

# Newton School

March 2018

Readers are Leaders and Mathletes Count

Phone: 413-772-1370

Principal: Melodie Goodwin



Greetings from Newton,

March is a busy month that promises the hope of warm weather with shamrocks and the first day of spring. On March 1 we welcomed the Class of 2031! If you know any families with young children let them know that kindergarten registration has started. Families can register at their home school or at our Central Office located at 195 Federal Street. Our school registrar is Lisa McGuinness and she can be reached at 772-1318.

On Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup> the PTO is sponsoring a Family Ice Skating event from 2:30-3:20 that is free to Newton families. Join us for a fun afternoon on the ice!

On Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> we have a Dining for Newton School Event at 99 Restaurant in Greenfield.

We are very excited to be having Dome Theater coming to Newton School on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Dome Theater presentations will cover rockets, dinosaurs and the solar system. Children will sit in a large dome in our gym and enjoy looking at their world in a new way.

Parent Conferences will take place on March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Please schedule a conference with your classroom teacher. Starting on April 10 our third and fourth graders will be taking the MCAS Next Generation Test. Please mark your calendars. Third Grade testing dates are: April 10, 11, 12, May 8 and May 9. Fourth Grade testing dates are: April 26, May 1, May 2, May 22, and May 23. Children in Massachusetts take a state test every year, starting in third grade. This year our students will be taking the MCAS Next Generation test online. Please mark these dates on your calendar and think of ways you can help your child. For example:

1. Make sure your child has a good night's sleep.
2. Start a testing day with lots of positives and avoid arguments.
3. Make sure your child arrives at school on time.
4. Plan a special snack for testing dates.
5. If your child is sick please keep them home. We have a few days to make up the test for those students who are unavailable for testing. We don't want your child to take a test when they aren't feeling well.

Please join us for an All School Meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:30. Bring on Spring!

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**

## From the Health Office

Please pack a spare pair of clothing in your child's backpack. Spring is in the air and the playground can be a muddy place to have fun. The health office is looking for donations of boys clothing to have on hand for students if needed during the school day. If you have any clothing your child has outgrown your donation would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you, Jennifer Paulin RN

### Upcoming Events

- ❖ March 1<sup>st</sup> 5:00– 6:00 Kindergarten Registration
- ❖ March 8<sup>th</sup> Freedom Credit Union Banking  
PTO Meeting 6:00
- ❖ March 9<sup>th</sup> No School Kindergarten Only
- ❖ March 29<sup>th</sup> Early Release 11:55  
Parent Teacher Conferences
- ❖ March 30<sup>th</sup> Early Release 11:55  
Parent Teacher Conferences

### **Kindergarten Team News**

Registration for next year's kindergarten students is ongoing. Parents and future kindergartners are welcome to visit our school on Thursday, March 1 from 5-6 PM and screenings will take place on Friday, March 9. If you know the parents of any child who will be 5 years old by September 1st please urge them to register soon. Registration will be available every Thursday night in March at the Central Office located at the Middle School on Federal Street.

We are looking forward to the arrival of spring in kindergarten. As much fun as the snow has been, it will be wonderful to free ourselves from boots and snow clothes!

During the first week of March we will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday by sharing many of his books with our students. Kindergartners usually enjoy Fox in Socks, One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish and The Cat in the Hat.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences** will be held on **Thursday, March 29th** and **Friday, March 30th**. A note to schedule your child's conference will be sent home soon. We are always happy to share our thoughts and observations about your child's progress in kindergarten. And we are also eager to hear yours!

Ms. Swist, Mrs. Ecaracao & Mrs. Brown

### **Dear First Grade Families,**

What an exciting back to school week we have had! We are working hard in First Grade! Now that 100 days have passed, we are focusing our efforts on reading fluency. We are working to improve our speed and accuracy in reading. It's exciting for all of us to watch as your children grow and develop motivation for individual reading improvement.

Mathematics continues to focus on mastering both addition and subtraction facts to 20. Your continued practice at home is terrific! We are also exploring various methods for problem solving such as: looking for clue words (*in all, fewer, are left, more than, all together*), identifying missing numbers in an equation, illustrating a math problem, using part/part whole mats and learning fact families. We are also exploring numbers- identifying patterns in both the columns and rows up to 120. All of these strategies help us practice our number sense.

We are thankful that spring is on its way. Please know that our playground can be muddy and messy with the repeat melting and freezing of ice and snow. Please make sure your child is prepared for outside play.

As always, please continue to read to/with your child daily and continue to practice those math facts.

Sincerely,

Ms. Warren, Ms. Hayes, and Mrs. Thurston

**Dear Second Grade Families!**

Second graders are so excited to welcome spring. With spring comes more time to introduce new fun and exciting PlayWorks games! We have been working incredibly hard on place value relationships in math. We are gearing up for three-digit addition and subtraction! In writing, we have been reflecting, writing opinion pieces and are beginning to write some informative text. In reading we are looking at character traits. We discussed some well-known characters (like Cinderella), and compared her story to similar stories in other cultures. It has been fun to explore similarities and differences in fairy tales. In science we are beginning a unit on matter. This unit is full of engaging, hands-on activities that our students are very excited about. We look forward to seeing many families at the upcoming events this month!

Mrs. Palermo & Ms. Power

Dear Third Grade Families,

Think Spring! Third grade is working hard to prepare for the MCAS tests coming up later this Spring. Please help us out by making sure your child is reading and practicing math facts at home. Keep an eye out for upcoming schedules for Spring Parent Teacher Conferences, March 29th and 30th. The students will have early dismissal both of those days.

March 19th we are having a special science presentation in the gym called "Dome Theater"! We are going to be learning about Earth's Habitats.

Ms. Gutierrez' class is finishing up swimming this month and Ms. Skiff's class will begin swimming in late March.

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

**Greetings 4th Grade Families,**

Welcome back, we hope you had a lovely February vacation. We are heading into March with great enthusiasm for all things math and reading.

In our Wit and Wisdom Reading Programs, we are well into Module 2, where we are studying the ways an author can use setting to set the mood and create the theme. Students have or will participate in a Snowball Toss, Socratic Seminars, Chalk Talks, and once again participate in making graffiti walls. We are currently using Ray Bradbury's text, "All Summer in a Day".

In our Eureka Math, we are moving deeper into our understanding of multiplication and delving into the following methods: Partial Products, Standard Algorithm, Area Model, and Distributive Property. Our goal is for all students to have a solid understanding of the various methods to find a multiplication answer and eventually utilize the one they feel the most comfortable and confident with. We encourage you to ask them to model some of these newer methods for you, they get excited about "being the teacher".

On March 19th, we'll welcome the DOME Theater, which is an interactive theater experience. 4th grade will be watching the Passport to the Universe.

We hope to see you for Dining for a Cause at the 99 Restaurant here in Greenfield on Wednesday March 19th, and if not, we'll see you at the end of the month for Parent Teacher Family Conferences.

Peace, laughter, and so very much learning,  
Mr. Proulx, Mr. Stone, and Ms. Witherell

### School Adjustment Counselor

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” – Aesop

During February, we talked with children about kindness and how to show kindness towards others. This is a quality that will serve Newton students well throughout their lives and in their relationships with others. Peer relationships, being a good friend and treating others the way you want to be treated (the golden rule) are topics I speak with students about on a daily basis. This includes discussing the various traits students should look for in others when making friends. We have had many great conversations! The common qualities Newton children agree upon as important parts of a good friendship include: sharing, respect, kindness, honesty, helpfulness, caring, fun, safety and listening to others.

As parents and caregivers, I encourage you to reinforce these positive qualities at home and talk to your children about their relationships with friends. Discuss both the affirmative aspects of their friendships (happy times, thoughtful gestures and times when others have been especially helpful) as well as more difficult times (when they felt left out, picked on or put down). Listening to what they have to say, showing understanding (you may want to share a time when you felt the same way or had a similar experience) and expressing how you feel about their relationships are all good ways to nurture healthy friendships that will last a long time.

Katie Irizarry, LICSW

#### READING REMINDERS:

**“No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.”** *Confucius*

We hope that you and your families enjoyed the winter break and used some of that precious time off for some good old-fashioned family activities. Hopefully, settling in with a good book was on your list of activities.

As the days get a little longer and warmer, your children are going to want to get outside to play more, which is wonderful! Please remember to squeeze in some much-needed down-time for them with a good book as well. Just like our homes get dusty, so do our minds, without some print-stimulation. Reading helps our children become thinkers and decision-makers.

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

Your Title 1 Reading Teachers,

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



#### PTO News

##### Save the Dates:

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2:30- 3:20** Newton School Ice Skating Party

Free skating and ice skate rental for Newton families

**March 8<sup>th</sup> - 6:00** PTO meeting Newton Library

**March 14<sup>th</sup>** Dining for a Cause- 99 Restaurant

## News from the Health Office

### March is National Nutrition Month!



**Good nutrition is key to good health. Try a rainbow of fruits and vegetables for better health:**

Choosing fruits and vegetables with a variety of colors like red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple will give you a variety of healthy nutrients.

**Vary Your Veggies:** Go dark green and orange such as spinach, broccoli, brussel sprouts, lettuce, carrots, sweet potatoes, and squash.

**Fruit Focus:** Fruits are great for mealtimes and snacks. Include fresh, frozen, canned or dried.

Red: strawberries, apples, cherries, grapes; Orange/yellow: oranges, clementines, peaches, pineapples, bananas; Green: apples, grapes, kiwi; Blue/purple: blueberries, plums, raisins, blackberries, purple grapes.

**Besides choosing fruits and vegetables, remember these healthy tips:**

**Grains:** Make half your grains whole grains. Choose grains like whole wheat bread, brown rice, oatmeal, low fat popcorn.

**Protein:** Go Lean: Eat lean meat, chicken, turkey and fish. Try more dried beans and peas.

**Calcium:** So important for strong bones: Serve low fat and fat free milk, yogurt and cheese.

**Oils:** Get it from fish, nuts, and olive oil. Try coconut oil, it adds a great flavor and is super healthy.

**Sugar:** Choose foods that don't have sugar as one of first ingredients. Added sugar contributes calories with few nutrients. Other great choices include honey and maple sugar.

**Fats:** Children need healthy fats in their diet called monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats. Foods such as fish, nuts, avocados, and some oils such as olive oil are a healthy source of fats. Try to limit fats that are higher in saturated and/or Tran's fats such as fried foods.

Jennifer Paulin RN

772-1370 ext 109



