

JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL BULLETIN

OCTOBER 9, 2020



October 9, 2020

Dear Eliot families,

It was a great week with our gold cohort in-person and our blue cohort at home. As a reminder, Monday is a holiday we will welcome our blue cohort in person on Tuesday. We appreciate your flexibility as we move into this new routine. Here are a few notes:

MENTAL HEALTH SURVEY

Over the next two weeks, Needham public schools elementary students will take a mental health survey to assess a need for possible intervention. The survey will provide feedback on social emotional functioning and the concerns of students. Eliot staff will use this information to plan school and individual responses based on how our students are doing. We will also use the data to provide a multi-tiered system of support with interventions for students who report higher levels of anxiety and fear, racial inequity, and racial trauma. The model is as follows:

- **Tier 1 Support:** The student assessment results will guide the development of the social emotional supports and guidance that will be made available to all students in the Needham Public Schools. These will be classroom-based lessons designed to provide skills to lessen each student's anxiety about COVID-19 and their return to school, and to provide reinforcement of measures to keep students and adults safe.

- Tier 2 Support: Students who demonstrate higher levels of anxiety or social emotional distress related to COVID-19 and the return to school will receive short-term individual and group counseling from school-based guidance staff. Staff will contact families and offer guidance in order to further support their child at home.
- Tier 3 Support: Students who demonstrate consistent high levels of anxiety or social emotional distress even after Tier 2 support will receive a higher level of one-on-one counseling services. This will include support for parents/guardians and potential involvement of the students' medical caregivers for further assessment and intervention.

Please note that the guidance staff will contact families if their child is in need of additional support or we have any concerns.

REMINDERS ABOUT STUDENT HEALTH

As a reminder, here is the district policy regarding student wellness and nurse visits:

In an effort to maximize the health and safety of the Needham Public Schools community, please perform a daily wellness check on your student each day before he/she/they leave for school. If your child is experiencing any of the following symptoms, please keep your student home from school and all extracurricular activities, and call their healthcare provider and school nurse. (Kerry Bickford 781-455-0452 ext 52111)

Please keep your child home if they have had the following symptoms in the past 24 hours:

- Fever (temperature over 100°F) and/or chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Headache, when in combination with other symptoms
- New loss of taste/smell
- New muscle aches
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Nasal congestion, when in combination with other symptoms

If your child has any of these symptoms, you will be notified by the school nurse and your child will need to be picked up within 45 minutes. At that time, we ask you to reach out to your child's physician for next steps. For more information, please visit the health and safety page on the district's website: [Health and Safety Page](#). Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to keep our students and staff safe.

PHOTO DAY

Students in the blue cohort will now have their photos taken on Friday, October 16 due to impending rain on Tuesday the 13th. Students in the gold cohort and grades K-2 in the Red cohort had their photo day this past Tuesday.

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

Third Grade - Oct 16 @ 1:30
Fourth Grade - Oct 16 @ 1:45
Fifth Grade - Oct 16 @ 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

Chromebooks were distributed to 3rd grade students last week and 1st grade students received iPads today and the blue cohort will receive them on Tuesday. We anticipate devices will be available for all remaining students shortly. To pick up a device, families must log into PowerSchool and sign an acceptable use policy. Powerschool Letters were mailed to all families two weeks ago with log-in information.

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](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham (SPAN) is pleased to announce its next quarterly meeting on Tuesday, October 20 from 8:30 – 9:30am via Zoom featuring a presentation, “Creating Connections that Count,” by Ty Sells, Certified Prevention Consultant, national speaker and Director of Training for Youth to Youth International in Columbus, Ohio. **This is a free event and requires advance [registration](#).**

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 or check out our website 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.

[Program questions?](#) Contact NCE Program Director, Carolyn Colonna, at carolyn_colonna@needham.k12.ma.us.

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

John Eliot Elementary School
135 Wellesley Avenue
Needham, MA 02494
Phone: 781-455-0452 Fax: 781-455-0852

Principal, Karen Bourn
Assistant Principal, Emily Charton
<http://eliot.needham.k12.ma.us>

