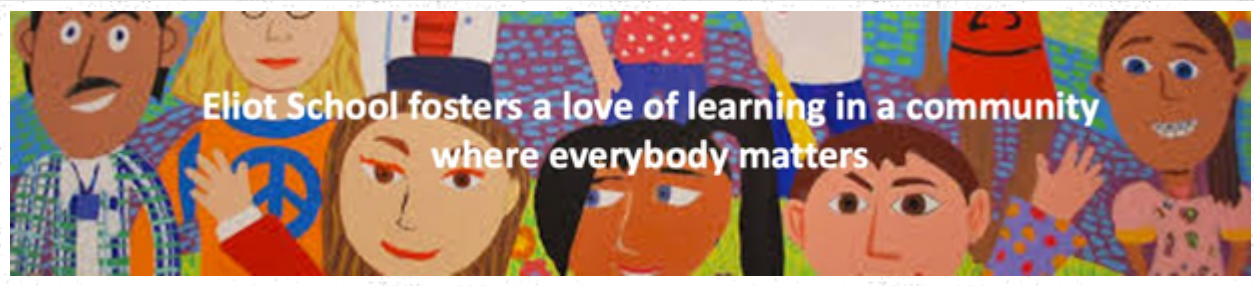


JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL BULLETIN

OCTOBER 30, 2020



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

October 30, 2020

ST MATH

Eliot school is entering their second year of implementation of the ST math program. ST Math is a visual instructional program that builds a deep conceptual understanding of math through rigorous learning and creative problem solving. Students will use the ST (Spatial Temporal) Math App at school and at home to solve puzzles that become increasingly complex, moving from the visual to the symbolic representations as students complete them.

As a school, we have been working towards developing mathematicians who have deep conceptual understanding, are problem solvers, and actively engaged in the mathematical learning process. The Eliot School Improvement Plan states that our goal is to "Create confident mathematicians who possess a curiosity of how math is embedded in the world around us." To meet that goal, our professional development for math has focused on how we can develop problem solving behaviors in students, provide students with tasks that promote productive struggle, and open up our curriculum so that students make their own meaning, form connections, and independently apply mathematical concepts. Additionally, there has been a focus on equity. The staff has been working on providing all students with deep, accessible mathematical experiences in order to meet our goal for student learning, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, language, or special education designation. The program provides tasks that are accessible to all students and moves students towards application of their understanding.

Last year K-2 implemented the program as well as the 4th and 5th grade Language Based special education classroom. This year, Grades 3-5 began using the program. Students in all grades use the program at home and at school during their at-home weeks.

This Afternoon, I had the pleasure of watching students use the online program in Fifth grade. The students used their innate problem solving skills and persevered through the challenging puzzles. As I sat with kids, I could see the pride on their face as they figured out challenging mathematical concepts.

If you would like to learn more about the ST Math program, please join us on Wednesday, November 4 at 6:00pm to learn more. At the presentation, we will share the rationale behind the program, tips for helping your child at home, and answer your questions. [ST Math form link](#)

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL

If your family is planning on traveling out of state during vacation, please note the rules regarding return to school. A student who enters Massachusetts from any place not included on the [list of COVID-19 lower-risk States](#) must quarantine for 14 days if the student cannot provide proof of a negative test result based on a sample obtained not longer than 72 hours before their arrival in Massachusetts. The student must get a PCR/molecular COVID-19 test. Students may also obtain a test after their arrival in Massachusetts, but they must quarantine until they obtain a negative PCR/molecular COVID-19 test result. Serology tests will not be accepted. See the Mass.gov [website](#) for more information.

PHOTO DAY

Photo day for students in the blue cohort has been postponed due to today's inclement weather. The new date is Monday, November 9. Students in the gold cohort and grades K-2 in the red cohort have already had their photo day. **For all cohorts and the remote academy, photos can be ordered online.** Please [click here](#). The Picture Day ID is: EVTWQPGP3

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

Third Grade - Nov 9 @ 1:30

Fourth Grade - Nov 9 @ 1:45

Fifth Grade - Nov 9 @ 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.

ABSENTEE/EARLY DISMISSAL

If your child is going to be absent or has a change of dismissal plans, please email eliot_office@needham.k12.ma.us and your child's teacher (firstname_lastname@needham.k12.ma.us). If it is a last minute change, please call our office, 781-455-0452, ext. 52000.

AFTER SCHOOL PLAYGROUND USAGE

The Eliot school playground is closed after school from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. During that time, it is being used exclusively by the Needham Extended Day Program (NEDP) and is not available for use by our school families or neighborhood children. NEDP is operating their program in accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education & Care.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Hello Eliot Families! We are off to a strong start for the school year, thank you for your partnership in keeping your children home when they're sick and letting me know if your child is not feeling well.

- Please remember to email at: eliot_office@needham.k12.ma.us if your child will be out of school. In the email you can request that I call you back if you would like to discuss something confidential.
- Reminder: The flu vaccine is now required by the state of Massachusetts Public Health Department for all students- to be administered by December 31, 2020. Please send the proof of immunization to me in the health office (email or fax) or send in with your child and the teacher will put it in my mailbox. Per the Massachusetts website the rationale for this is: "The new vaccine requirement is an important step to reduce flu-related illness and overall impact of respiratory illness during the COVID-19 pandemic."
- If you are planning holiday travel please refer to the [Massachusetts travel website](#) for current regulations for returning to Massachusetts.
- Please call me if you have any questions regarding whether or not you should send your child to school.
- Remind your child/children of the 4 W's (formally 3 W's):
 1. Wear your mask (over your mouth and nose)
 2. Wash your hands (frequently and try not to touch your eyes, mouth and nose)
 3. Watch your distance (try to keep 3-6 ft distance between you and your friends) Wait at home if sick or awaiting test results

If you haven't yet returned your emergency card - please do!!

Thank you.

Kerry Bickford BSN,RN

3RD GRADE RECORDER INFORMATION

The Third grade music curriculum includes instruction on a small musical instrument, the recorder, which students will learn to play as part of their weekly music class. The recorder is an excellent, relatively simple, and beautiful wind instrument that enables students to have a successful instrumental experience, reinforce skills needed for reading music notation, and further develops performance ensemble skills. While the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has prohibited the playing of wind instruments indoors, we are pleased that we can continue to offer the Recorder as part of our curriculum this year while your child has their music classes at home. [click here for more information](#)

TECH NEWS

[October Download 2020](#)

PTC NEWS

PTC YEARBOOK DESIGN CONTEST

How would you or a group of friends like to design the cover of this year's Eliot yearbook? The yearbook committee needs your help! [Click here](#)

JUMPIN PUMPKIN CHALLENGE

The Eliot PTC invites you to join in the Jumpin Pumpkin Challenge, Saturday, October 31, 2020. Please [click here](#) for details. Check out the [challenges!](#)

PARKING LOT BINGO

[Check it out!](#) Bring the whole family! Only one person needs to register for Bingo, but feel free to pack your car with as many as you can SAFELY fit. When you get to the parking lot, a PTC volunteer will assign you to a parking spot (at a safe social distance from other vehicles). We will supply each player with bingo cards...and, when you get a bingo: HONK YOUR HORN! Prizes will be given to those with a winning board! Please bring your own markers to mark your board.

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 or check out our website nedpkids.com for more details.

Needham Community Council November News

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.

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>

