

Newton School

January 2018

Readers are Leaders and Mathletes Count

Phone: 413-772-1370

Principal: Melodie Goodwin



Greetings from Newton School,

Happy New Year! As an educator I have always had two new years in my life, one in January and the other the first day of school. Both are times where I am looking at what children know and what they need to learn. In January, like September, we spend many hours looking at data and discussing student growth. In Greenfield we give the MAP test in the fall, winter and spring to measure student growth. MAP results will be attached to student report cards which are coming home on February 9th. We expect our students' scores to go up by at least five points from September. If a child's score does not improve we immediately bring together a team of teachers to discuss what factors may be keeping the student from growing. After we determine what needs to be put in place for the students we start doing things differently. The one important thing we can't change for our students is their attendance. We need your help. Our students can't learn if they aren't in school. As we monitor student progress we are looking at attendance and poor attendance may result in the need to repeat the grade. We want our students at Newton School to have the knowledge and skills they need to make their dreams a reality.

On January 31st Grades 1-4 will be attending a UMASS basketball game in Amherst. Students cannot attend without a signed permission slip. Please check your child's backpack daily for information and forms from school.

There is no school on January 15th and January 16th. Please make the necessary childcare arrangements. Please remember to read to your child every day.

Happy 2018!

Melodie Goodwin

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **December 21st** Early Release 11:55
- ❖ **December 22nd** Winter Break Begins
- ❖ **January 2nd** Return to School
- ❖ **January 11th** PTO Meeting
Freedom Credit Union Banking
- ❖ **January 15th** No School Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday
- ❖ **January 16th** No School Teacher In-Service
- ❖ **January 26th** All School Meeting 8:30

January 31st Grades 1-4 Basketball Game

The logo for the UMASS Minutewomen basketball team. The word "UMASS" is written in a large, bold, stylized font with a red and white gradient and a black outline. Below it, the word "MINUTEWOMEN" is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font, also with a red and white gradient and a black outline.

Reminders

- **School starts at 7:50**
- **Drop off is at 7:30. We are unable to care for children before 7:30. Thank you!**
- **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.**

Kindergarten Team News January 2018

Kindergartners have been busy working and learning together in all our classrooms. At this time of the year the children are enjoying many games to increase their phonological awareness. This includes recognizing sounds within words, syllables and rhyming words. We practice "Turtle Talk" every day where we sound out words v e r y s l o w l y.

And, of course, kindergartners never tire of listening to and discussing their favorite stories! These early learning activities are the foundation on which we build strong reading, writing and math skills. Please encourage your child to share their favorite stories with you at home.

As we continue exploring the Five Senses, the children will enjoy a taste-testing activity with all three Kindergarten classes together! This is always a fun and engaging way to become familiar with our sense of taste. 😊

Please remember to LABEL all of your child's winter gear. If something is lost, it is much easier to find if it has a name inside.

Ms. Swist, Mrs. Brown & Mrs. Encarnacao

Dear First Grade Families,

Happy New Year from the First Grade Team! We hope you enjoy your celebrations and have some time for relaxation during the holiday vacation. The transition back to school after vacation can sometimes be difficult for children. Please continue to be mindful of our classroom expectations as a family- make sure your child continues to complete their daily reading, brings all necessary winter clothing gear, and gets plenty of rest!

The month of January will be busy with continued work in reading, writing, and addition and subtraction fact fluency. Our math fact fluency develops our automaticity to twenty. Our plans for the New Year will include building upon our current literacy and math skills.

Please read and practice math facts with your child every night. Talk about the story to check-in on comprehension. Have fun practicing addition and subtraction math facts orally or by playing *Around the World* or *Addition War* at home.

Sincerely,

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

Happy New Year Second Grade Families!

It's hard to believe we are almost half way through the school year. We have been having so much fun at PlayWorks in the snow. Please remember to send your child to school with appropriate clothing so they can enjoy this time together! Having an extra set of clothes in case they get wet is also a great idea. Second graders have been working hard on adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers. We are beginning regrouping in subtraction which can be a rather tricky skill to master. We will do plenty of practice at school to solidify this skill, and it always helps if you can practice at home too! In Writing we are thinking about new year's resolutions as well as procedural writing. In Reading we are finishing up Unit 2: Working Together and are focusing on folk tales. In Social Studies we are exploring the seven continents! We wish you a happy and healthy 2018!

Mrs. Palermo and Ms. Power

Dear Third Grade Families,

Happy New Year! Wishing you a happy and healthy 2018. We hope your Winter Break was enjoyable and restful! We are looking forward to the second half of third grade. Third grade will be swimming at the YMCA starting with Ms. Lively's class on Monday, January 22nd. The other classes will follow.

With the new year comes more testing. We will be taking MAP reading and math tests on Tuesday, January 9th and Wednesday, January 10th. Make sure your child is well rested for those testing days!

Our dental hygienist Jessica Calabrese will be coming back for more lessons starting January 8th. We are looking forward to all of the fun science we will be doing with her.

Best Wishes,

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Lively, and Ms. Skiff

Season's Greetings from the fourth grade team!

We are in awe that the New Year is already almost upon us. We are so proud of our fourth grade students for their stellar drumming performance at the last all school. Fourth- grade readers are finishing up the first module in Wit and Wisdom. The EOM (End of Module) assessment will see them writing an essay that describes how characters in "Love That Dog" have a great heart. Young mathematicians are practicing multiplication and division skills, converting metric units, and solving complex word problems. Just before break, each 4th grader is completing a vacation plan for a state they have been assigned. Upon returning, your student will be taking their mid-year MAP and DIBELS testing, it is sooo important that you continue to read over the break.

Wishing you a happy and safe winter break from Mr. Proulx, Mr. Stone and Ms. Witherell! See you in the New Year.

School Adjustment Counselor

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” - Aristotle

As we return from our winter break, I will be talking with students about gratitude and heartfulness. These are important principles in our practice of Mindfulness, and it means we are trying to develop the ability to approach life with a sense of empathy and kindness. In addition to discussing these principles, we will be practicing them in a variety of ways, including thinking of others and sending kind thoughts while being mindful.

Cultivating qualities like kindness, generosity, gratitude and compassion in children and adults leads to happiness and a general sense of well-being. Research has shown that kindness meditation produces an increase in positive emotions, which leads to a wide range of benefits, from increased sense of purpose and satisfaction in life, to reduction in depression and illness symptoms(1). Please ask your kids about heartfulness and encourage kindness in all aspects of life! Thank you ☺

Katie Irizarry, LICSW

READING REMINDERS:

“Books are like imaginary friends. We’re created, we’re enjoyed, we’re dog-eared and creased, and then we’re tucked away until we’re needed again.” -Adapted from Katherine Applegate’s, “Crenshaw”

As we go full-swing into another busy holiday season, please don’t forget to take time out to read and relax with your children. This special time flies by so quickly for all of us that we sometimes miss out on the small, special moments. Reading a book together can be so special! If your child needs books to take home for the winter break, please let his/her teacher know and we will be sure that they are provided. Wishing you and yours a very happy and safe holiday season!

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



January News From The Health Office

Cold Weather

The winter weather is here and we have already had our first snow! Please dress your children warmly for outside weather. Outdoor time is an important part of the day giving your child fresh air, a chance to stretch their bodies, and exercise. Please send your child to school with a warm jacket, snow pants, a hat, gloves, and boots. We will have outdoor time in the morning when children arrive to school and during the school day.

Health Screenings Update

Health Screenings are now complete. If your child needs a referral for hearing or vision testing you will receive a letter with referral information.

Wishing you and your family a Happy and Healthy 2018!!

Jennifer Paulin RN
772-1370 ext 109



Newton PTO News

Paddington 2

Newton School PTO Movie Event and Fundraiser

Saturday, January 13

9:30am

Greenfield Garden Cinema

\$5 tickets

Please come and invite your friends and neighbors. Let's pack the house!
Thank you to the Greenfield Garden Cinema for their ongoing support of Newton School PTO.

Next PTO meeting Thursday January 11th at 4:00

NEWTON SCHOOL PTO

PRESENTS

PADDINGTON 2

SATURDAY 1.13.2018 9:30 AM

Pre-Order Tickets to
guarantee a seat by
January 4th

or buy at the door

Sponsored by Newton School PTO



Detach lower portion with payment and return to school with student

SATURDAY JANUARY 13TH – 9:30 AM SHOWING

I would like to Pre-order _____ of tickets at \$5 each totaling _____.

Parent Name _____

Student Name _____

Teacher/Grade _____

Payment is due at time of preorder. We accept cash or Check made payable to: **Newton PTO**

PRESENTS SATURDAY 1.13.2018 9:30 Newton School PTO newtonpto@gmail.com newtonpto.weebly.com

413.376.8666 www.facebook.com/NewtonSchoolFriends

