and approaches others with empathy and understanding. In addition to modeling, one way to help our children understand different perspectives and gain empathy is to have open and honest conversations about race. In order to make this happen, the staff will open up conversations about what is happening in the world today with students, and check on their emotions and understanding. We believe that by having these difficult conversations we are sending a message that the Eliot community is not complacent about racism and oppression. We speak up against these issues to tell our students and colleagues of color that they matter.

Here is the plan:

- On Sunday evening, your child's teacher will send a communication with a [Time for Kids article](#). This article was used to help us develop talking points for the student meetings. We invite you to review the article and speak with your child prior to their meeting.
- Teachers will lead conversations with students in small groups. Group times will be communicated in Sunday evening emails.
- The teachers will present a slide show and discuss the events and issues in an honest and age appropriate way.
- After the presentation, students will have the chance to express their thoughts in any way they feel comfortable (a drawing, writing or speaking).

In addition, I will hold a parent open house on this topic on **Friday June 12 at 12:30**. Please register [here](#). We can use this time to come together as a supportive community, ask questions, share concerns and provide

resources.

In the meantime, here is some information and guidance on how to talk to children about what is happening in cities across the country, including Boston. This website, [Talking To Young Children About Race](#) is one I previously shared and find very helpful. In addition, you may consider joining your children to attend the upcoming [Sesame Street Racism Town Hall](#) this Saturday at 10am.

I look forward to working with you as we navigate these challenging times.

PLACEMENT FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

In response to the extended school closure, several parents have reached out to ask how we will create continuity after the abrupt school closure this spring. Due to the unpredictability of this time, and the need to maintain connections between students, the Eliot staff is approaching placement decisions differently this year. We are weighing the possibility that students might return to a remote learning environment in the fall or for intermittent periods of time during the school year.

In an effort to create some consistency, the staff worked to keep classes together as much as possible. In some cases, classes will stay together entirely and in others we were able to keep close to 50% of the groups together. To lessen anxiety and anticipation for the next year, we will let families know of their child's placement on the second to last day of school, June 18. On that day, students in grades K-4 will receive a link to "Step Up" to the next grade and meet their new teacher and class in a video meeting. Eliot staff will create opportunities over the summer for students to get together remotely to maintain the classroom communities.

Thank you for your flexibility as we approach placement in a way that will help our students maintain friendships and connections with each other during this unprecedented time.

END OF YEAR STUDENT MATERIALS PICK UP

Dear Eliot Families,

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 Grades K,1,2 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)

Wednesday June 17 Grades 3,4,5 Please note location and time		
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)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Kindergarten Orientation for parents/guardians of incoming students

Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m.

All guests will receive a ZOOM Invite on June 10

5th grade car parade around Eliot School::

Friday June 12, at 4:00

Other News

LIBRARY BOOK RETURN

If you would like to return any school library books on June 16th or 17th when you come for curbside pickup of student belongings, please put the books in a closed paper or plastic bag and label them as library books. Place

them in the back of your car, or trunk, where our staff member will be placing your students belongings. When the belongings are put in, the staff member will retrieve the bag of books. If your children are still enjoying the books and would like to keep them over the summer, feel free to keep them until September. Please return only Eliot School Library books, the Needham Free Library has opened their books return bin for any public library books.

The following books were donated to the Eliot School library during the month of January 2020.

Pete the Cat and the Perfect Pizza Party was donated by Vishnu Kintali.

Dog Man Fetch-22 was donated by Connor Fernandes.

The Someday Birds was donated by Noelle Song-En Lam.

You Go First was donated by Annabelle Xia.

Who Wet My Pants? Was donated by Oliver Segal.

Big Nate Blasts Off was donated by Krishna Kintal.

Pokemon Super Deluxe Essential Handbook was donated by Mustafa Waqas.

Pokemon: Movie Companion was donated by Marco Argentieri.

Roblox: Top Battle Games was donated by Adam Ayrumyan.

Minecraft Medieval Fortress was donated by Ezra Katz.

All are Welcome was donated by Giselle Rosa Alessandra Capobianco.

The Serious Goose was donated by Isaac Esteban Godoy.

Brave Ballerina: The story of Janet Collins was donated by Samara Lily Berman.

Knuffle Bunny was donated by Ivette M. Perez Davila.

The Tyrants's Tomb was donated by Connor Galvin.

Momentous Events in the Life of Cactus was donated by Maiva Srouji King.

The following books were donated to the Eliot School library during the month of February 2020.

DC Absolutely Everything you Need to Know was donated by Nathan Chou.

Peppa Pig and the Halloween Costume was donated by Ava Bemalkhedkar.

The Donkey Egg was donated by Zoe Ranganath Adams.

I'm Trying to Love Math was donated by Darien Ho.

Where's Waldo Double Trouble at the Museum was donated by Laughton Macrae.

Disney Frozen: Storybook Collection was donated by Fiona Register.

The Gingerbread Man Loses in the School was donated by Ansley Chan.

Just Joking Jumbo 2 was donated by Zachary Syatt.

The Little Guys was donated by Tyler Frankel.

The Gingerbread Man Loose at the Zoo was donated by Nina Levin.

[The Complete Cat Breed Book](#) was donated by Kyla Durkin.

[Yours Sincerely, Giraffe](#) was donated by Desmond Duan.

[Lego: Building Amazing Creations](#) was donated by Felix Milasta.

[Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover](#) was donated by Ian Francis Zak.

[Santa Bruce](#) was donated by Owen Galvin.

[The Gingerbread Man Loose at Christmas](#) was donated by Wyatt Chan.

[Max Einstein: Rebels with a Cause](#) was donated by Jake Schneider.

Apologies to the Bhushan family for the incorrect spelling of their name in a previous book donation listing. The correctly published acknowledgment should be:

[Heidi Heckelbeck and the Christmas Surprise](#) was donated by Praniti Bhushan.

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 Tuesday, June 15.

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:

paige_rowse@needham.k12.ma.us

jennifer_potter@needham.k12.ma.us

jennifer_murray@needham.k12.ma.us

Citizens for Needham Schools — Apply to be a Board Member

CNS is seeking board members who are politically and civically engaged with an interest in issues related to education and Needham Public Schools. The Board engages in robust conversation and welcomes diverse viewpoints. CNS Board members serve a three-year term and responsibilities include attending 5-6 CNS Board meetings, watching and writing summaries of 2-3 School Committee meetings, and engaging with and providing

school-related information to the community on an ongoing basis via social media, school meetings, and your personal network.

Needham Free Public Library's Summer Reading Program

Register online for the Needham Free Public Library's Summer Reading Program for children ages 4-12 at <http://www.needhamma.gov/Library> or <https://needhamma.beanstack.com/> now through Aug 4. Children read and log online the time they spent reading. Children are the hero in an online adventure in which they join a quest to save the kingdom by earning digital badges from fairy tale characters in the Enchanted Forest. The library offers Curbside Pickup, Children's Book Bundles of age-appropriate books grouped together by topic or author for easy selection and online eBooks. Performers will present virtual events. June events include a participatory Fairytale Trivia Contest, a virtual visit with Elsa from Frozen, and ScienceTellers show on Dragons with storytelling and science experiments.

NCE Summer virtual enrichment opportunities

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 morning 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! 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 our website.](#)