



John Eliot School Bulletin
June 19, 2020 - Last day of School

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Principal, Karen Bourn
Assistant Principal, Mona Maas
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Principal's News

Dear Eliot families,

It is hard to believe the school year is coming to an end. This has certainly been a challenging year for all of us, and for our families as we all coped with changes to our lives and routines. We hoped that during this time that our Eliot students felt supported, loved, and challenged with the activities and lessons provided remotely by our staff. Thank you again for your support as we navigated through these uncertain times.

As we look ahead to the fall, there are still many questions than answers ahead. We are not sure whether we will be working with students in person, remotely, or using a hybrid of both. What we do know is that whenever possible, we will make decisions with the physical and emotional safety of our students as staff in the forefront. As appropriate, I will provide updates over the summer as we communicate plans and information for the fall. I anticipate the summer planning will have many stages and options before we settle on the best course of action for our schools.

In the meantime, we hope you and your family gets a chance to have fun and rest, while taking a momentary break from the uncertainty ahead. I am looking forward to spending some time with my family, knowing that there is a lot of work and planning ahead for me and the entire Needham Public Schools team. Take care of yourselves and we will see you in the fall.

SUMMER LITERACY AND MATH CHALLENGE

The district has created the following calendar with math and literacy challenges to keep kids engaged over the summer. The activities challenge students to focus on math and literacy for 20 minutes for 20 days from July 6 - 31. Here is a link to that calendar:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mBx4-k-D3q9DXKsRSvB_-MbLrXqXFEIwgOel1mSzwz0/edit

VIRTUAL ART FOLDER

Hi Eliot Families,

Students have done such a great job creating artwork during this time in Remote Learning. I have been truly impressed by students' creativity. Normally, at the end of the school year, we would have the Eliot Spring Art Show. Since this event can't take place this year, I encourage families to look at the Eliot Art Folder, and think of it as a virtual art show. This folder is where students and families have been uploading photos of artwork since the end of March. It contains amazing examples of the art lessons from students in grades K-5.

[Students Art Folder 2019-20](#)

I hope you all have a relaxing summer. Thank you, parents for helping your students understand directions, complete projects, upload photos, connect with me, etc.

Take care,
Christine McAllister

Other News

Unpacking Structural Racism: Exploring and Deconstructing White Privilege and Power

Join us for an interfaith conversation on how we can bring ourselves closer to a larger, more inclusive community.

**RSVP to: unpackingstructuralracism.eventbrite.com
and share on social media!**

The eyes of our nation witnessed the killing of another Black man in police custody on May 25, 2020. COVID-19 has disproportionately claimed the lives of black and brown persons. Our country is on a precipice and we are collectively calling for action. Together we will take a closer look at structural racism and how to recognize it and when to speak out against it.

Lisa Bibuld is a licensed psychologist who has worked primarily with children and families in the greater Boston area. Lisa is also on the board of Families Organizing for Racial Justice - FORJ and served as a FORJ school leader for Newton North High School. Lisa has worked as a parent workshop trainer as well as co-facilitated workshops on race and diversity.

Amy Behrens is a parent coach and co-founder and former coordinator of Newton's Families Organizing for Racial Justice - FORJ. She advises the FORJ board and works with school teams of faculty and parents. Amy runs anti-racism and interfaith workshops for teachers, parents, students, and community groups in addition to running her private parent coaching practice. Her strong interests in mindfulness, non-violent communication, and personal and spiritual development inform both her coaching and her teaching work.

For questions, please contact: info@coopmet.org



At My Neighbor's Table Series

**Wednesday, June 24, 2020
6 - 7:30pm
(Please sign on by 5:45pm)**

**Please kindly respond by Sunday,
June 21st to receive a few
pre-readings.**

**Event Zoom link will be sent to
registrants when sales end at
12pm on June 24th.**

**Sponsored by:
Needham Diversity Initiative,
Needham Human Rights
Committee, Cooperative
Metropolitan Ministries, Temple
Beth Shalom, First Parish in
Needham Unitarian Universalist,
Bahá'í Community of Needham,
Christ Episcopal Church of
Needham, Congregational
Church of Needham UCC**

Links for the event!

<https://unpackingstructuralracism.eventbrite.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/690060268495147>

Needham Free Public Library Summer Reading Prizes

Children ages 4-12 years old who register online for the Needham Free Public Library's Summer Reading Program will receive a discount code for 10% off 1/2 day or full day virtual or in-person summer camp at Empow Studios. They will also receive a code for free admission to the USS Constitution Museum to use when the museum opens. Codes will be emailed. Children can sign up for Summer Reading at

<https://needhamma.beanstack.org/> Children read over the summer and log online the amount of time they spend reading. For every 2 hours of reading they log, they receive digital badges and sections of a story in which they are the hero progressing through a fantasy adventure. Children complete the adventure by reading for 16 hours by Aug 4th. Children who read for 17 hours or more achieve knighthood.

Virtual Summer Band Program

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.