



John Eliot School Bulletin

June 12, 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

Dear Eliot Families,

Thank you for attending the open house earlier today. We are grateful for your support as we begin conversations with our students about racial injustice and systemic racism. We appreciate your feedback and support for the Eliot community. These conversations with our students and the larger community have prompted a family to come forward to share their experience.

I recently learned that one of our students was unfairly targeted at Eliot school prior to the closure because she is of Asian descent. A child asked her if she had the virus because she was Asian. The student may have been repeating what they heard on the media, and this incident was similar to reports in the media of Asian Americans being blamed for the Coronavirus. Regardless of the other child's intention, the child of Asian descent felt targeted and blamed due to her race. This is unacceptable, and no child should feel blamed or made to feel unwanted.

As a principal in a school of a richly diverse group of children, I am asking for your help. When speaking to your children about the virus, I appreciate your help in emphasizing that this pandemic is not attributed to a specific group of people, especially Asian and Chinese Americans. Blaming a specific group of people for the pandemic is in fact a form of discrimination. Please remind them that they are not to make assumptions about who may or may not be sick, especially because of their presumed race or ethnicity.

When we return in the fall, we plan to educate students about the virus, how to keep themselves and others safe, and not to make assumptions about who may be sick. It is our hope that conversations from home and at school will help kids have a better understanding of this virus and will help all children feel safe and welcomed.

Thank you for your attention and continued support for all members of the Eliot and Needham community.

PLACEMENT STEP UP DAY CHANGE

Last week, I sent an email letting families know we had decided as a school to keep students in the same groups as much as possible to ease anxiety and uncertainty for next year and that we would share class placements on Thursday. Since sending that email, DESE provided preliminary guidelines that suggest we may have to reduce class sizes drastically. At this time, we are not prepared to share class assignments for the fall until the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education clarifies their expectations for physical distance and class sizes.

On Thursday, we will still have a step up day but teachers in the next grade will send a video to students to introduce themselves and it will not be a live meeting. We plan to share your child's assignment as soon as we can however, it is

more likely, you will receive this information later in the summer. Like in previous years, once you receive your class assignment, your child's teacher will reach out to you either via letter, video chat or email to introduce themselves. We apologize for the change in plans and hope to send you class assignments soon.

DISTRICT SURVEY

Please see the email from the Superintendent of Schools:

Dear Needham Public Schools Families:

We have conducted District Surveys biannually since 2001 and this year, more than ever, we recognize the importance of feedback from our students and families so that we may build on our strengths and identify areas that need attention. Students will be completing their district surveys during the week of June 15. We are reaching out to all parents and guardians of our Pre-K to 12 students to simultaneously provide their perspective with a Family Survey focused on remote learning and how we can support children's needs as we prepare for next school year. Please take 10 minutes to complete the anonymous [Family Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NPS-Family) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NPS-Family>)

With all that remains unknown about the coronavirus, we are committed to keeping students and families at the center of how the district moves forward. That is why we are hoping for 100% participation in the survey process. We will analyze the survey findings and incorporate the data, and appropriate action steps, into our plans for reopening schools in September. Please complete the survey by Thursday evening, June 18th, and please support and encourage your children in grades 3 and up to complete the survey they will receive on Monday

I anticipate providing additional and preliminary information to families about how and when schools will reopen within the next two weeks.

Thank you for your anticipated support!

Sincerely,

Dan Gutekanst
Superintendent of Schools

RETURN LIBRARY BOOKS

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.

END OF YEAR STUDENT MATERIALS PICK UP

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)

A NOTE FROM MR. BRENHEISER

Hello Eliot Families,

Despite being apart from one another, the Physical Education teachers planned a **Family Fun Week featuring 8 different games and activities for the last week of school in place of field day**. The students have done such a wonderful job trying out the various activities while we have been away from Eliot, that we wanted to just let them "play". Usually, we would do this as part of our field day, which is an awesome, fun filled event, but current circumstances will not allow that. So, our hope is that students click around on the various activities we have planned on the PE link students will find through Seesaw or Google Classroom, find ones that are accessible to your spaces, collect the materials and try them out. Possibly, you can join in on the fun as well! We tried to limit what equipment you will need to use and made some fun games to try. Watch out, there are some water based games in there as well!

We hope that you have a wonderful Summer. Thanks again for supporting your child's learning while we have been away from Eliot. I know that many of you took part helping your child complete assignments, find links, post responses, understand tasks, etc. It is greatly appreciated!

Thanks,
Craig Brenhiser

TECHNOLOGY NOTICE

HERE IS A LINK TO THE PDF: [THE DOWNLOAD](#)

The Download:

A remote learning newsletter for families and guardians of elementary-aged students

Follow the NPS Elementary Technology Integration Specialists on Twitter:

BES - Julie Frost @MsFrost18	EES- Barb Tennyson @btennyson	MES- Gershona Fein @mes_reckels	NES- Dana Cantor @Newman_Tech	SWES - Kara Shea @sweswildcats
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Dear families,
Thank you for your flexibility, patience, and support during remote learning. We know these were unique and challenging times. Here are some resources to support families over the summer.
Enjoy your summer!
-Elementary Tech Team

Tech Tips

- * **IMPORTANT: K-2 families:** Update [Seesaw Class App](#) to v. 7.3 ASAP.
- * [Learn and Play Together on Chromebook](#) (not for district devices)

Summer Learning Resources

- * [How to log in to Clever to access Lexia & Freckle on an iPad or other device](#)
- * [Accessing Lexia and Freckle through Clever \(slideshow\)](#)
- * [Common Sense Media](#)

Digital Citizenship

- * [Media Balance & Well-Being](#)

Social Justice

- * [Talking About Race](#)
- * [Courageous Conversations:](#)
Curated table of resources from NPS librarians (books, podcasts, videos, & more) from youngest learners through adult.

Summer Family Fun

- * [Camp Kinda](#)
- * [Stop Motion Animation](#)
- * [Osmo Live BootCamps](#)
- * [Digital Summer Camps](#)
- * [iD Virtual Tech Camps](#)

Info for District Chromebooks

[Logging In](#) [Accessing Zoom](#) [Enabling Flash](#)

Need tech support over the summer?

[Getting Technical Help](#)

OTHER NEWS

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Plugged In Band Program virtual summer day camp (ages 12-19) and/or virtual afternoon or evening band classes (ages 10-19) all skill levels begin the week of June 29. Registration for virtual private lessons is ongoing. For more information, please call 781-444-1879 or visit www.pluggedinband.org.
