

JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 16, 2018



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Principal, Karen Bourn

Assistant Principal, Mona Maas

Eliot fosters a love of learning in a community where everybody matters.

School Bulletin #10- 2018-2019

web page: <http://eliot.needham.k12.ma.us>

Editor, Susan Rains

DATE	November 2018	TIME & LOCATION
11/17/18	Open House at Needham High School see note below	Needham High School 9-10:30 a.m.
11/21/18	NO SCHOOL - Staff Professional Development	
11/22-23	THANKSGIVING RECESS	
11/26/18	School resumes after Thanksgiving Recess	

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OPEN HOUSE

The Needham School Committee will hold an Open House on Saturday, November 17, 2018, from 9:00 to 10:30 am at Needham High School. The School Committee looks forward to welcoming the community to see recently renovated Needham High School classrooms.



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MRS. BOURN

THANKSGIVING BREAK

As a reminder, students do not have school on Wednesday, November 21st. On that day, teachers will participate in professional development to help deepen our understanding of culturally proficient practices.

Around this time of year staff and students take pause and reflect on being thankful. Personally, I am so very thankful to have the opportunity to serve as principal of this remarkable school community. I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving and families get an opportunity to reconnect and celebrate together.

SPOTLIGHT ON 5TH GRADE

Fifth grade is hard at work diving into learning across the curriculum. Students are finishing up our first Book Clubs and getting ready to learn about many very important people by reading biographies. In writing, they are finishing their Personal Narrative stories and beginning their study and writing of Literary Essays. In math they have been exploring decimal place value and added exponential form to their repertoire of ways to express numbers. Did you know that you can write 1,000,000 as 10^6 ? 5th graders are also learning about the beginnings of our country and the events that led to the American Revolution and our independence from Great Britain. Finally, in Science they have been learning about animal classification and some of the magnification tools scientists use to study specimens. Attached are some pictures of our fifth grade readers, writers, mathematicians, historians and scientists.

SEARCHING FOR HOST FAMILIES FOR CHINESE STUDENTS

For the 8th consecutive year, Needham families will have an opportunity to host elementary and middle school age students from our sister schools in Beijing, China! This year, we are trying to find host families for 25 students between the ages of ten and twelve years old.

We've learned much from our previous exchanges, and the process has become smoother and more rewarding each time! This year's visiting students will arrive in Boston on December 1st and will stay at the homes of Needham host families from Sunday afternoon on December 2 through Monday morning on December 10.

We are asking for families to participate in this program by opening their homes and welcoming these children. If room is available, some families in the past have found it helpful to take in two students. Some students are often more comfortable when they are paired with a friend.

Because of the relatively short notice, we would appreciate knowing if you could host children as soon as possible.

There is an informational meeting for families that are committed to hosting students on Tuesday, November 27 at 6:30pm in the High Rock Media Center. Ying Liu and Wendy Wu, representatives from the sponsoring agency, Boston Ivy, will be on hand to share information and answer questions. Former and repeating host families will be there as well to share their past experiences.

Some helpful information:

Chinese students have a various degree of competence in English.

We have set up communication tools to assist both host families and visiting children.

Boston Ivy staff are available around the clock for any medical or emergency issue.

There will be administrators and teachers from the children's school staying in a nearby hotel.

All students have health insurance and will have money for purchasing souvenirs.

Chinese students will ride the bus to and from school with the host family child if the host family uses the transportation service.

The town provides lunch at school for the Chinese students and will receive a temporary PIN number for the cafeteria.

There will be a database set up so multiple host families can connect in order to plan outings or social connections.

It is not expected that you go out of your way to entertain these students. The main goals of their visit are to experience our culture and improve their English.

This program is one of a kind in Massachusetts (and probably the country) and it takes a village to keep it going! Please consider hosting a student or two. It will be a most enriching and memorable experience for your family and the student.

Again, we ask that you inform your building principal, Karen Bourn if you will host students by as soon as possible. Please let them know how many students you will host and your gender preference. If you have any questions, please contact the main office for assistance.

VACATIONS

The Needham Public Schools discourages families from taking unauthorized school vacations. School policy dictates that teachers will not provide children with work before they leave for a vacation while school is in session. There is good reason for this. To do so trivializes teaching and what goes on in each classroom. Concepts are presented to students and homework is based on what is taught in class. Teachers cannot predict in advance where students will be in the learning process. When your child returns to school, the work missed will be given to your child. Together, you and your child can complete it. If you must travel, your children should continue to read daily and write in a travel journal.

Eliot Happenings

18-19 YEARBOOK COVER DESIGN CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Two dozen Eliot Fifth graders recently participated in a contest to design a cover for the 2018-19 school yearbook.

A group of staff members reviewed the entries and chose the winning design for the cover and four other designs to share the back cover.

The winning front cover entry was created by:

Charlotte Lee and Violet Corwin

And

The four runner-up back cover winners were

created by:

Eliza Euse & and Chelsea Heeger

Sofia Friedman & Brianna Sickmier

Kevin Xu

Michael Zhabinsky

Smiles from Eliot students were captured at a recent outdoor recess, by teaching assistant Renee LaFleur.



Eliot Happenings

SANDWICH TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2018 RESULTS

On Tuesday, November 13th, students in Mr. Kerr's fourth grade class made 79 sandwiches, to be delivered to the homeless in Boston, by *Generic Ministry*.

Through your generosity the sandwiches and following items were donated:

Grade One - Toothbrushes: 35 and Travel size tubes of toothpaste: 31

Grade Two - Shampoo/Conditioner: 108

Grade Three - Pairs of Socks: 94

Grade Four - Chapstick: 105

Grade Five - New Travel Size Deodorant - 25



The sandwiches and items were packed in brown paper bags decorated by our Kindergarten and KASE students.



**Daniel E. Gutekanst, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools**

To: Parents and Guardians November 2018
From: Daniel E. Gutekanst, Superintendent of Schools
Re: No School, 2-Hour Delayed Opening, Emergency Early Release

During the sometimes stormy New England winter, it is the goal of the Superintendent to hold school whenever possible. Parents and students should plan accordingly and leave plenty of time on winter mornings to arrive at school safely. However, there may be occasions when deteriorating weather will mean that schools should close due to unsafe conditions.

After reviewing anticipated road and sidewalk conditions, access to our schools, the projected weather forecast, and consultation with the Needham Police and the Department of Public Works, the Superintendent will make a determination between approximately 5:00 and 6:00 a.m. whether conditions will be safe for the children to come to school. The following plans will be in effect for inclement weather:

No School Announcement

If the conditions are severe, school will be canceled. The Needham Public Schools will utilize an emergency notification system that will contact your home phone, cell phones, and send an email using the information you have updated in PowerSchool. The "No School" announcement will also be carried by television channels 4, 5, 7, and FOX25, and the local cable channel. Information regarding schools during inclement weather is also prominently displayed on the Needham Public Schools' website www.needham.k12.ma.us. The quickest way to find out is on Twitter where I also post the information. (For more info: https://twitter.com/@NPS_Supt)

- All classes and school activities will be canceled for the day, including scheduled adult evening classes, before and after school programs, including Needham Extended Day Program (NEDP), and other school-based activities.
- Transportation of students to out-of-district schools will be canceled on Needham's "No School" days.

Parents may opt out of the emergency notification system for weather related events only:

1. Please log onto [PowerSchool](#) and click on Update Information.
2. On the Student Data Update page, delete the telephone number in the field marked *Weather Related School Delays/Cancellations Phone*.
3. You will receive calls for other school emergencies. Alternatively, you may change the number in that box to a phone number more convenient to you and your family.
4. Contact the school secretary if you have a problem with your PowerSchool account.

Two-Hour Delayed Opening Announcement

If the Department of Public Works needs extra time to plow the roads or sand the streets to assure safety, the school day will be shortened. Under this alternative plan, the opening of school and all bus pickups will be delayed two hours. This includes special education transportation pick-ups for students in out-of-district schools. The "Two-Hour Delayed Opening" announcement will be the same as for school closure. Parents are reminded not to send their children to school early on "Two-Hour Delayed Opening" days since the school yards may not be plowed nor will staff be available to supervise early arrivals.

On "Two-Hour Delayed Opening" days:

- Schools will be dismissed at their regular times.
- Noon meal will be served at the regular times in all school cafeterias.
- Kindergarten a.m. session and Preschool a.m. sessions: canceled
- KASE a.m. session: Hillside and Broadmeadow canceled; Eliot, Mitchell and Newman – 2-hour delay
- All KASE p.m. sessions will be held at their regularly scheduled times.
- Needham Extended Day Program (NEDP) before-school program will be closed; all after-school programs will be open.

Emergency Early Release Announcement

In the event of a severe weather emergency or some other emergency that develops during the school day, the Needham Public Schools may release students before the end of the school day. We will use the emergency notification system to alert parents and guardians. As appropriate, the Needham Public Schools will work with public safety officials to shelter students we are unable to send home.

Eliot Happenings

NO HOMEWORK CLUB -Tuesday, November 20th.

Due to the fact that Thanksgiving break for students begins on Wednesday (11/21), there will be no homework club on Tuesday afternoon (11/20).

NCE classes

A reminder that there are no NCE classes at Eliot on Tuesday, November 20th.

Needham Public Library Happenings

Tinker Thinkers Inventor's Club

Ages 6 and up

Every other Tuesday at 4:00 pm

November, 20th, December 4th, December 18th

Tinker Thinkers explores problem solving and creative thinking while engaging in hands-on activities.

Children will be able to invent their own idea for a new toy and enter in a library invention contest . Medals and framed certificates will be awarded. Children who wish to, may enter a regional Young Inventors contest.

Registration is required. To register, call or visit the Children's Desk. 781-455-7559 x 204

Free Movie

Friday, November 23rd 10:00 am

Families and children are invited to a free showing of the movie, The Incredibles 2, rated PG (115 Min.)

Yoga for Children

Saturday, November 24th, 10:30 AM

Children ages 5-9 years old are welcome to stretch out and relax in this free yoga class offered by a professional children's yoga instructor.

Bookventurers Book Club

Saturday, November 24th 3:00-4:00 pm

Children in Grades 3-5 read this month's book The Real McCoys by Matthew Swanson. Copies are available at the Children's Desk. Children discuss the book at the meeting and engage in activities related to the story. The school mascot - Eddie the Owl has been stolen! But Fourth Grade detective Moxie, along with her best friend, are on the case. Who actually solves the case may surprise you.

Read to Tucker the Dog

Monday, November 26th and

Monday, December 10th

From 4:00-5:30 by appointment

Children in grades 1-5 are invited to make an appointment with Tucker the therapy dog. Children practice reading aloud to Tucker in 15 min time slots. Call 781-455-7559 x 204 or visit the Children's Desk to arrange for your time with Tucker.

Live High Flying Dogs

Tuesday, November 27th 4:00 PM

Children ages 4 and up can come see Mike Piassa and his 4 high flying Frisbee dogs. These talented animals will amaze and entertain as they leap and dive for those far flung Frisbees. Mike is a world record holder and multiple time world finalist in the sport. Just drop in for this canine fun.

Hour of Code Week Activities

Monday, December 3 - Friday, December 7th

On Monday at 4:00 pm children ages 8 and up will code video games or a guitar synth using Little Bits Code Kits. Children ages 5 and up will have the chance to code some robots like the Code and Go Mouse on

Wednesday at 4:00 pm. On Friday, December 7th children ages 6 and up will code with Scratch. All activities are drop in, but attendance may be limited.

NPS and Town of Needham Happenings

SAVE THE DATE: On Sunday, November 18th, Needham Baseball and Softball will be conducting its annual Open House offering opportunities to learn more about youth baseball and softball programs in our town. Please join us for an information-packed session where you will hear from board members, league directors and coaches about plans for this coming year (Spring, Summer, Williamsport and Fall seasons, as well as training programs).

Needham Youth & Family Services

Invites the public to their Open House

December 4th, 2018 from 4-6:30PM

Needham Town Hall

Come and hear about the offered services, give feedback, see the office, meet the

Registration for Needham Girls Youth Lacrosse (NGYL) Spring 2018 season is now open through December 15th for girls in grades 1-8. Programs vary by grade and include clinic, intramural and travel teams. New players are welcome. For more information and to register, please visit www.needhamlacrosse.com.

December 9, 2018, Needham Women's Club

Holiday House Tour & Marketplace.

Tour from Noon to 4:30pm.

Marketplace from 10:30am to 4:30pm. Tickets \$30 each before the event; \$35 on the day of. Tickets at Roche Bros./Sudbury Farms and NeedhamWomensClub.org

Our next bulletin will be published on Thursday, November 29th

