

Newton School

February 2018

Readers are Leaders and Mathletes Count

Phone: 413-772-1370

Principal: Melodie Goodwin



Greetings from Newton School,

Report cards and progress reports go home on February 9th. Please look for this important information. Our staff has collected data and is closely monitoring student growth.

We are making valentines for Meals on Wheels. Our valentines will go on the trays of elderly people receiving meals on February 14th. If your family would like to add to our collection of valentines please turn them into the Newton office.

Our children are struggling with math and we need your help at home. We ask that you play math games, do puzzles or cook with your children. Invite your children into the kitchen and have them explore measuring cups and measuring spoons. Games like Uno, Connect Four, Dominoes, Monopoly, Mancala, Battleship, checkers and card games help your child use strategies that involve mathematical reasoning. Many adults can identify when they learned to measure in the kitchen and games that were played in their families that improved their math skills.

MCAS Next Generation is the name of the Massachusetts state test for grades 3-10. It is very important that all third and fourth graders are in school for the testing. Please put these important dates on your calendar to avoid scheduling appointments that take your child out of school.

Grade 3 MCAS Testing Dates for English Language Arts = April 10, 11 and 12.

Grade 3 MCAS Testing Dates for Math= May 8 and 9

Grade 4 MCAS Testing Dates for English Language Arts= April 26, May 1 and 2

Grade 4 MCAS Testing Dates for Math= May 22 and 23

Wishing you a warm and happy February,
Melodie Goodwin

Reminders

- **School starts at 7:50**
- **Drop off is at 7:30. We are unable to care for children before 7:30. Thank you!**
- **School dismissal is at 3:45. Staff are not responsible for students after this time.**
- **Please send a note with your child or call the school before 2:00 if he or she has a change of dismissal**
- **At dismissal parking is allowed on the school side of the street only**
- **Dress for the weather. Winter weather is here make sure your child has a jacket, snowpants, boots, mittens/gloves, and a hat. Students need to have all the above to play in the snow.**

Upcoming Events

- ❖ February 9th Report Cards home in backpacks
- ❖ February 15th Grade 3 Amherst Cinema 8:45-12:00
Freedom Credit Union Banking
- ❖ February 16th All School Meeting 8:30
- ❖ February 19th – 23rd No School Winter Break

Kindergarten Team News

During January, kindergartners have been learning how to keep their bodies healthy. We have discussed ways to stop the spread of germs by covering our coughs and washing our hands thoroughly. We have stressed the necessity of rest, exercise and healthful eating. Thank you for sending healthy snacks daily for your children. We hope to encourage lifelong healthy eating habits! In February kindergarten will be celebrating the 100th day of school, Groundhog Day, Presidents' Day and Valentine's Day. Lots of celebrations for a short month!

Kindergartners are always excited to play outside in any season, and many children are so proud to be able to snap, zip and tie. Please practice these important skills at home if your child has not already mastered them...especially the tying of sneakers!

Also PLEASE remember to LABEL your child's outdoor gear. Thank you and stay warm!

Ms. Swist, Mrs. Brown & Mrs. Encarnacao

Dear First Grade Families,

We are very busy in First Grade! Check your child's backpack for important 100th day celebrations within our classrooms. Thank you for having your child prepared for our outdoor recesses. Please remind your child to bring shoes for changing into during the day when we are not outside. Clomping around in snow boots can be slippery and uncomfortable.

We have continued to work on our essential reading skills for First Grade. These skills include reading fluency (pace, punctuation and expression) and reading comprehension. Fluency is assessed orally by listening to a child read. Students need to be mindful of punctuation and the vocabulary used in the reading. Reading comprehension assesses their understanding of what is read or heard. Having a conversation with your child during and after reading at home is an excellent way to practice this developing skill!

In math, we continue to develop fluency in both addition and subtraction throughout the year. That means, as Ms. Goodwin has stated, that addition facts up to twenty must be mastered by June. Your child should be utilizing strategies such as *counting on*, *counting back*, *doubles facts*, and *near doubles* to answer these facts. Using fingers for counting is discouraged. Mastery means your child knows their facts within three seconds.

Keep up the hard work!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Ms. Warren, Ms. Hayes, & Mrs. Thurston

Dear Second Grade Families!

Second grade has been working so hard this year, and soon we will be celebrating 100 days of school. Time flies when you're having fun learning! We will be focusing on reading comprehension skills in both informational and fiction texts. Some skills we will strengthen are finding an author's purpose and message, comparing and contrasting stories and themes, and analyzing characters and their traits. In math, we will be focusing on place value and strengthening our fact fluency. Students need to have mastered all their addition facts from 1-20, and know the related subtraction facts by the end of the year. In addition to their nightly reading, you may consider practicing these facts at home. Don't forget to read over the February break!

-Ms. Power and Mrs. Palermo

Dear Third Grade Families,

It's amazing how fast the month of January flew by! This month we have a lot of fun things coming up! In reading we will finish up Unit 3 in the Reading Street Curriculum and begin Unit 4. In math, we are now onto fractions! We will begin with an introduction to equal parts and then move onto unit fractions such as $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{8}$! Try to talk with your child about these important concepts throughout your homes!

Keep your eye out for report cards being sent home. They will go home in your child's backpack on Friday, February 2nd. We will plan to do a low-key Valentines Day Exchange on February 14th - keep your eye out for a note home in the next few weeks. On Thursday February 15th the third grade will travel to Amherst Cinema for the "See, Hear, Feel Film Fest". Looking forward to a great month ahead!

All the best,
Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Lively, and Ms. Skiff

Happiest of New Year's 4th Grade Families,

We hope you enjoyed your winter break and your plentiful snow days. Our fourth graders are working hard in math on conversion skills of gram to kilograms, centimeters to meters, meter to kilometers, milliliters to liters. (see conversion chart below).

1 meter = 100 centimeters

1 kilometer = 1000 meters

1 liter = 1000 milliliters

1 kilogram = 1000 grams

As well, we are working on multi-step word problems with the support of tape diagrams. Our fourth grades will all start or be into module 3, which focuses on area and perimeter and multiplication.

In reading all 4th grades are looking forward to finish up Module One and working on an end of unit assessment where they will create and support a 5 paragraph essay around "having and showing great heart". Our next unit will focus on the novel The Hatcher by Gary Paulsen and extreme settings. We are excited to introduce some science with mountains, rocks, and erosion centers.

Report cards will go home with students on February 9, 2018, please share in your students successes and support them in the areas they need to improve.

As we approach MCAS season, just a friendly reminder that attendance is of the utmost importance as we are constantly learning material that builds from day to day.

Peace, laughter, and tremendous amounts of learning,
Mr. Proulx, Mr. Stone, and Ms. Witherell

School Adjustment Counselor

In February, we are looking forward to a fun filled month that includes Valentine's Day and a weeklong vacation for Winter Break. In addition, February celebrates Random Acts of Kindness Week from the 11th-17th, ending with Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17th. A Random Act of Kindness (RAK) is a selfless act performed by kind people to help a stranger for no other reason than to make people feel happier. Newton School will be celebrating RAK again this year for two weeks before February vacation. We will focus on random acts of kindness that we can do every day. We will talk about ways to make others feel happy, which in turn makes us feel happy! A bulletin board will be dedicated to RAK and we will be encouraging students to share their experiences when they perform kind acts for others. We are looking forward to acknowledging all of Newton's RAKStars! Please encourage your children to participate and engage in random acts of kindness for others!

Katie Irizarry, LICSW

READING REMINDERS:

It is not true that we have only one life to live; if we can read, we can live as many more lives and as many kinds of lives as we wish. —S.I. Hayakawa

Happy New Year, Newton Families! We hope that you have spent some of your holidays and snow days relaxing with a good book. In classrooms and reading groups alike, we see the spark of interest ignited in new vocabulary and life experiences as our students read books. We're never sure exactly what some students will love to read, so it's important to try new and different literature by a variety of authors. If you ever want suggestions for reading material for your students, please don't forget to use teachers as a resource. Our public library is also a great resource for reading suggestions.

Thank you for being our partners in your child's future. Happy Reading 😊

Your Title 1 Reading Teachers,

Ms. Weissman, Ms. Sherry, Mrs. Miller & Ms. Blanchard



PTO News

A big thank you to all of you who attended the Garden Theater movie fundraiser.
We had over 150 tickets sold!

Save the Dates:

February 8th 6:00 PTO Meeting, Newton School Library

March 3rd 2:30- 3:20 Newton School Ice Skating Party

Free skating and ice skate rental for Newton families

March 14th Dining for a Cause- 99 Restaurant

From The Health Office

February is Heart Healthy Month! You can help your child develop healthy habits early in life that will bring lifelong benefits. As a parent, you can encourage your kids to evaluate their food choice and physical activity habits. Here are some tips and guidelines to get you started.

1. **Be a good role model** - You don't have to be perfect all the time, but if kids see you trying to eat right and getting physically active, they'll take notice of your efforts. You'll send a message that good health is important to your family.
2. **Keep things positive** - Kid's don't like to hear what they can't do, tell them what they can do instead. Keep it fun and positive. Everyone likes to be praised for a job well done. Celebrate successes and help children develop a good self-image.
3. **Get the whole family moving** - Plan times for everyone to get moving together. Take walks, ride bikes, go swimming, garden or just play hide-and-seek outside. Everyone will benefit from the exercise and the time together.
4. **Be realistic** - Setting realistic goals and limits are key to adopting any new behavior. Small steps and gradual changes can make a big difference in your health over time, so start small and build up.
5. **Limit TV, video game and computer time** - These habits lead to a sedentary lifestyle and excessive snacking, which increase risks for obesity and cardiovascular disease. Limit screen time to 2 hours per day.
6. **Encourage physical activities that they'll really enjoy** - Every child is unique. Let your child experiment with different activities until they find something that they really love doing. They'll stick with it longer if they love it.
7. **Pick truly rewarding rewards** - Don't reward children with tv, video games, candy or snacks for a job well done. Find other ways to celebrate good behavior.
8. **Make dinnertime a family time** - When everyone sits down together to eat, there's less chance of children eating the wrong foods or snacking too much. Get your kids involved in cooking and planning meals. Everyone develops good eating habits together and the quality time with the family will be an added bonus.

Jennifer Paulin RN
772-1370 ext 109



