

# JOHN ELIOT SCHOOL



**MARCH 1, 2018**

**February Recess Edition**

**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 #13 - 2017-2018**

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

**Editor, Susan Rains**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS: FEBRUARY & MARCH**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>TIME &amp; LOCATION</b>
3/2/18	Walk to School Day - CANCELLED	<b>SEE NOTE BELOW</b>
3/2/18	PTC Eliot Family Sleep-under	6:30-8 p.m. - Performance Center
3/7/18	Early Release Day	Dismissal @ 12:15 p.m.
3/7/18	4th & 5th Grade Spelling Bee	6:30-p.m. - Performance Center
3/14/18	PTC Meeting	7 p.m. - Performance Center
3/16/18	Eliot vs. Hillside Annual Basketball Game	NHS @6p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
3/17/18	PTC - Eliot Leprechaun 5k	Cricket Field @ 8 a.m.
3/18/18	NEF SPELLING BEE	NHS @3p.m.
3/27/18	Introduction to High Rock School	High Rock School Gym @6:30 p.m.
3/27/18	Introduction to METCO Middle School Programming	High Rock School Library @7:30 p.m.
4/3/18	Introduction to Special Education @ High Rock School	High Rock School Gym @6:30 p.m.

**SEE Eliot's MCAS SCHEDULE - on page 3**

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Unfortunately, due to the impending Nor'easter, we are canceling our Walk to School Day, scheduled for tomorrow, March 2nd. We'll try it again on April 6th, 7:40 am Cricket Field!**  
**Your PTC**

## **STUDENT PLACEMENT FOR NEXT YEAR**

It is now the time of the year when we consider class placement for the fall. The primary goal of our placement process is to construct balanced classes. The process for developing new classes is a complex and collaborative activity that involves the entire Eliot staff. The system-wide guidelines which drive the process state that we must create classes that are balanced by many factors including: gender; social, physical and academic potential; peer relations (social and emotional development); and equitable student/teacher ratio. Current teachers, guidance counselors, specialists, and building administrators all consider each child in order to create an optimal learning environment for the group. Once class lists have been formed, Mona Maas and I will assign a teacher to each class.

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 [1-5\\_Eliot\\_Placement@Needham.k12.ma.us](mailto:1-5_Eliot_Placement@Needham.k12.ma.us) by Friday, March 30, 2018. 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. Since children change over the course of a year, we do not automatically carry forward requests from previous years. While we value your ideas and will make the very best effort for your child's placement, there are no guarantees that every request can be honored. Honoring requests for a specific teacher (or not for a specific teacher) is not possible due to the complexity of the placement process. Letters requesting teachers will be disregarded.

Finally, and most importantly, I urge you to trust the process and wish to assure you that our teachers and specialists know and care deeply about your child, and have spent the whole year developing an understanding of how your child learns best. They have had multiple opportunities to observe your child working with peers in the school environment and to consider all of those factors when creating classes. Thank you for your support.

## **SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA**

January and February were busy months in the Eliot library as all fourth and fifth grade students participated in Mrs. Mullin's annual Mock Caldecott event. During this activity students evaluate picture books newly published in 2017 and vote for the books they think have the "most distinguished illustrations in a book for children". Students consider the quality of the illustrations as well as how well the illustrations support and go beyond the text of the book. They also consider whether or not they think the illustrations appeal to children. Ultimately they vote for a first, second and third place winner. When all the votes are tallied, our winning book is given our own "Eldecott Medal".

The winner of the 2018 Eldecott Medal is The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors illustrated by Adam Rex.

Our three honor books are Creepy Pair of Underwear illustrated by Peter Brown, The Antlered Ship illustrated by the Fan Brothers, and Poor Louie illustrated by Tony Fucile.

All of these books, and others that make up our top 10, will be on display in the Eliot lobby for the next week.

## **MCAS DATES REMINDER**

Parents with children in grades 3-5, please make a note of the following MCAS dates. Students in grades 4 and 5 will take the MCAS online and students in grade 3 will take the paper and pencil test. Thank you.

### Eliot MCAS Dates 2018

\*3rd Grade MCAS is a paper test. All other tests are online\*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>April 2</b> Grade 3 ELA Session 1	<b>April 3</b> Grade 3 ELA Session 2	<b>April 4</b> Grade 4 ELA Session 1	<b>April 5</b> Grade 4 ELA Session 2	<b>April 6</b>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>April 10</b> Delayed Opening	<b>April 11</b> Grade 5 ELA Session 1	<b>April 12</b> Grade 5 ELA Session 2	<b>April 13</b> ELA Make Up Day
<b>April Vacation 16 - 20</b>				
<b>April 23</b> ELA Make Up Day	<b>April 24</b>	<b>April 25</b>	<b>April 26</b>	<b>April 27</b>
<b>April 30</b>	<b>May 1</b>	<b>May 2</b> Math Grade 4 Session 1	<b>May 3</b> Math Grade 4 Session 2	<b>May 4</b>
<b>May 7</b> Math Grade 3 Session 1	<b>May 8</b> Math Grade 3 Session 2	<b>May 9</b> Math Grade 5 Session 1	<b>May 10</b> Math Grade 5 Session 2	<b>May 11</b> Math Make up
<b>May 14</b> Math Make up	<b>May 15</b> STE Grade 5 Session 1	<b>May 16</b> STE Grade 5 Session 2	<b>May 17</b> STE Make Up	<b>May 18</b>
<b>May 21</b> STE Make Up				

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### Stuffed Animal Drive



As part of their Take Action Project, Needham-based Daisy Girl Scout Troop #82926 is holding a stuffed animal drive this month to support Stuffed Animals for Emergencies (SAFE), a nationwide organization that helps comfort children in emergencies. A portion of the collection will be donated to the Needham Community Council. There will be a collection box set up in the Eliot lobby until 3/7 to support the drive. Please donate any "like new" stuffed animals here (small and medium sized preferred, no batteries or dolls please).

### BROWNIES 4 BOOKS

A big THANK YOU from NHS students, and former Eliot students, Talia Barrett and Anna Friedman for your book donation to the recent BROWNIES 4 BOOKS drive. They are pleased to announce they collected nearly 200 books.

## Hoops in the Heights

### Eliot Eagles vs. Hillside Hornets

Eliot Families,

We are planning one of our biggest PTC fundraisers, the upcoming Eliot vs. Hillside ('Hoops in the Heights') basketball game, which will be played on Friday, March 16th at 6:00 PM at Needham HS. Doors open at 5:30 PM. Plenty of pizza and snacks will be available, so come ready to eat and raise money for the Eliot PTC!

The following three (3) links provide different ways for Eliot folks to engage with this PTC fundraiser:

- 1) Purchase tickets to the game for \$4.25 per ticket at the link below. Tickets sold at the door are \$5/ticket on game night. [hillside-ptc.ticketleap.com/hoopsintheheights8/](http://hillside-ptc.ticketleap.com/hoopsintheheights8/)
- 2) Volunteer to help at the concession & souvenir stands. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4cacad22a5fa7-8thannual>
- 3) Play in the game! Sign up at the link below. <https://goo.gl/forms/Gdd5SKgO6zsu28YB3>

For any questions regarding the event, please contact Josh Goldfine at [j.goldfine@comcast.net](mailto:j.goldfine@comcast.net).

John Eliot Elementary School PTC

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**Valid From: 2/16/2018 1 3/15/2018**



### **Introduction to High Rock School**

**March 27, 2018      6:30 pm**

**High Rock School Gymnasium**

*Hosted by Jessica Downey, Principal of High Rock School*

This parent/guardian orientation meeting is for any 5th grade parent/guardian whose child will be attending High Rock School in the fall of 2018. This program will give a broad overview of the High Rock School program including:

- the cluster model
- a typical day in 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- methods of communication
- course selection process
- transition process

### **Introduction to METCO Middle School Programming**

**March 27, 2018      7:30 pm** *following larger presentation*

**High Rock School Library**

*Hosted by Joanne Allen-Willoughby, Director of METCO and Leslie Smart, METCO Coordinator at High Rock and Pollard*

This parent/guardian orientation meeting is for any 5th grade METCO parent/guardian whose child will be attending High Rock School in the fall of 2018.

### **Introduction to Special Education at High Rock School**

**April 3, 2018      6:30 pm**

**High Rock School Gymnasium**

*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 2018. This program 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade special education students are strongly encouraged to attend both the March 27 and April 3 introductory sessions.

## NEEDHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

### **Dr. Seuss's Birthday**

for ages 5 and up

Friday, March 2 at 3:30pm

Celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday by creating some gooey green Olbleck to take home from the book *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*.

Stop in anytime during the day or evening for Dr. Seuss themed activities and a sticker.

### **Chinese Storytime**

for ages 5 and up

Saturday, March 3rd at 10:00 am

Stories in Chinese followed by a craft project. For native speakers and those interested in learning about the Chinese language and culture.

### **Wellesley Symphony for Young People**

Ages 4 and up

Saturday, March 3, 11:00 am

Children and families are invited to learn about the orchestra and the instruments while enjoying the musical performance.

### **Bookventurer's Book Club**

For Children in Grades 3-5

*Read Kiki and Jacques* by Susan Ross. Copies of the book are available at the Children's Desk. Skype with the author, discuss your favorite parts of the book, enjoy book-themed snacks and activities. Registration required. To register, visit the Children's Desk at the Needham Free Public Library or call [781-455-7559 x 204](tel:781-455-7559).

### **Art Makers**

Ages 8 and up

Tuesday, March 6th at 4:00 pm

Join professional artist Nicole Donson of Nicloe's Art Spot and paint on silk to create a spectacular silk sun catcher to take home.

### **NEW!!!**

#### **Crazy 8's Math Club**

For children in Grades K-2. Wednesdays at 3:30 starting on March 7th

For Children in Grades 3-5 Wednesdays at 4:30 starting on March 7th

The Needham Free Public Library is starting two new Bedtime Math Crazy 8's Clubs where children will build stuff, run and jump, make music, make a mess and more! It's a totally new kind of fun math club. Space is limited and registration is required. Children sign up to attend all 8 consecutive sessions each Wednesday. The session for children in Grades K-2 begins at 3:30 followed by a session for children in Grades 3-5 at 4:30. To sign up, stop by the Children's Desk at the Needham Free Public Library or call [781-455-7559 x 204](tel:781-455-7559).

### **Family Activity Morning**

Children of all ages

Saturday, March 17th 10:00-11:30 am

Families will explore arts and crafts activities, play games that enhance logic, literacy or math skills and complete a collaborative project together. Fun for the whole family.

## MORE LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

### **Walk Along Gliders with Phil Rossoni**

STEAM

For Children in Grades 3-5

Tuesday, March 27th at 4:00 pm

A walk along glider is a slow flying model aircraft that children will make and keep in the air by walking along with it on a string and paddle to create an updraft. Phil Rossoni is a glider plane pilot who will provide demonstrations, construction assistance, and hands-on flying time for children with their own walkalong glider. Registration is required and space is limited. To register stop by the Children's Desk at the Needham Free Public Library or call [781-455-7559 x 204](tel:781-455-7559).

### **PJ Storytime**

For Children in Kindergarden

Tuesday, March 27th at 7:00 pm

Children and families are invited to come in their PJ's with a blanket and favorite stuffed friend to enjoy a storytime led by women of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Society of Babson College. Registration requested. To sign up, stop by the Children's Desk at the Needham Free Public Library or call [781-455-7559 x 204](tel:781-455-7559).

### **Free Movie - Aliens Ate My Homework**

Rated PG; 90 Minutes

*Aliens Ate My Homework* is based on the book in the Rod Allbright and the Galactic Patrol series written by internationally renowned author Bruce Coville. When a tiny intergalactic starship crashes into the bedroom of 12-year-old Rod Allbright (Jayden Greig), it's the start of the adventure of a lifetime for him and his cousin Elspeth (Lauren McNamara). Enlisted by the extraterrestrial Galactic Patrol, Rod and Elspeth must race to save the world from Total Planetary Disaster. The film features the voice of William Shatner ("Star Trek") as the intrepid intergalactic explorer known as Phil the Plant.

### **Yoga for Children**

Ages 5-9 years

Saturday, March 31 at 10:30

Join a professional children's yoga instructor for this hour-long free yoga class. Children stretch and relax.

## **Needham Unplugged**

**Needham Unplugged** is a month long awareness campaign in March to remind Needham families and residents to “unplug their electronics” and “plug into” each other. It is a reminder that there is more to life than what is on the other side of a plug.

The highlight of this year's program will be a no-homework, no-sports, and no-activities night for Needham Public School Students on March 15, 2018; and in the same night, there will be No Meetings for all town, civic, and religious organizations.

View the 2018 No Homework and No Meeting Night Flyer at:

<http://www.needhamma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16183>

View the 2018 Unplugged calendar at (it is also attached):

<http://www.needhamma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16182>

**Our next school bulletin will be published on  
Thursday, March 15th.**

**Eliot School Loves Needham**

