

# JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2, 2020



October 2, 2020

Dear Eliot Families,

We had a wonderful start of in-person learning this week. Students were very happy to be back in the building and did a wonderful job acclimating to the new procedures in place to keep them safe. We are so incredibly proud of all of them. Our teachers have been working very hard to make this a successful start. Many have commented on how they are “working harder than ever” as they maintain their high standards of teaching and learning students at home and in the building while working in this new environment. We thank you for your flexibility and patience.

Here are a few notes:

## RACIAL LITERACY LESSON

Over the next two weeks, Eliot students will discuss the Health crisis and not associating the virus with a specific cultural group. As mentioned in the Spring, there was an unfortunate incident involving a child of Asian descent who was asked if they had the virus, by another child. The student who made the comment may have been repeating what they heard in the media. Regardless of the other child’s intention, the child of Asian descent felt targeted and blamed due to her race and that is not acceptable.

Now that students are in-person, we feel we must address the targeting of Asian Americans and the virus with all kids. Teachers will discuss how this pandemic is not attributed to a specific group of people, especially Asian and Chinese Americans. We will discuss how blaming a specific group of people for the pandemic is in fact a form of discrimination. 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.

#### PHOTO DAY

Students in the gold and green cohort will have their photos taken on Tuesday, October 6 and students in the blue cohort will have their photo day on Tuesday, October 13.

If your child is in the remote learning academy they should follow the schedule for their photos:

Kindergarten - Oct 6 @ 1:30

First Grade- Oct 6 @ 1:45

Second Grade - Oct 6 @ 2:00

Third Grade - Oct 13 @ 1:30

Fourth Grade - Oct 13 @ 1:45

Fifth Grade - Oct 13 @ 2:00

All individual photos will be taken outside near the teacher's parking lot on the side of the building. Unfortunately, there will not be any class pictures taken this year due to physical distancing requirements.

#### NEW DEVICES

iPads were distributed to Kindergarten students last week and 3rd grade students today and Monday. We anticipate 1st grade iPads will be available next week. To pick up a device families must log into PowerSchool and sign an acceptable use policy. Powerschool Letters were mailed to all families last week with log-in information.

As we prepare to distribute devices to the remaining grades, 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](#)

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**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

### **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.

**Rotary Club of Needham Virtual Carnival Nov 7th 9am to 11am.** FREE. Registration link is:

<http://virtualcarnival.eventbrite.com> and that page has the full schedule of the event. The Rotary Club of Needham, instead of its usual Pancake Breakfast & Carnival, is holding the Virtual Carnival. We will have a lineup of talent to entertain the kids. We are also going to have kids from other countries and we will do a bit to allow them to meet each other. Do you have family or friends in another part of the world? Feel free to share the link. Hope you can join us.

### **NCE Elementary Fall After School Programs**

The Needham Community Education (NCE) Elementary virtual after school programs offer fun opportunities for first through fifth graders to learn new skills, explore interests, connect with peers, and make new friends across any classroom, cohort or school! View our [online catalog](#)

for program details, schedules and class descriptions. There are a wide array of classes that appeal to every child, including: 3D printing, STEM explorations, science, electronics, escape the room, chess, ukulele, fine art, crafts, foreign language, LEGO explorations, yoga and more! **NCE offers scholarships** for those who qualify for free and reduced lunch and families facing financial hardship. There is a significant reduction in our class fee but we aim to find a personalized solution that is accessible to each family in need of assistance.

**Online registration begins at 7:00am on Thursday, September 24th.**

Registration questions? Contact NCE Registration Manager, Jill Ash, for assistance at [jill\\_ash@needham.k12.ma.us](mailto:jill_ash@needham.k12.ma.us).

Program questions? Contact NCEProgram Director, Carolyn Colonna, at [carolyn\\_colonna@needham.k12.ma.us](mailto:carolyn_colonna@needham.k12.ma.us).

**Needham Community Council Coat Sale is On!** Please click [here](#) for more information.

### **Cub Scouts Pack 8**

Registration is open to join Needham Cub Scouts Pack 8. Boys and girls in grades K-5 and their families are invited to join our Pack as we explore all the adventures of Scouting (with distancing practices in place for the 2020-2021 academic year). Come learn about the fun our scouts will have this year and meet current families. More information at <http://www.pack8needham.com>

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