

JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 6, 2020



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

November 6, 2020

ADJUSTMENTS TO CALENDAR

In early fall, the district calendar was adjusted to provide an equal amount of days between the gold and blue cohorts. [Here is a link to the calendar.](#)

Please note that the week before Thanksgiving, Monday & Tuesday, November 23 and 24 will be blue cohort days. When students return to school, Monday & Tuesday, November 30 and December 1, will also be blue cohort days. Thursday and Friday, December 3 & 4 will be gold cohort days. Prior to winter break, Monday & Tuesday, December 14 & 15 will be gold cohort days, and Thursday & Friday, December 17 & 18 will be blue cohort days.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE (all cohorts)

Chromebooks will be distributed to in-person grade 5 students today and Monday, thus completing the process for distribution of school devices to all students. Woohoo!

For all grades, devices will be used in school and at home, however there are some differences that you should be aware of in each of the settings. While at Eliot, Internet traffic on the school network is filtered. We block inappropriate sites, with the understanding that no blocking is 100% reliable. Any student using a device on any of our school networks is on a filtered network. However, school devices are not filtered on your home network. To implement blocking at home there are some solutions you can pursue with your Internet Service Provider

(ISP) while other solutions involve services or devices that families can install. Here is a list of [some home Internet filtering options](#).

Other safety reminders: Check your student's browser history periodically and remember that students with smartphones usually have unfiltered access to all sites all the time. They could feasibly use their phone as a hotspot to circumvent any internet filtering anywhere.

Finally, there are specific skills and expectations with regard to Digital Citizenship that we teach students as the year progresses. Here is a [link](#) to those lessons in case you are interested and want to use the same language when talking about responsible digital use with your child.

AS WE ENTER INTO THE HOLIDAY SEASON...

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 7: PTC Parking Lot Bingo

November 11: Veteran's Day - No School

November 14: School Committee Open House

November 25: Professional Development - No School

November 26-27: Thanksgiving Recess

December 21-January 1: Winter Recess

SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OPEN HOUSE

The Needham School Committee will host a virtual Open House on Saturday, November 14, 2020 from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. to provide an opportunity for parents and the community to share feedback and ideas about the new school year. The School Committee encourages your virtual participation in this Open House. The link will be posted on the Needham Public Schools website prior to the meeting:

http://www.needham.k12.ma.us/district_info/school_committee/agendas

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

PARKING LOT BINGO

Saturday, November 7th. [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.

NEEDHAM HIGH SCHOOL PTC

The Needham High School PTC is pleased to host a discussion on "Raising Resilient Children" with Dr. Robert Brooks and NPS Administrators on Thursday, November 20th at 7pm. [Click here](#) to register.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Equal Justice in Needham for Families

Sunday, November 8th, 5:00-6:00pm: Justice in Needham Presents: Family Storytime with Michelle Chalmers will explore how and why human beings have different color skin tones. Michelle Chalmers will read out loud her book "Vitamin D and Me" and engage the audience with a discussion afterwards. You can find more info about the event at [eventbrite](#) and on the [facebook page](#). Please contact Jill Olive if you have any questions! jholive1212@gmail.com

Needham Extended Day Program (NEDP)

It's getting cold and dark out there, keep it moving at NEDP! We provide fun and socially distanced physical fitness and game opportunities after school in the gym. Crafting more your thing? We've got that too! [Enroll here!](#) Questions? Email us at nedpkids@gmail.com Please note that children are eligible to attend on their IN PERSON weeks.

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.

Children's Activities offered from the Town of Needham, MA

Help for Parents Helping Their Children Monday, November 9th at 6:00 PM

For parents with children in Grades k-4

In this panel-style Zoom workshop parents will be able to receive support and expert advice for ways they can best help their children learn at home during hybrid and remote schooling. The panel consists of Coleen Smith, Principal of the Wakefield Elementary School along with several educators. Parents should be prepared to discuss the challenges they may be facing and questions they would like answered.

Bake for Good with King Arthur Zoom baking session on Tuesday, November 17th at 4:00

Grades 3-7 Pick up Kits Curbside starting November 9th

Register online through the library's webpage to receive a free bread baking kit from the King Arthur Baking Co. Pick up the kit curbside at the library starting November 9th. Join the librarians and Amy from King Arthur on Zoom on November 17th to follow the live baking instructions. Learn about math and food chemistry while we bake together in our own homes. The kits make 2 loaves of bread. Families keep 1 loaf to enjoy at home and children are asked to give the 2nd loaf to a friend, relative or neighbor as an act of kindness.

Dream Big: Engineering Our World November, 10, 14, 17 & 24 available all day

Grades 4 and up

The American Society of Engineers is offering free screenings of their award-winning documentary, Dream Big. Discover the world's tallest building and a bridge higher than the clouds. Audiences will learn how today's engineers are shaping the world of tomorrow. Register on the library webpage for the link.

Read to Tucker, the Therapy Dog Tuesday's, Nov 2nd, 10th and 24th at 3:00

Grades K-5

Build confidence in reading. Sign up on the library web page for a 15 min time slot to read aloud over Zoom to Tucker the trained therapy dog.

Yoga for Kids Saturday, Nov 14th at 10:00 AM

Grades K-5

Free 30 min. Yoga class with a children's yoga instructor. No experience necessary. All levels welcome.

Register to join these events on the Calendar at the Children's webpage:

www.needhamma.gov/3035 Registration begins 2 weeks before events.

Students Acting to Make a Difference (SAMD)

Needham High School's SAMD is proud to present a Virtual Production of Dear Edwina, a heartwarming, family-friendly, virtual musical about the joys of growing up. Performances will be shown on November 20 & 21 at 7:00 p.m. and November 22 at 2:00 p.m. Each year, SAMD uses their talents to raise funds for charitable organizations and this year's production will raise money for Boston Children's Hospital and will be shown at hospitals across the country. There is no admission fee but advance registration is required; please email Anne Finucane at afinucane@nhsfriendsofmusic.org for details on registration and donations.

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Principal, Karen Bourn
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