

Newton School

Readers are Leaders and Mathletes Count

Phone: 413-772-1370

Principal: Melodie Goodwin

October 2017



Greetings from Newton School,

October is a busy month filled with exciting family events and school assemblies. We are still practicing routines and getting to know each other. Newton School is an Expanded Learning Time (ELT) school. Our school day is ninety minutes longer than the other two elementary schools. During this extra time students receive interventions in reading and math and participate in enrichment activities. Our ELT activities this year are: Sign Language, Drumming Alive!, Music, Math Games, Technology, Book Club, YMCA Dance, Chrome Books, and Playworks.

Playworks

Newton School is proud to partner with Playworks to make recess a fun, inclusive time for every student in our community. A Playworks recess creates a place for every child on the playground to feel included, be active, and build valuable social and emotional skills. Outcomes of Playworks : Children play hard, cheer loud and high five with joy. Children settle conflicts quickly and fairly with rock, paper, scissors and they carry a feeling of empowerment and belonging with them into their classrooms. More time is provided for physical activity. Playworks helps children grow as leaders, giving them the social emotional skills they need to thrive inside and outside of the classroom. Every student is included regardless of athletic ability, academic skills or background.

For more information on Playworks visit Playworks.org.

Newton School Council

In Massachusetts there are different groups that support the mission and goals of the school. Every school in Massachusetts is required to have a School Council. The School Council is composed of teachers, parents, community members and the school principal. The School Council meets monthly. Members are chosen by an election process. The School Council is charged with gathering data, analyzing data, and writing, revising and supporting the implementation of the school improvement plan. **Please let us know if you are interested in running for School Council. Our School Council ballot will be distributed at Open House on October 5th.**

Upcoming Events

- **September 29th - All School Meeting 8:30**
- **October 5th - Picture Day**
- **October 5th - Open House 5-6:30**
- **October 9th - No School Columbus Day**
- **October 19th 3rd Grade Amherst Cinema**
- **October 19th Pajama Night 5-6:30**
- **October 26th & 27th Early Dismissals 11:55**
- **October 26th & 27th Parent Teacher Conferences**
- **October 31st Anti-Bullying Assembly**
- **October 31st Fall Parade 2:45**



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

During September the youngest students at Newton School learned the names of their new friends as well as important classroom rules and routines. The children were excited to go to Apex Apple Orchard to pick apples and pumpkins. Many thanks to the PTO for funding this fun Autumn field trip! The familiarity of Nursery Rhymes offers a great way to begin our year together in Kindergarten. Nursery Rhymes provide an opportunity for us to discuss spatial concepts (in, on, over, beside) while we also enjoy the rhythm and rhyme of the verses. These early experiences with phonological awareness (hearing sounds in language) will be valuable resources as we learn to read and write. The Kindergartners are now becoming more comfortable with their new school environment and each other. In October we will begin to explore our many unique differences. Songs like "I Am Special" and the book, We Are All Alike...We Are All Different will help us to understand and appreciate the diversity in our classrooms as we grow into a supportive community of learners.

Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Encarnacao & Ms. Swist

Dear First Grade Families,

First grade is off to a terrific start this year! The beginning of school has been spent getting to know each other, getting to know our new classrooms, making new friends, learning our daily schedule, and creating/learning our classroom rules. Be Safe. Be Kind. Be Respectful- is our school motto!

Our new Playworks program is off to a great start! Hopefully your children have shared some of the games we have been learning- *Four Square, Mouse Trap, Sharks and Minnows, and Squirrels in a Tree.*

Part of Playworks also incorporates celebratory claps. It's been fun doing the *Looking Good Clap, Woosh clap, Fireworks Clap, Pop the Bubble Clap,* and even the *Spiderman Clap!* They are fun to give and receive- so make sure your child shares what they've learned!

We are practicing handwriting, beginning our Scott Foresman literacy and math programs, establishing a daily technology period, and also beginning our addition work with vocabulary such as *in all, join,* and *part/part whole.*

Thank you for your donations to our classroom. We can never have too many Clorox wipes, tissues, and glue sticks! We hope you have been enjoying the opportunity to read with/to your child each night. Please remember to record your reading fun on your child's reading log.

Sincerely,

Ms. Hayes, Ms. Warren, Mrs. Thurston

Dear Second Grade Families,

Happy Fall Second Grade Families! It is hard to believe our first month is finished. Second graders have been working so hard on learning their classroom routines and procedures, and it really shows! We have also been working on our second grade curriculum. Students have read about different communities and have explored space with an astronaut! We have also learned different strategies for adding single-digit numbers. In science, we have been learning about space and stars. We would like to remind families that your child's homework each night is to read for 20 minutes, and children will have their book bags each night to read from. Let's continue to have a great year!

Ms. Power and Mrs. Palermo

Hi Third Grade Families,

It's fall already, can you believe it? It's been a great first month of third grade. We've jumped right into both the reading and math curriculum. This month we are looking forward to two field trips.

One to Amherst Cinema to study filmmaking, and another to UMASS Amherst for the Multiband show! We look forward to seeing all of you at Open House on Thursday, October 5th, which is also Picture Day! At Open House, it would be awesome if you could sign up for parent-teacher conferences which are happening on the afternoons of October 26th and 27th.

Looking forward to a great third grade year!

All the best,

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

Dear Fourth Families,

It is with much enthusiasm we welcome back returning friends and new faces to our fourth grade family. Our team, Mr. Proulx, Mr. Stone, and Ms. Witherell, are excited to pilot two new amazing curriculums!

First, we proudly introduce the Wit and Wisdom curriculum for literacy. With the tag line, "Books, not basals," students are being exposed to an incredible plethora of new and engaging texts. We are currently engaging with Patricia Polacco's Thank You, Mr. Falker, and will soon begin Module 1 with Love That Dog.

Next, we are utilizing Eureka Math as our new mathematics core. It is challenging students with a new way of thinking about and engaging with numeracy. You may start to see Sprint Math coming home, which is students racing themselves to do better every day.

Our first Social Studies unit will include the 50 nifty United States, and each student will be writing a State Report.

Finally, we proudly introduced Houses this year, a dynamic way of integrating students into different groupings. Inspired by the Harry Potter Houses and The Ron Clark Academy, we had a lovely sorting day earlier this month. Mr. Proulx excitedly heads the Tarter House. Mr. Stone bravely heads the Harkness House. Ms. Witherell excitedly heads the Mandiri House. House points are awarded daily and a house point winner (of the golden pineapple) will be awarded at each all school meeting.

Ms. Witherell's homeroom is hosting September's All School.

Continue Reading,

Mr. Proulx, Mr. Stone, and Ms. Witherell

READING REMINDERS:

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales."

-Einstein



Welcome to a new school year, families!

The reading teachers join all of the Newton School staff in welcoming students and families to another school year. We are happy to be working with your students this year to reinforce their blossoming reading skills. Please take a few minutes and think about when you can share some quiet reading time with your students each day. We encourage all of our students to spend at least 20 minutes each night reading. Add to the enjoyment of reading by sharing this time with your child in a bonding experience. Encourage their reading by modeling fluency, reading to them, or taking turns reading. Every minute children read will help them become better all-around students. Reading impacts every aspect of their school day.

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

Your Title 1 Reading Teachers,

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

News From The Nurse

Welcome back Newton students and families! We are all excited for the new school year to begin, and hoping it's a healthy one for you and your family. There are a few reminders from the health office that I wanted to share with you.

Health Concerns: If your child has a severe allergy, recent surgery or any new health problems please contact me to discuss so I can help provide the best care for them during school. Please return student health forms if you have not done so already.

Medications: If your child needs medication to be administered during school hours, a doctor's order and signed parental permission is required before in school administration to take place. Please have all parental permission forms and doctors' orders sent to school. Please contact me if you need a form or have any questions regarding medication administration in school. As a reminder students are not allowed to carry medication in school. All medications need to be brought to the school by an adult and in original bottle. Medications will be secured in the health office.

Physicals and Immunizations: Reminder letters are being sent home for students who have not provided documentation of completed immunizations or physical exams that are required for entrance to school. All documentation needs to be sent to school on or before October 16, 2017. Students entering Kindergarten and Grade 4 are required to have a physical exam. All required immunizations for entrance to kindergarten should have been completed.

I hope that we have a happy and healthy school year at Newton School. I look forward to seeing all the returning students and meeting those who are new to our school. Please feel free to call me with any questions you may have.

Jennifer Paulin RN
772-1370 ext 109

PTO News

National Box Tops week is 9/24-9/30. Please send in your Box Tops for a classroom contests. The class with the most Box Tops will lead the Newton School Fall Parade. All Box Tops must be in by Friday 9/29.

Our Fall Scholastic book fair will be held 10/2-10/5. Volunteers are still needed to help out at the fair. If you are interested please contact the PTO and make sure you stop in the office to fill out a CORI form.

There will be a PTO meeting in the library on Thursday 10/12 at 6pm. All are welcome and childcare will be provided.

Always feel free to contact us!

Email: Newtonpto@gmail.com

Facebook.com/NewtonSchoolfriends

Twitter: @newtonschoolpto



Freedom Credit Union & Newton Elementary School Financial Literacy Program

Welcome back students!

Beginning October 12, 2017 Freedom Credit Union will begin visiting Newton Elementary School the second Thursday of every month to collect deposits for students enrolled in the Financial Literacy Program. Any student who has a savings account with Freedom Credit Union can participate and students can join at any time!

Packets to enroll will be going out to parents and guardians very soon. With a completed returned packet your student will:

- Have a youth savings account with Freedom Credit Union that can be accessed year round
Through school visits or by stopping into any branch
- Freedom Credit Union will provide the first \$5.00 deposit
- A free piggy bank for students new to the program to help save
- A free account register book to keep track of all transactions and balances
- Prizes every month when Freedom Credit Union comes to visit

We look forward to our new and returning students for a great year of saving!

School Adjustment Counselor

Welcome to another exciting year at Newton School! I hope you and your family had an enjoyable summer. My name is Katie Irizarry, and I am the School Adjustment Counselor at Newton School. As the school counselor, I am here to assist Newton students and their families with a variety of concerns. My role is to be the link between the home, school and community to help improve the educational opportunity and potential of every student. School Adjustment Counselors help remove barriers to educational success by working with parents, students, and school staff to identify needs that interfere with learning. I provide individual and group support to students at Newton School as well as refer families to appropriate community resources as needed. I am available Monday through Friday and can be reached at 772-1370 should you have any questions or want to touch base about your child.

We are looking forward to another successful year, so here are some tips from teachers and the U.S. Department of Education to help support your child's success in school.

- ✓ Set high expectations for your child.
- ✓ Make sure your child is in school every day and on time. Attendance matters!
- ✓ Work collaboratively with your child's teachers and talk to them about goals and expectations for your child.
- ✓ Talk to your child each day about what he or she is doing in school and discuss what he or she learned.
- ✓ Encourage your child to complete assignments, and see that she or he finishes them.
- ✓ Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- ✓ Participate in family engagement and volunteer opportunities.

In addition, here are some resources to help you help your child:

- ✓ For age-appropriate guides to supplement this checklist, visit › <http://www.ed.gov/family-and-communityengagement>
- ✓ To meet other parents and caregivers in your school, and for information on academic standards and assessments, join your local school-based parent organization and visit › <http://www.pta.org>
- ✓ If your child is behind or needs extra help, seek out reading and other academic assistance at libraries, neighborhood churches, academic sororities and fraternities, organizations such as your local National Urban League, 100 Black Men, YMCA and YWCA, Mocha Moms, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and area high school and college students who serve as tutors and mentors.
- ✓ If your child is being bullied or having issues with discipline, visit › <http://www.stopbullying.gov> and <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/index.html>
- ✓ For information about exercise and nutrition, visit › www.nutrition.gov
- ✓ If your child has a delay or disability, check out the Parent Training and Information Centers at › <http://www.parentcenterhub.org>
- ✓ If English is not your home language, visit › <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/index.html>
- ✓ If you and your child face homelessness, visit › <http://homeless.samhsa.gov/>