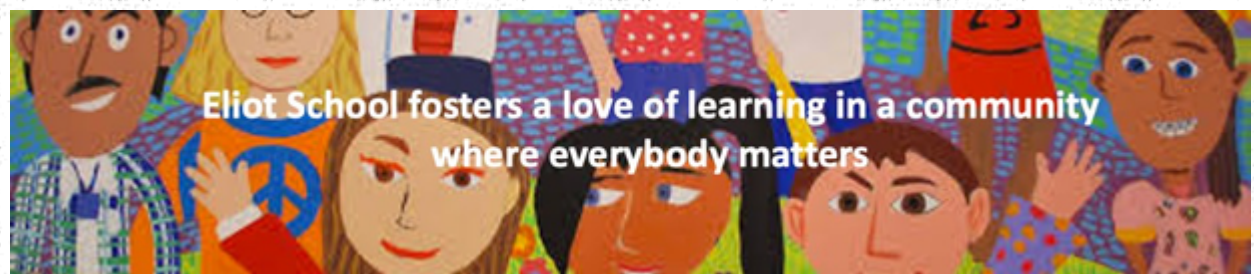


# JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

## WELCOME BACK!



Dear Eliot Families,

We had a successful start to the school year with students remotely. Kids are getting to know their teachers and meeting new friends online. For the past few days, I've had the chance to pop into a few zoom classes. Teachers are spending time getting to know their students and reviewing essential concepts for their first in-person week. Although this is a very strange beginning of the school year, we hope families were able to get back into school routines and feel the same sense of excitement and anticipation they do on a typical school start.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce a number of new staff members to our school community this year.

Emily Charton (Assistant Principal) Emily comes to us from the Jewish Country Day school in Watertown where she served as the principal for four years and Boston Collegiate Charter school where she served for 3 years as the middle school principal. A native of Minnesota and Needham resident, Emily is happy to support families in her own community.

Janeen Crawford (Elementary METCO Coordinator) Janeen joins us from Brooke Charter School in Boston where she was a third grade teacher for three years. A graduate from the Long Island University in Brooklyn, Janeen completed her Masters in Urban Childhood Education. Janeen will have an office at Eliot school and also supports students in Broadmeadow and Newman.

Liv Nash (Lead Secretary) Liv has years of experience as an Administrator in Finance and client service. A Needham resident and former PTC co-treasurer at Broadmeadow school, Liv has always given her time to the community. She is the friendly voice that greets you when you call the school and is here to help. Please welcome Liv to the Eliot community.

Marianne Reynolds (Bookkeeper/ Office Secretary) Marianne joined us in June and quickly learned her new role after 10 years as a bookkeeper in a construction company. This is Marianne's first time working in a public school. An active participant in her children's schools, Marianne was the PTC treasurer in Canton for many years.

Jillian Geraghty (Grade 1 teacher) Jillian is a recent graduate from St. Anselm College with a major of elementary ed and ELL. Jillian has been working in a school setting since her senior year of highschool and a volunteer with special olympics as a coach and participant. Jillian was recently married in June and is thrilled to be a part of the Eliot Staff.

Kristen Shea (Grade 2 Teacher) Kristen comes to us from the Cambridge Public schools where she served as a building substitute, paraprofessional and intern in grade 1. A recent graduate of Keene State and Lesley University, Kristen has experience in Montessori teaching and teaching students in diverse settings. Kristen will be in the classroom until early May as she is a substitute teacher for Mary Wolfe. Please join me in welcoming Kristen to the community.

Liz Racine (Grade 3 Teacher) We are happy to have Liz move into a classroom teacher role after serving as a third grade teaching assistant with Erika Hession last school year. Liz came to Eliot from St. Mary's in Brookline where she taught 2nd grade. Liz is currently enrolled in a master's program to pursue studies in elementary STEM education. Liz comes from a family of educators and was born to be a classroom teacher.

Gina Marie Zambarano - (Grade 4 Teacher) Gina comes to us from Innovation school in Salem as a 4th grade teacher. Prior to that, Gina Marie was a teacher in an Emotional Behavior classroom in the Natick public schools. A graduate of UMass Amherst and Lesley University, Gina Marie is happy to be a part of the 4th grade team and Eliot school.

Leslie Kaplan - (Grade 5 Teacher) Leslie recently joined us from St. Mary's in Brookline where she was a 3rd grade teacher for 7 years. Leslie was also a 4th grade teacher at Lilja School in Natick for a Kindergarten reading interventionist in Natick as well. A graduate of University of Rochester and Lesley University, Leslie is a Needham Resident with two school aged children in the Needham schools.

Bryant Tow- (Speech and Language Pathologist) Bryant comes to us from the Stoughton Public schools where he served as an SLP to students in a specialized program with students with ASD for several years. Bryant is a graduate of MGH Institute of Health Professions. He also worked for Teach for America in the area of Diversity Equity and Inclusion and has experience as a 3rd and 5th grade teacher. We are excited to have Bryant join our staff.

Bonnie Swart- (School Psychologist) Bonnie comes to us from the Broadmeadow school. She is currently part time, two days a week, and will be shared between Eliot and Broadmeadow.

Rachel Ball- (Part time PE and APE teacher) Rachel is a recent graduate from Springfield College with a masters in Adaptive Physical Education.

We also welcome several new teaching assistants to Eliot school, Gabi D'Amelio, Cynthia Mikesell, Amy Fitzgerald, Shelby Black, Carlo D'Antonio and Paige McGonagle. In our office we welcome Ethan Nash, Theresa Kacyonis to our office staff as well as interns Nina DeFillippo in K and 2, Colleen Trenholm in grade 2 and Justin Cruz, a music intern.

## **NEW DEVICES**

We are thrilled to announce that iPads will be available for Kindergarten students next week. There will be a pick up on Thursday Sept 24 from 3:15 - 4:00 pm. To pick up a device families must log into PowerSchool and sign an acceptable use policy. Letters were mailed out to Kindergarten families on Thursday with log-in information. K families will receive more



detailed information about iPad pick up from the classroom teacher.

As we prepare to distribute devices to the remaining grades (1-5), we ask that all families log into powerschool and fill out the Responsible Use Policy to receive a device. Please note, the Device Agreement and Responsible use Policy must be signed to collect a device. Here are the instructions for parents - [INSTRUCTIONS](#).

Here is a link to the Policies:

- [1:1 Device Agreement](#)
- [Responsible use Policy](#)

Letters with directions for signing into Powerschool were sent out to all families and you will receive it in the next few days.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

Families are receiving letters to log onto Powerschool as a reminder to update emergency contacts. We ask that all families supply 4 contacts in the event that your child is sick or has symptoms. Thank you!

### **VIRTUAL PARENT MEETING**

Please join me for a parent meeting on Thursday, September 24th at 2:00 pm to discuss plans for the first in-person days of school. Here is a link to the google form to receive a zoom link: [September 24 Parent Meeting Google form](#)

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## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**September 24:** Parent Forum online - *Reopening of School*

**September 29:** First day of school in person

**October 6:** Picture Day - Gold Cohort

**October 12:** Columbus Day - No School

**October 13:** Picture Day - Blue Cohort

**October 22:** Parent Night K-2

**October 29:** Parent Night 3-5

**November 3:** Election Day - School All Day

**November 11:** Veteran's Day - No School

**November 25:** Professional Development - No School

**November 26-27:** Thanksgiving Recess

**December 21-January 1:** Winter Recess

## SCHOOL NEWS

### NEEDHAM'S INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

[Elementary Beginning Instrumental Program Information Grades 3-5](#)

[Advanced Instrumental Program Information \(Continuing Students in Grades 4-5\)](#)

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### **Parent Talk Virtual Lecture**

**I don't know what to say: Talking with our children about race and equity**

**Wednesday, September 30, 2020 7:30-9:30pm**

Please join Parent Talk as we virtually come together as a community in partnership with the Needham Diversity Initiative (NDI) to discuss this important and timely topic. We are thrilled to have NDI board member, Gretchen Cook-Anderson, as our speaker. Gretchen is a long-time marketing professional who focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion, a member of the board of multiple local education and not-for-profit organizations, an accomplished speaker, and a Needham mom.

The event will include an interactive lecture, break-out discussions and plenty of opportunities for Q&A. The session is most appropriate for parents, grandparents, caregivers and teachers of kids ages preK-12 years old (but will also be relevant for those with older children). Please email [vicepresident@parenttalk.org](mailto:vicepresident@parenttalk.org) with any questions.

[Register Here](#)

### **Needham Extended Day Program (NEDP)**

This unprecedented year presents lots of child care challenges. NEDP is here to help! We provide a safe and fun environment on your family's IN PERSON weeks (following all guidelines and protocols from NPS, CDC, DESE and EEC) where kids can get some exercise, fresh air, work on fantastic art projects, and socialize. Come start your day with us (we are open at 7:15 each day) or spend the afternoon having fun (we are open until 6:00 each evening). We are also operating a FULL DAY program on Wednesday! Email us at [nedpkids@gmail.com](mailto:nedpkids@gmail.com) or check out our website [nedpkids.com](http://nedpkids.com) for more details.

**The Charles River Center 's 10th Annual 5K Run/1-Mile Walk** will be a virtual event this year! Registrants will have from 8:00 am on Sunday, September 20th to 9:00 pm on September 27th to run or walk their race distance at any location they choose. All abilities are welcome, and the first 300 entrants will receive free T-shirts. Proceeds will benefit over 950 children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities served by the Charles River Center. To register, visit: [www.CharlesRiverCenterRoadRace.com](http://www.CharlesRiverCenterRoadRace.com).

**Plugged In Band Program** Virtual fall session rock band classes for kids ages 8-18 of all skill levels begins on September 18. Registration for virtual private lessons is ongoing. For more information, please call 781-444-1879 or visit [www.pluggedinband.org](http://www.pluggedinband.org).

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