

# Newton School

November 2017

Readers are Leaders and Mathletes Count

Phone: 413-772-1370

Principal: Melodie Goodwin



Greetings from Newton School,

November is my favorite month because it is when we talk about giving thanks with children. At Newton School we play, learn, celebrate and always thank the people near and far who make our lives special. We try to capture the feeling of the caring heart for our young students. It is critical that as adults we model acts of kindness and gratitude for our children. Join us this month by doing something special as a family.

On October 31<sup>st</sup> Dr. Jay Banks presented his "I Am UnAfraid Anti-Bullying presentation to the Newton Students. The message that he gives our young children is important and presented in a way they can understand. You can find more information about this program at [www.jaybanks.com](http://www.jaybanks.com). We hope you noticed our Playworks theme that is proudly displayed on our 2017 t-shirt. Be safe. Be kind. Be respectful. On November 8<sup>th</sup> students will participate in an assembly called Eye to Eye. This is an interactive character building assembly on getting along with others. You can view a clip of this assembly at [www.camfel.com](http://www.camfel.com).

There is no school for students on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. November 7<sup>th</sup> is Election Day and a Teacher Work Day. Please remember to vote on November 7<sup>th</sup>. November 10<sup>th</sup> is the day we celebrate Veteran's Day.

On November 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 we will honor local veterans with a special assembly. If you know a veteran or have one in your family please invite them to join us. We also are busy making cards to thank our local veterans. These will be given out by our friends at Applebee's on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Remember to thank those who have served or are currently serving.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup> we will dismiss school at 11:55 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

We want to thank our Community Readers for making our Pajama Night a special event and special thanks to our PTO for sponsoring our trips and events.

We give special thanks for our Newton family and the love that makes us family.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Melodie Goodwin

## Upcoming Events

- **November 2<sup>nd</sup> Fundraiser Begins**
- **November 7<sup>th</sup> No School In-Service**
- **November 9<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day Celebration 9:00**  
**Freedom Credit Union Banking**  
**PTO Meeting- Newton Library**
- **November 10<sup>th</sup> No School**
- **November 14<sup>th</sup> Picture Retakes**  
**Fundraiser Ends**
- **November 17<sup>th</sup> All School Meeting**
- **November 22<sup>nd</sup> Early Release 11:55**
- **November 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> No School**

## 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. Fall weather is here make sure your child has a jacket or sweatshirt for cool mornings.

## Kindergarten Team News

Oral language skills are an important part of our kindergarten literacy curriculum. During the first months of school we spend a lot of time developing speaking and listening skills. At this time of the year the children are also enjoying many games to improve their phonological awareness. This includes recognizing initial sounds, sounds within words, syllables and rhyming words.

November is a busy month in kindergarten. During this month students will be discussing how each of their families is very special and unique. Ask your child about the “special glue” that holds families together!

All of our kindergartners have now been introduced to the Lexia Reading program in the computer lab. It is a web-based reading program that provides targeted instruction and practice for each student at his/her own level. Information has been sent home so that students may start working on Lexia at home. Please allow your student to work independently as this program is designed to meet them at their appropriate level.

Ms. Swist, Mrs. Encarnacao & Mrs. Brown

## Be Safe. Be Kind. Be Respectful.

### Dear First Grade Families,

We are comfortable now in our first grade classrooms! Personalities are shining through, friendships are blossoming, and routines are established.

### We have been exploring:

- Classroom **Kindness**/Friendship Unit- filling each other’s buckets and using our manners.
- Celebrating Veterans Day with homemade cards and poetry.
- Continuing to follow The Three Rules of Respect during **Playworks**.
- Seasonal changes, and **life cycles** of butterflies, apples, and pumpkins in science.
- **Math fact** practice and strategies for both addition and subtraction.
- Identifying Action Words (verbs), Naming Words (nouns) and Describing Words (Adjectives) in sentences.
- Identifying the subject and the predicate of sentences.
- Writing complete sentences (Capital, End mark)
- Oral **reading fluency** daily practice.

Thank you for your continued support at home. We enjoyed seeing you at Open House, Pajama Night, and Parent Conferences! Please continue reading each night and practicing those math facts!

Sincerely,

Ms. Hayes, Ms. Warren, Mrs. Thurston

**Dear Second Grade Families,**

Can you believe it's already November? Neither can we! In reading, Second Graders have finished up Unit 1. We took a break and jumped ahead to discuss the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin. Students worked on sequencing and talked about important ideas. In writing we are writing opinion pieces on what kind of animal teeth we'd like to have. What an interesting topic to read about!

Second Graders have been working so hard on solidifying addition and subtraction fact fluency so far this year. This will be a goal for us as we continue through the year. If you need ideas on how to help your child with this, please ask us!

In Science we are discovering how habitats have changed over time due to natural disasters and also taking a look at animals that are extinct.

As the weather continues to change, please make sure your child dresses in layers so he/she can adjust to the temperature. We look forward to discussing what students are thankful for in November as we approach Thanksgiving. We are thankful for your dedication to your child's education!

Mrs. Palermo and Ms. Power

**Dear Third Grade Families,**

We have been having so much fun in third grade so far! We are learning so much this year. In math we are finishing up our review of addition and subtraction, and then we will be moving on to multiplication! The students are all so excited to start learning "times".

In literacy we are reading lots of different genres of stories including, realistic fiction, expository, and fantasy. We will be reading some great stories this month. In writing, we have been practicing our "storyboarding" from what we learned at Amherst Cinema last month. We are becoming better writers every day! 😊

Remember this month has a lot of strange days ahead. Please keep your eye out for newsletters with information about half days and days off.

All the best,

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Lively & Ms. Skiff

Greetings from #TeamFourthGrade!

Congratulations to the Mardini House for winning the Golden Pineapple for the month of September. Your commitment to hard work and helping others is HUGE.

All three classes continue investigations into place value and rounding in our Eureka Math curriculum, and into What is the LITERAL meaning of heart in our new Wit and Wisdom curriculum as we investigate the heart in The Circulatory Story.

We had a blast at Community Reader night! The Mayor, Ms. Adrienne Nunez, and Ms. Witherell's 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Willard, made it a wonderful night for all!

We also had an amazing time at UMASS Multibands, where Ms. Witherell toured the 4th graders to the 28-story W.E.B. Dubois library, which is home to 1.5 million books!

Finally, we've been enjoying continuing to study the 50 nifty United States and look forward to performing as an entire grade at the November All School Meeting.

Peace, laughter, and Lots O' Learning!  
Mr. Proulx, Mr. Stone, & Ms. Witherell

## School Adjustment Counselor

In October, I introduced Mindfulness to the students I see each week for group. It is a centuries old practice rooted in meditation. Mindfulness is all about paying attention to your breathing and focusing on what's happening in the moment without any judgement. Mindfulness can be used as a tool within the school setting to decrease student anxiety and stress. It can also increase focus, attention span, self-regulation, compassion and self-esteem. We will continue learning about and practicing mindfulness throughout the school year.

Katie Irizarry, LICSW



### News From The Nurse

Dear Newton School Families,

It is that time of year again for Cold and Flu season; here are some important tips to remember.

**Fevers:** If your child develops a fever (temperature of 100 degrees F or higher), your child should stay home. Once your child's temperature has returned to normal (below 100 degrees F) for 24 hours, without the use of medication, your child may return to school.

**Diarrhea:** If your child develops diarrhea, he/she must stay home. Once your child has been free from diarrhea for 24 hours, he/she may return to school.

**Vomiting:** If your child develops vomiting, he/she must stay at home. Once your child has been free from vomiting for 24 hours, he/she may return to school.

If you have questions on whether your child is healthy enough for school don't hesitate to call and speak with me.

I have seen an increase in asthma related breathing difficulties with the fluctuation in weather and temperature. If your child requires the use of an inhaler, it is extremely important to keep an inhaler at school.

Health screenings for all students should be completed by the end of the month. Your children will have had vision and hearing tests performed. If there is need for further follow up a letter will be sent home with your child.

Jennifer Paulin RN  
772-1370 ext 109

READING REMINDERS:

***"Be awesome! Be a book nut!"***

**-Dr. Seuss**



We kicked off our new school year with the usual set of assessments and evaluations. This helps us determine which students are best served in the regular classroom and outside of the classroom for reading intervention. Our SPIRE groups have been established and are going strong. We love hearing about the books that our students are reading at home and who they are sharing their reading time with. Students should remember to read their books more than once and take an Accelerated Reader (AR) test when they have finished. We will reward those students at the All-School assemblies each month for their accomplishments. Your efforts are important and we appreciate your involvement!

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**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Fall Book Fair. It was a great success! We hope your children had fun at the apple orchard (Kindergarten) and UMass Multibands (Grades 2-4). Both field trips were supported by PTO fundraising dollars.

**Fall fundraiser**

The Fall fundraiser, *Merry and Bright*, will kick off on November 2 and features great gift ideas for the holidays, wrapping paper, sweets, jewelry, and household items. Orders will be due November 14 and items will be delivered to school before the winter break. If any family wishes to donate directly to the PTO in lieu of participating in the fundraiser, envelopes will be included in the packet sent home.

\*Money raised from PTO fundraisers go to fund school field trips, school events, classroom needs, and more. We thank you for your participation.

**Next PTO Meeting- November 9, 4pm and ALL are welcome**

Join us on Social Media @FriendsofNewtonSchool on Facebook and @NewtonSchoolPTO onTwitter.

