

JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 13, 2020



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

November 13, 2020

PARENT CONFERENCES

At this time of year your child's teacher usually schedules a conference with you to discuss your child's progress. This will continue this year as well. Your teacher will be contacting you shortly. We encourage you to use the fall conference as an opportunity to share with the teacher how your child is doing during this unique school year. It is time to check-in, share observations, and engage in an open dialogue regarding your child's progress and needs with your child's classroom teacher. We would also like to let you know that due to an adjusted assessment schedule, teachers do not yet have some of the typical benchmark assessment data that you may be used to seeing at your fall conference. Our assessment schedule was modified to reflect the delayed start of the school year and to enable students to have more time to become familiar with the new learning environment.

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.

DISTRICT SURVEY

Families have the opportunity to provide feedback and ideas about their child's experience with the hybrid and remote learning models through a District Survey. Families' responses will be compared with responses from our students and our faculty and staff in order to provide a comprehensive picture of strengths and areas that need attention as we continue through the school year. The survey will remain open until next Monday, November 16th at 5:00 p.m. Please take 10 minutes now to complete the [district survey at this link](#). Links to translated surveys can be found here: [ENCUESTA FAMILIAR](#) (Spanish), [ОБСЛЕДОВАНИЕ СЕМЬИ](#) (Russian), [PESQUISA DE FAMÍLIA](#) (Portuguese), and [家庭调查](#) (Chinese)

DIWALI

This Saturday, November 14th, families in our community will be celebrating the holiday of **Diwali, the Festival of Lights**. On behalf of the Eliot community, we wish you a Diwali that brings happiness, prosperity, and joy to you and all your family. We would like to thank the Indian Community of Needham group for their generous donation of books about Diwali for our school library. Each elementary school in Needham will be receiving new books about the holiday to add to our collections. We are grateful for the donation and excited to receive the books and begin sharing them with our staff and students.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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:

NEEDHAM SEPAC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

"Basic Rights: Understanding the IEP", Thursday, November 19th, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

On Zoom / NO FEE / [please register](#) to receive the meeting link.

This presentation will break down the Individual Education Plan (IEP) by section, explain its development, and describe how the document will support a student. Presented by Faith Morgan-Gaines B.S. Ed., M.P.P. for the Federation for Children with Special Needs ([ECSN](#)).

Workshop topics include:

- Why the IEP is important
- Who is eligible for an IEP, and how it is developed
- Writing Strengths, Concerns and Vision Statements
- Reading the IEP including PLEP A & B, Annual Goals and Service Delivery Grid sections
- Differences between Accommodations and Modifications
- Response, Placement and Consent
- Procedural safeguards
- How schools are addressing IEP delivery in the age of COVID
- Opportunity to ask questions and learn about resources related to compensatory services

Faith Morgan-Gaines, B.S. Ed., M.P.P. is a Special Education advocate specializing in Learning Disabilities, Social-Emotional and Behavioral Challenges, and Early Childhood Special Needs. Holding a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's in Family and Child Policy, Faith is a former Teacher and Administrator of integrated classrooms. She is a trainer for the Federation for Children with Special Needs, an Educational Surrogate Parent for students in the custody of DCF, and a member of many organizations including Special Needs Advocacy Network (SpAN) of MA.

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)

4. 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

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

Plugged In Band Program

Plugged In Band Program is launching a new virtual Digital Audio Production Program for youth and adults. In this innovative 8-week project oriented program students will learn fundamental skills, techniques and tools to work with digital audio software. For more information and/or to register online, please visit www.pluggedinband.org

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

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.

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

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

