



# The N.E.S. Newt-paper

## Newbury Elementary School Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 4

December 21, 2012

### Inside this issue:

News from our Classrooms	2-9
PTA News	10-12
Announcements	13-14
Important Dates & Contact Info	15
Upcoming Events & Flyers	16-17

Dear NES Families,

December often feels like a whirlwind of activity in schools. We enjoyed the Winter Concert listening to our talented musicians and singers, K-2 students enjoyed a production of Flat Stanley put on by THS performers, and the PTA brought us storyteller Len Cabral <http://www.lencabral.com> who helped us highlight the theme of Empathy as part of our CARES series of assemblies happening throughout the year.

I wanted to update you on the work the NES School Council has been doing to draft the School Improvement Plan and set the budget priorities for the next school year. The Council's goals focus on two areas:

**Goal I:** Literacy- 90% of students will read with comprehension and write effectively for purpose at grade level.

**Goal II:** Mathematics - 90% of students will demonstrate mathematical literacy and application of mathematical skills and concepts at grade level.

The School Improvement Plan and Budget are submitted and then presented to the Superintendent and the School Committee during the second week of January as the Committee works toward setting the district's tentative budget by February 13<sup>th</sup>. Your support for NES and the Triton District is critical during the public hearings within the budget review process. We hope you will come out to the School Committee meetings to advocate for our schools as the school budget is then presented to each of the towns at the end of February through the middle of March.

Teachers have been very busy integrating the Common Core Standards and the new Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks into their units of study to provide rigorous learning experiences for our students throughout this school year.

As we begin the winter vacation, on behalf of the entire NES staff, we wish you and your families a very happy, healthy holiday season!



Michael Tracy, Principal

## News from our Classrooms

### Second Grade

These are busy times in second grade at NES!

We are all about special presentations! Last week there was the Theatre Workshop play and Winter Concert. Thanks to the NES PTA, this past Tuesday a woman from Boston's Museum of Science came and gave an attention-getting presentation on the states of matter. Sometimes it felt more like a magic show! But it was not, it was a very engaging way for the children to learn about the states of matter.

Friday morning we saw a Flat Stanley musical performed by Triton Middle and High School students to grades K-2. This was perfect timing as we've just finished reading the book Flat Stanley. On Tuesday, December 18, Len Cabral, a charismatic storyteller, spun tales for us about NES' monthly theme, Empathy.

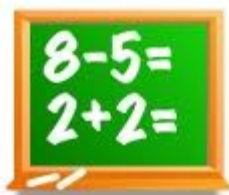
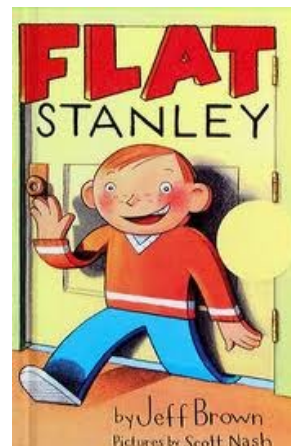
Despite all of these special activities, we have been busy in the classroom as well. We have been working hard on learning how to answer questions about Flat Stanley with complete sentences using words from the question. Our young writers have really caught on to this skill.

Having finished reading **Flat Stanley** and our reading response questions, we are ready to send home the much anticipated Flat Stanley Project. Wed., Dec. 19th packets went home which have all of the materials to send Stanley off on yet another adventure. We anticipate that the Stanleys will be returning to us from all over the map—which goes very nicely with our mapping curriculum!

We have been doing a lot of reading and writing, focusing on descriptive writing. They are becoming descriptive writing pros!

Having finished up our geometry unit, we are revisiting and deepening our skills of addition and subtraction working with place value. This will continue on when we come back after vacation. We have just worked on our last math fact strategy of bridge to ten. With such a great toolbox of strategies this puts our second graders in a great place for launching into Rocket Math come January.

We hope everyone has a happy, safe and well-deserved holiday break!



Some of our NES musicians performed seasonal music for Newbury Seniors at the Senior Center!

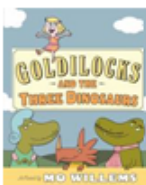


## News from our Classrooms

### Library

The world of children's books offered excellent selections for 2012. Below is a small sampling of some of the best the year had to offer. Mo Willems, author of numerous picture books shares the following advice to help encourage reading: "Encourage readers to read outside their norm – try something new and different. • Encourage reading of everything. • Show kids respect when reading." There is a book for every reader and so many more that could be added to this list! For more reading ideas speak with your public and school librarian or favorite bookstore. Wishing all NES families a happy season of reading!

### Picture Books



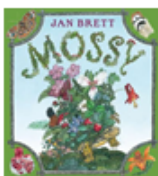
**Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs**  
by Mo Willems

*Goldilocks enters the home of the three dinosaurs, cleans up, finds chocolate pudding and realizes she has entered the wrong house.*



**Oh No George!** by Chris Haughton

*George wants to do the right thing, but sometimes it's just so hard....*



**Mossy** by Jan Brett

*Plants grow on Mossy's back, so the eastern box turtle is removed from her home, and very unhappy.*



**Z is for Moose** by Kelly Bingham

*Zebra is organizing the alphabet parade, but Moose just can't wait his turn.*

### Chapter Books



**Liar and Spy** by Rebecca Stead

*Georges and Safer become friends and learn the truth about issues in their separate worlds.*



**The One and Only Ivan** by Katherine Applegate

*Ivan, a gorilla in a tired circus mall, is determined to find a baby elephant a better life.*

## News from our Classrooms

### Library (continued)

#### Chapter Books (continued)



**The Great Unexpected** by Sharon Creech

*Two orphan girls in America and sisters in Ireland are unexpectedly connected and help one another.*



**The Empty City** by Erin Hunter (Survivors series)

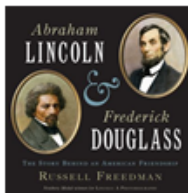
*After a devastating earthquake, the dogs must gather together to survive in the new world.*



**The Case of the Deadly Desperados** by Caroline Lawrence

*P.K. is on the run from Whittlin' Walt, and ends up in Virginia City, "sin city" of the wild west.*

#### Nonfiction



**Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass** by Russell Freedman

*The story behind an American friendship of two men born poor who rose to national prominence.*



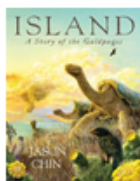
**The Mighty Mars Rovers** by Elizabeth Rusch

*The incredible adventures of Spirit and Opportunity as they searched for water on Mars.*



**Titanic: Voices from the Disaster** by Deborah Hopkinson

*The voices of the survivors and witnesses recreate the events from this historical tragedy.*



**Island: Story of the Galapagos** by Jason Chin

*A biography of the Galapagos Island from its birth to adulthood and beyond.*



**The Fairy Ring** by Mary Losure

*No one believed that Frances saw little men dressed in green, so she and her cousin made it true.*

## News from our Classrooms

### Kindergarten

The kindergarten students have just finished Unit 1 in Foundations which means they have been introduced to all 26 lowercase letters/keywords/sounds. The rule that all sentences and names must begin with an uppercase letter has been taught weekly. The students are learning how to retell a story through our puppet owl friends Echo and Baby Echo. We have also just completed a unit in Investigations about measurement and the number system. We did a lot of counting which reinforces the skill of 1:1 correspondence, comparing using the words more than, less than, and ordering from least to most. In social studies we have been focusing on families and traditions of different cultures during the holiday season. The kindergarten children have been noticing the changes in the seasons and learning about how people and animals prepare for winter. We have been working hard to become independent learners.



### Preschool

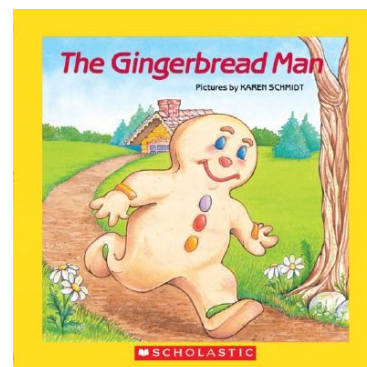
The Preschool children have been very busy this month. Miss Mary Jo's class has been learning all about the sources of light. Miss Melissa's class has been learning all about pigs-what they eat, where they live, and what they look like. They even got to experience snack as a pig would see it-full of corn, soybeans, and wheat, all favorite foods of pigs. Thanks to Mrs. Colby from Colby Farms, the two preschool classes joined together to have a special visit from a real piglet. We observed that the 13 day old pig was quite scared of us, and was making noises to call her mother. This was a great learning experience for us all to see!



## News from our Classrooms

### First Grade

First graders are hard at work. As authors, they are publishing their second book- their very own version of the Gingerbread Man! The children listened to many different versions of this classic tale, and then set to map out their own story. Each story is unique, but all include someone surprised to find their gingerbread character hop out of the oven and run away! All include a chase, but you'll have to read to find out which gingerbread characters escape and which get outsmarted and eaten up!



The NES community enjoyed the assembly that featured storyteller Len Cabral. Students in grades K-6 enjoyed a variety of stories and celebrated our monthly theme of “Empathy.” Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring this special event!



## News from our Classrooms

### “Thinking With Your Eyes”... to increase social understanding

Children are often encouraged to make eye contact or look at the person to whom they are speaking or listening, to help them focus and show they are part of the conversation. As we saw in the discussion of “Whole Body Listening” (September issue of Newt-paper), looking at the other person is an important part of listening.

In her Social Thinking® program, Michelle Garcia Winner extends this concept to **“thinking with your eyes”**, which means using your eyes to notice non-verbal cues such as facial expression and body language, trying to figure out what non-verbal messages others are sending, and trying to guess what they may be thinking.

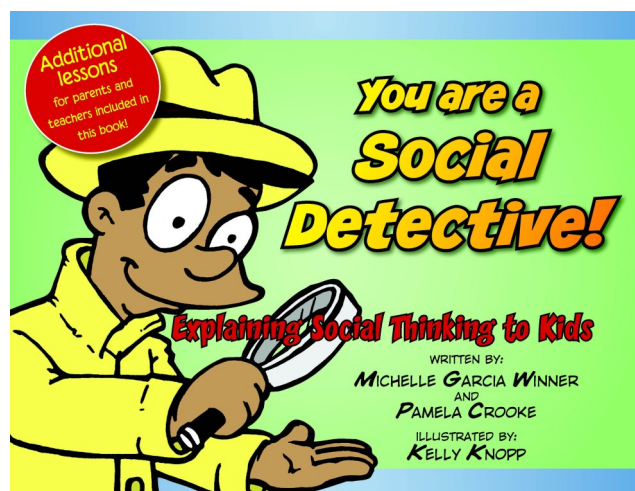
In social situations, people notice what others around them are doing and whether they are doing “expected” or “unexpected” behavior for that situation, and then have thoughts and feelings in response to the observed behavior. **“Thinking with your eyes”** helps develop social understanding by encouraging students to **notice non-verbal cues** and to **think about the thoughts and feelings of others** and what **they might expect the other person to do**.

“Thinking with your eyes” and noticing what others are doing in the classroom at any given time also helps students participate in the learning activity going on at that time.

Michelle Garcia Winner and one of her colleagues, Pamela Crooke, have written [You Are a Social Detective! Explaining Social Thinking to Kids](#), for children ages 4 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We are enjoying using this resource to help students understand these concepts in our groups and in class discussions. You can learn more about this book and other resources from Michelle Garcia Winner on her website [www.socialthinking.com](http://www.socialthinking.com).

**Tip for home....**Children benefit from opportunities to develop their social understanding in multiple settings. As situations arise, parents can ask their children what they notice about the facial expression of others at home, in pictures (e.g. in books or magazines), and in movies and then ask what they think the person might be thinking and feeling. There are many opportunities to be **social detectives!**

Kathleen de Stadler, LICSW, Counselor  
Daryl Kwiatkowski, MS, CCC/SLP “Mrs. K”  
Jodi Gundrum, MS, CCC/SLP



## News from our Classrooms

### News from the Nurse

Around this time every year we see the onset of contagious illnesses in the school setting. This year is no exception; over the past two weeks we have had a high volume of students absent or visiting the health office. I would like to assure you that the NES faculty and staff have been working diligently to keep the school as germ-free as possible. In addition to the daily cleaning by our custodial staff, teachers have been airing out classrooms at the end of each day and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces like desks and door knobs.

I would like to thank parents/guardians for your support of our policy of keeping children out of school until they are fever-free for 24 hours without medication. Also, I would like to remind you to please report your child's absence on either our absence line 978-465-5655, or via email at [ekayfrench@trsd.net](mailto:ekayfrench@trsd.net). It is particularly helpful if you inform me when your child has a highly contagious illness so I can monitor other students in their class for similar symptoms.



Thank you for your time and attention. I would like to wish you all a happy holiday and a healthy new year!

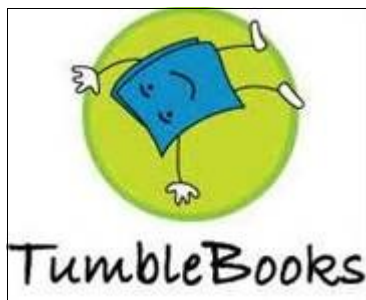
Warmly,  
Emily Kay-French MS, RN  
School Nurse

---

## Library

Students in grades 1 and 2 have been using Tumblebooks as a center choice during look book time at the library this month. Tumblebooks are animated, talking picture books that have been created from existing picture books from well-known publishers and authors. It also includes a collection of large print chapter books and audio books. Families can use

Tumblebooks from home anytime! To access this resource connect to the Library webpage from the NES webpage and Tumblebooks can be found under Reading Links. During Library, students have been exploring Story Books and Nonfiction Books, but there is much more to explore. Tumblebooks are funded by the Newbury Elementary PTA with proceeds from the book fair.





## News from our Classrooms

# Safety Tips for Stairs

### Use the handrail

Require young children to have one hand on the handrail whether climbing up or down stairs. The rail will help stabilize the children and give them something to hold on to if they miss their footing.



### Single file

Children should always walk up or down stairs in single file. This helps prevent crowding or pushing on the stairs.

Children should walk up and down the right side of the staircase, holding onto the railing with their right hand to safely make room for others who are using the stairs.

### Walk up or down stairs

Children should always walk on the stairs. They should never be allowed to run, jump or to take the stairs two or more steps at a time. They should not jump down from the stairs when descending, or hop up the stairs bunny fashion.

Encourage children to place one foot on each step alternating their feet to climb and descend stairs. In school we use the phrase: "One step, one foot".

Irene Kelley RPT / 2012



Dr. Tracy greets School Resource Officer Lucy who dropped off a cruiser full of gifts collected by the Newbury Police Department for Newbury Children!



## PTA News

All of the NES Teachers are now PTA members. Are you?

Our local PTA is one of the few in the state to enjoy the membership of every single teacher and administrator. Thank you, teachers, for showing us this support!



Have you shown your commitment to the PTA by joining this year? The membership is only \$10 per individual or \$15 for a family and includes membership in the state and national PTAs. To join, fill out the form attached to this newsletter or send a check made out to NES PTA and include your name, address, email, and phone numbers.

---

# SAVE THE DATE!



**NES PTA**  
**PIZZA DANCE**  
**Friday, February 1**



## PTA News

### NES Outdoor Grounds Committee Update

The NES Nature Trail and Outdoor Rustic Classroom (just off the hot-top at the rear of the school) are quickly taking shape thanks to the efforts of many hard-working volunteers who have helped to pick up trash, clear brush, carry and spread mountains of woodchips along the trail on two separate days. Both the trail and the classroom should be ready soon for walking, exploring, learning or simply just enjoying.



Yes! There are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer and please bring the kids! Before the ground freezes we would like to spread the remainder of the chips. We also need to install the stump seats for the outdoor classroom. And sometime before the spring thaw (or maybe after) we would like to construct a temporary boardwalk across the wetland. Stay tuned for upcoming work days!

Many thanks to our volunteers including the following families: Connor, Dooling, Hathaway, Jacob, Langlais, McManus, Mollineaux, Pearson, Pugh, Shorey, Sullivan, Walsh, local landscape designer, Katie Haried, and many many more who we unfortunately did not write down.

**Extra Special Thanks** to Steve's Tree Service who generously donated two very big piles of woodchips for the project.

**Much Appreciation** to the Pearson Family who kindly donated the use of their "Bobcat" for a day.



For more information about the trail, the outdoor classroom, or other outdoor efforts at NES, please contact Sally Milliken ([MillDoo@comcast.net](mailto:MillDoo@comcast.net)) or Emily Sullivan



## PTA News

### Green MachiNES

In early December, we hosted several key donors to the school dishwasher to celebrate the completion of the project, including Janice Morse, President and CEO of the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank, and Peter Quimby, Headmaster of the Governor's Academy. We are extremely grateful to these and all the donors for their generosity. The lunch staff treated us to a wonderful spread and we thank them for their support and effort as they adjust to the new system. We've already had confirmation that the school's output of trash has been reduced by 1/3 each week.

A plaque was installed next to the tray drop-off window. With the dishwasher now installed and paid for, we have other projects in the works, including ways to further reduce trash at the school, to increase recycling, to involve and educate students about environmental issues near and far, as well as school beautification ideas.

Please contact Tammy Cotter ([tammycotter@comcast.net](mailto:tammycotter@comcast.net)) or Sally Milliken ([MillDoo@comcast.net](mailto:MillDoo@comcast.net)) for more information.



Charlie LaBella (NES Student Council), Alexa Strauch (Green MachiNES), Sally Milliken (Green MachiNES), Peter Quimby (Headmaster, The Governor's Academy), Janice Morse (President and CEO, Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank), Dr. Michael Tracy (Principal), Heather Leonard (Asst. Principal), Tammy Cotter (Green MachiNES) Chris Walsh (Manager of grounds and Facilities - Triton Regional District)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### TRITON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Respect – Integrity – Excellence For All*

#### **School Year 2013-2014 Preschool and Kindergarten Dates**

Each year, prospective parents are invited to an evening event which outlines our Preschool and Kindergarten programs at each elementary school.

We ask that these evening information sessions are for parents only as there is a good deal of information to cover.

#### **The dates for the 2013-2014 School Year are as follows:**

##### *Preschool Parent Information Nights*

Newbury Elementary School:	4/9/13 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Pine Grove School:	4/4/13 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Salisbury Elementary School:	4/3/13 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

##### *Kindergarten Parent Information Nights*

Newbury Elementary School:	3/14/13 from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m.
Pine Grove School:	3/7/13 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Salisbury Elementary School:	3/5/13 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.



#### *Kindergarten Screening*

May 6th and 7th at each elementary school from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Appointments will be scheduled on Kindergarten Information Night.

There will be no school for current kindergarten students on May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

#### *Preschool Screening*

May 10, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

There will be no school for current preschool students on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Come and Join  
*David Magee, Triton's Administrator of Special Education*  
*And a MassPAC Representative, Leslie Leslie*

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm  
 Central Office Conference Room  
 and

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
 Basic Rights Workshop at Triton High School Library



**David Magee invites all parents of students receiving special education services to participate in helping him establish a vision for Triton's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC).**

***Please get involved! The SEPAC provides a wonderful opportunity for parents to participate in the special education process, and develop a healthy relationship with administration.***

### **“Coats for Kids” Drive**

The annual “Coats for Kids” drive, which is being sponsored by the NES Student Council in conjunction with Anton's Cleaners, began October 16, 2012 and will run through January 12, 2013. We hope to collect upwards to 60,000 coats this year.

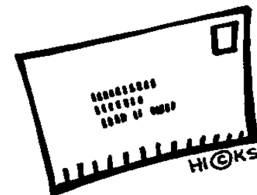
All coat sizes are accepted. The winter coats should be without rips, tears or broken zippers and in relatively good condition. The collection box will be located in the NES front lobby.

Thank you for your support!



Dear Families,

During the last few weeks we have been coordinating the sixth annual holiday greeting card drive to benefit



the senior citizens in the Newbury-Byfield area. There are 1,100 senior citizens in this community, a large portion of which are considered “shut-ins” or are in assisted living situations. As a community service, it is an honor to delight these “seniors” with some holiday cheer from Newbury's younger population. **We are requesting that as a part of this effort, each family donate two 45 cent stamps to use on the Valentine's Day card. (Christmas cards were already sent!) We appreciate your generosity and thank you to those that have already donated!**

Newbury Elementary  
Triton Regional School  
District  
63 Hanover Street  
Newbury 01951

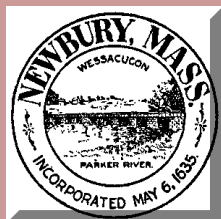
Phone:  
(978) 465-5353

Fax:  
(978) 463-3070

E-mail:  
mtracy@trsd.net  
hleonard@trsd.net

**We're on the Web!**  
<http://newbury.trsd.net>

The NES Newt-paper is published by Heather Leonard on a monthly basis. If you would like to submit something to be included in the NES Newt-paper, please email your information to [hleonard@trsd.net](mailto:hleonard@trsd.net) by the Tuesday before the newsletter is published.



## Upcoming Events

### January

1/4—NES Ski Bradford Begins 3:00-6:00 P.M.

1/7—Grade 3 & 4 Beginning Band Starts

1/8—Student Council 7:00 A.M.

1/9—School Committee 7:00 P.M.

1/11—NES Ski Bradford 3:00-6:00 P.M.

1/15—NES PTA Meeting 7:00 P.M.

1/18—NES Ski Bradford 3:00-6:00 P.M.

1/18—Progress Reports go home

---

## School Community

### PTA Officers

President - Ellen Hazo [hazofamily@comcast.net](mailto:hazofamily@comcast.net)

Co-Vice President - Elaina Sayles [minies5@gmail.com](mailto:minies5@gmail.com)

Co-Vice President - Emily Abt [emily1172@verizon.net](mailto:emily1172@verizon.net)

Secretary - Renee Toth [reneeh1992@aol.com](mailto:reneeh1992@aol.com)

Treasurer - Hilary Lind [hilarylind@hotmail.com](mailto:hilarylind@hotmail.com)

### School Committee

Mrs. Dina Sullivan - Chair, Newbury

Mrs. Deborah Choate - Vice Chair, Salisbury

Mrs. Suzanne Densmore - Secretary, Newbury

Mr. Lane Bourn - Rowley

Mr. Paul Lees - Rowley

Mrs. Linda Litcofsky - Salisbury

Mrs. Mary Murphy - Rowley

Mrs. Jane Purinton - Salisbury

Mrs. Robin Williams - Newbury



---

**2012-13**  
**Membership Application**



The NES Parent Teacher Association provides financial and volunteer support of a wide variety of activities aimed at building a strong school and community. Our PTA is instrumental in promoting student achievement and supporting academic programs. There is no time commitment required to join PTA. When families partner with schools, children succeed. The PTA welcomes all parents, students, teachers, staff, grandparents, community members and neighbors.

Your NES PTA membership includes state and national PTA memberships, and gives you access to online parenting and teaching tools, plus discounts at national retailers and local PTA events.

**Circle one:** Family Membership \$15      Individual membership \$10  
Additional Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Member 1:**

**Member 2:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If parent, name(s) and teacher(s) of student(s):

---

---

Share your thoughts about PTA! Have any great ideas? Have a talent that you want to share? We would love to hear from you.

---

---

Make checks out to NES PTA and send them to the NES office, labeled "PTA Membership".



# SAVE THE DATE...

## TRITON YOUTH HOCKEY LEARN TO PLAY HOCKEY

**Starts January 19, 2013**

The Learn To Play Hockey program promises fun and instructive basic skills sessions for any boy or girl who wishes to master the fundamentals of hockey. Weekly sessions are designed to develop your child's strength, balance and agility to become a confident and competent player while enjoying games, drills and making new friends.

**The program is open to children aged four to ten years of age.**

**REGISTER ONLINE: Any time prior to 1/19/13 on website**

**DATES:** January 19th through April 6<sup>th</sup>. (10 Sessions)

**TIME:** 8-8:50 AM, Saturday mornings

**PLACE:** Graf Rink, Low Street, Newburyport

**FEE:** "Wayne Gretzky Special" \$99 per child.

**EQUIPMENT:** Skates, helmet, shin guards, elbow pads, gloves and stick made for hockey are required. Optional: shoulder pads, hockey pants, hockey socks, cup, and jersey

Space is limited so please register early to secure a spot.

For additional information about the Learn-to-Play Hockey program, please contact Paul Kohan at (978) 388-1785 or pmkohan@gmail.com. For questions concerning registering, please contact Jon Lindholm, TYH Registrar, at jon.lindholm@kraft.com .



[www.TritonYouthHockey.com](http://www.TritonYouthHockey.com)

*"THE TRITON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEITHER SPONSORS NOR ENDORSES THE INFORMATION IN THIS NOTICE OR THE PUBLISHER"*