

JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL

MARCH 29, 2019



135 Wellesley Avenue, Needham, MA 02494 Phone #781-455-0452 & FAX #781-455-0852

Principal, Karen Bourn

Assistant Principal, Mona Maas

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

School Bulletin #24 - 2018-2019

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

Editor, Susan Rains

DATE	April 2019	TIME & LOCATION
4/9/2019	2 Hour Delayed Opening - NO A.M. Kindergarten	School Doors open at 10:05 a.m.
4/15-4/19	April Recess	Have a Great Vacation
4/22/2019	School Resumes after April Recess	School doors open at 8:05 a.m.

SAVE THESE DATES for school year 2019-2020:

First day of school - Tuesday, September 3, 2019

**Curriculum Night for Parents/Guardians of
Eliot students in grades K-5:
Thursday, September 12, 2019 - 6-8 p.m.**

**2019-2020 School Calendar is on the last page of
this school bulletin.**

2019 Eliot MCAS Dates

Grade 3 April 1 Monday ELA session 1

April 2 Tuesday ELA session 2

May 8 Wed Math session 1

May 9 Thurs Math session 2

Grade 4 April 3 Wed ELA session 1

April 4 Thursday ELA session 2

May 6 Monday Math session 1

May 7 Tuesday Math session 2

Grade 5 April 10 Wed ELA session 1

April 11 Thursday ELA session 2

April 29 Monday Math session 1

April 30 Tuesday Math session 2

May 16 Thurs Science/ Tech/ Engineering - 1

May 17 Friday Science/ Tech/ Engineering - 2

From our Principal, Mrs. Bourn

FOCUS ON FOURTH GRADE MUSIC

On Friday, the Fourth grade was fortunate to have a chance to see the Boston Symphony Orchestra perform for a packed house full of students from different communities. This concert that is geared for children, introduced many students to the beautiful Symphony Hall. Rousing songs were deftly performed, and in between the conductor had a chance to talk about the music and composers. We hope this trip helps students develop an appreciation for the orchestra and classical music.

MCAS 2019

MCAS testing for grades 3-5 begins next week. (See the schedule on newsletter) While these tests are important and need to be administered according to specific guidelines and within a certain time frame, they are just one of many forms of assessment we use in the Needham Public Schools. As the curriculum at Eliot is aligned with the Massachusetts State Frameworks, the teaching that we do everyday in the classroom is the best way to prepare children to become competent readers, writers, and mathematicians. Teachers and students have been preparing for these tests since Kindergarten as they are a cumulative measure of what students have learned in school. In preparing for the tests, we remind students to give their best effort and to use all the strategies and thinking they have learned.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is in year 3 of administering MCAS 2.0. The test has new question types and overall expectations. In Language arts, students answer 2-part, multiple-choice questions, where they answer a text-based question and then indicate which passage provided their understanding for the answer. Expectations for written responses have also changed for all grades. One session requires students to write a narrative response (read story) based on a text and another session requires students to synthesize one or two texts and write a text-based analytical essay in response. Math questions could have more than one answer(!) and students will be asked to explain their math thinking.

This year all students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will take the MCAS test online. Eliot teachers have been working with administration and technology staff to help prepare students for this electronic testing format in authentic and meaningful ways throughout the year. A big thank you goes to the grade level teachers, special education staff and Kathy Martell instructional tech teacher, for their commitment to tackling the technology challenges along with the changes in content.

The things you can do as parents to support your children during MCAS administration are simple: follow your normal routine by ensuring that students get enough sleep and they are well rested, have a good breakfast, and encourage them to apply their best effort. We appreciate your endeavors to have students in school on the days their grade level administers the test, but please don't send them to school if they are sick. There is the opportunity for students to make-up any session they miss if they are unable to attend school on the scheduled testing day. Please note that on test days students MAY NOT bring electronic devices to school--this includes cell phones, e-readers, and even watches! Thank you for your help!

PLACEMENT REQUEST REMINDER

If there are special or unusual circumstances that should be considered in terms of your child's placement with peers, please send an email to Eliot_Placement@Needham.k12.ma.us by Monday, April 1, 2019. Please note, this deadline is BEFORE spring conference to allow us more time for the placement process; and to allow you to focus on your child's achievement during your spring conference. Thank you!



FROM OUR SPANISH TEACHER, MS. JODRIE

March: ¡Feliz primavera! Happy Spring! **Here is what we did in Spanish class during March.**

First graders learned about farm animals during March, so ask them to tell you their favorite farm animal in Spanish!

Second graders worked on a project on the ipads about their families. They got to draw and label people in their family as well as record their voices, so ask your second grader to tell you who some people are in your family in Spanish!

Third graders learned about about physical characteristics in Spanish. They reviewed some family vocabulary and then drew their family and wrote some describing characteristics about them. So ask your third graders to describe someone in your family in Spanish!

Fourth graders learned about clothing in connection to the seasons. They are currently taking a checkin to show what they know. The checkin includes listening, writing, and speaking, so ask your fourth grader to tell you about what clothing they wear in Spring!

Fifth graders are almost done recording their videos in front of the green screen, so we will be able to share those with you soon. They are now reviewing physical characteristics and creating a family in order to focus on describing someone else. Ask your fifth grader to describe someone to you in Spanish!

Third, fourth and fifth graders also heard about a trip I took over February vacation with a program called School the World. There were 30 high school students from Needham involved, and we traveled to a community in Guatemala that needed a playground and some classrooms. We spent the week mixing cement, painting, digging holes and working together to put in a playground and some classrooms for the community. Ask your third, fourth and fifth graders about my trip as I shared it with them!

Here is the website for continued practice at home <http://spanishnps.weebly.com>

And don't forget to follow me on twitter: @EliotelemSpan

PTC FUNDRAISERS

Please help us collect for Cradles to Crayons!

www.cradlestocrayons.org

A collection bin is in the lobby at Eliot for the month of March!!

We are collecting GENTLY used clothes (including coats, hats, boots, etc), small toys, books, and baby equipment, (no large plastic toys or electronic toys please!).

The need is very GREAT as so many struggle to keep their kids safe and warm!

So please dig deep and clean out your closets for a great cause!!!

These items are distributed to over 130,000 children in Greater Boston each year!

We are always in need of NEW socks, underwear and pajamas as well!!!

1st Annual Eliot "Junk In the Trunk" Garage

Please join us for the 1st Annual Eliot "Junk In the Trunk" Garage Sale!

- * Enjoy the day with friends while de-cluttering your house**
- * Earn money AND give back to the Eliot community all at the same time**

For more information on this exciting 5th grade fundraiser and how to register, click on the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c44afaa2ea4ff2-junk>



FROM OUR LIBRARIAN, MS. MULLIN



The following books were donated to the John Eliot School Library during January and February 2019

The Kingfisher Soccer Encyclopedia was donated by Jessica Brayer.

Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild was donated by Connor Fernandes.

Santa Bruce was donated by Noelle S. Lam.

Peterrific was donated by Scarlett Rodriguez.

Bear and Bunny was donated by Annabelle Xia.

Winnie's Great War was donated by Oil Segal.

Geronimo Stilton: The Phoenix of Destiny was donated by Serena Miller.

The 78-Story Treehouse was donated by Dylan Ho.

My Life as a Youtuber was donated by Matias Welch.

Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild was donated by Ezra Katz.

Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise was donated by Isaac Esteban Godoy.

Sidekicks was donated by Carter J. Grasso.

Giraffe Problems was donated by Samara Lily Berman.

The Heart and Mind of Frances Pauley was donated by Maiva S. King.

Escargot was donated by Zoe R. Adams.

Timmy Failure: It's the End When I Say It's The End was donated by Brandon Lopez.

The 65 Story Treehouse was donated by Darien Ho.

Building Amazing Creations was donated by Laughton Macrae.

Time Castaways: The Mona Lisa Key was donated by Sofia Friedman.

Skating Shoes was donated by Rita Martins.

Fancy Nancy Oodles of Kittens was donated by Nina Levin.

What If was donated by Aishwarya Balakrishnan.

The Terrible Two's: Last Laugh was donated by Neal Kondakindi.

The Big Game was donated by Tosin Arimoro.

Blended was donated by Adetutu Armoro.

Nerdy Birdy Tweets was donated by Ian Francis Zak.

The 91 Story Treehouse was donated by Jake Schneider.

FROM NEEDHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

STEAM Center Hours

Mon-Wed 3:30-8:30

Thursday - 3:30-5:30

Friday - 3:30-5:00

Saturday - 9:00-4:30

Sunday - 1:00-6:30

Drop in to program a robot, build a marble run or snap some circuits together. Explore robotics, computer coding, electricity and engineering using our toys, games and equipment.

Chinese Storytime

Saturday, April 6th, 10:00 AM

Children in Kindergarten are invited to drop in to enjoy stories in Chinese followed by a craft project. A great storytime for native speakers and children interested in learning about Chinese language and culture.

Family Book Club

Saturday, April 6th, 2:30 PM

Children in Grades K-2 and their adult share non-fiction picture books, a video and a related craft. This month's books are A Boy and a Jaguar, The Watcher and Mrs. Harkness and the Panda. Reading ahead is not required, but copies of the books are available at the Children's Desk. Registration is required. To register, please call 781-455-7559 x 204 or visit the Children's Desk.

Read to Tucker the Dog and Read to Panda the Dog

Monday, April 8th, 4:00 PM - Tucker

Saturday, April 27th, 2:30 PM - Panda

The Needham Free Public Library now has TWO trained therapy dogs children can practice reading to. Children in grades 1-5 can sign up for a 15 min time slot to read to one of the therapy dogs. They are great listeners. To sign up, visit the Children's Desk or call 781-455-7559 x 204.

Plumb Landing

Saturday, April 13th 10:00 AM

You have seen it on TV on WGBH Channel 2. Now you can come do it at the Needham Free Public Library! Plumb is a friendly alien who has landed on Earth. She is trying to find out how nature works on Earth so she can report it back to her planet - Blorb. Children ages 6 and up are invited to come for hands-on activities, games and more that help us learn about nature. Participants will receive a free Amazon gift card from WGBH. Registration is required. To register visit the Children's Desk or call 781-455-7559 x 204.

All Elementary Schools

School Vacation Week Program

Free Movie Showing

Mary Poppins Returns (Rated PG, 131 Minutes)

Jane and Michael Banks grew up into loving and responsible adults. When Michael becomes a single father of three children after the death of his wife, Mary

Poppins revisits the Cherry Tree Lane home to try to help Michael and his family cope and move beyond their grief. Mary Poppins' message to Michael, Annabel, John,

George and Ellen, the family's housekeeper, about enjoying life and loved ones is still the same as it was when Jane and Michael were children.

School Vacation Week Program

Magician Robert Clarke

Wednesday, April 17th, 2:30 PM

Robert Clarke will perform amazing magic tricks and astounding juggling feats in a high energy, fast paced, fun-filled family show appropriate for children ages 4 and up. Be ready to clap, cheer and enjoy this interactive performance.

Yoga for Children

Saturday, April 27th, 10:30 AM

Children ages 5-9 years old are invited to come stretch out and relax with a professional children's yoga instructor.

Needham Free Library at Science on State Street

Saturday, April 27th 11:00 - 3:00

At the Christie McAuliffe Center at Framingham State University

100 State Street, Framingham, MA

Science on State Street is a science festival for families with 50 exhibits, hands on activities for children and free shows in the planetarium. Visit the Needham Free Public Library table at this event to make a pinhole telescope to take home; learn how lenses and telescopes work and use a digital microscope.

FROM NEEDHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

For Families Of Our Grade 5 Students

Introduction to Special Education at High Rock School

Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 6:30 pm

High Rock School Library

Hosted by Judith Murphy, Grade 6 Special Education Coordinator

This informational session is for parents/guardians of students who receive special education services and will be attending High Rock in the fall of 2019. This program will be in the High Rock Library/Media Center and will give a broad overview of the special education program including:

- what is a learning center
- how services are delivered
- a typical day for a special education student
- support services and personnel
- method of communication

*All parents/guardians of current 5th grade special education students are strongly encouraged to attend both the March 26 and April 3 introductory sessions.

Be Yourself – Become a Community

NPS & Town of Needham Happening

Parent Talk Spring Used Clothing, Toy & Equipment Sale

Sat May 5 8:30am-12:45pm at the Eliot School 135 Wellesley Ave Needham

For more info email clothingsale@parenttalk.org or go to <http://www.parenttalk.info/community/used->

The **Plugged In Band Program** is offering an April Vacation Camp for kids ages 11-18 of all skill levels. The camp will take place April 15-19 from 9:00-3:00 (with optional extended day). For more information, please call 781-444-1879 or visit www.pluggedinband.org.

The next Eliot bulletin will be posted on April 5, 2019