



# The Newbury Elementary School

## Newt-paper

February 14, 2014

Volume 1, Issue 21

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### Have a healthy and happy winter vacation!



Whether you are traveling or staying local, winter vacation is a time to relax and rejuvenate. We wish

all of you a healthy and happy winter vacation. We look forward to seeing you back in school on the 24th!

### Happy Valentine's Day

We wish everyone a happy Valentine's Day! NES students celebrated the day within their classrooms and shared warm thoughts with their peers.



### February is Black History Month



In honor of Black History Month, NES fifth graders have completed a differentiated research project and have created four class "quilts" about the people they studied. You can look for the quilts hanging in our front hallway for the remainder of the month.

Well done fifth graders!

### Kindergarten and First Graders Celebrate the 100th Day of School with Zero the Hero



NES students celebrated the 100th day of school on Tuesday. Students counted to 100, measured 100 steps, made necklaces out of 100 pieces of cereal, and many more fun activities.



Students in Kindergarten and First Grade were also visited by Zero the Hero. Zero talked about the importance of the number zero and sang a song with the students. At the end, Zero the Hero presented the students with t-shirts to remember the day.

**Many thanks to Zero the Hero for contributing to our understanding of number sense and for making learning fun!**



Newbury Elementary School  
 63 Hanover Street  
 Newbury, MA 01951  
 (978)465-5353  
 Fax: (978)463-3070  
 Website:  
<http://newbury.trsd.net>  
 Blog:  
<http://newburyelementaryupdate.blogspot.com>

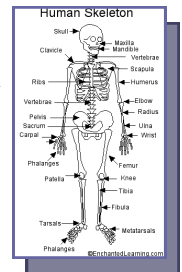
## Physical Education Highlights

During the month of December, K-2 students took on the task of combining a variety of movement challenges- change of levels, (high, middle, low), speed, shapes and pathways, which they then enjoyed performing for their classmates. Hula hoop manipulative work and the holiday game, "Snowflake Hunt" rounded out the month. Younger students have just finished the endurance demanding scooter obstacle course and will be moving into playground ball manipulative activities after February break.



Grades 3-6 students continue to pursue fitness goals and will be tackling the 8 minute jog, jog/walk challenge before February break. The all-important effort, and attempt, to work towards correct pushup technique also continues to be a focus.

Older children played a fast paced team game in the month of December titled "4 Corners Team Handball" that required catching, quick passing, moving into open space, throwing at two different targets, goal tending and court awareness. The cold month of January is a month of fun cooperative scooter activities – "Human Bowling" and "Scooter Handball." We have also begun a quick hit of basic skeleton anatomy at the start of class with the "Bone of the Week" – starting at the top of the skeleton and moving down naming large significant bones. After February break, grades 3-6 will be involved in a unit of games activities.



## News from the Art Department

This year the Triton District Arts festival will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Along with the day- long music program for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in choir and advanced band, there is a visual arts exhibit. There will be artwork hanging from all schools in the district featuring students in grades K-12.

New this year there will be interactive tables where visitors may try their hand at origami, pattern stamping, collage making and other artistic endeavors. This gallery portion of the day will run from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm.

I will be asking students from grades 4, 5 and 6 if they would like to assist at these art activity tables. If your child is interested (and if they are not in advanced band or choir), they can pick up a permission slip from me. They will need transportation to and from the event.

**Mark your calender: NES All School Art Exhibit featuring the work of famous artist Georges Seurat, April 17th**



## Music Department News

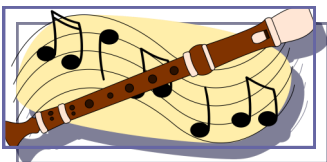
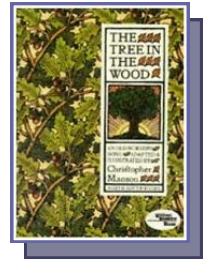
Since we've been back in January we have been very busy!

**Grade 6** - We learned sign language for Auld Lang Syne and then learned about triads and chords. The students sang the song while playing the accompaniment (chords) with three mallets on various Orff instruments. We also played a Chinese street percussion piece where every child had either a drum (gathering drum, conga drum, tubano, etc.), or a metal instrument (cymbal, triangle, bell tree, tambourine, etc.). The boys and girls took turns on various instruments. This was a great review for reading rhythms and incorporating a multicultural rhythmic activity. We then "traveled to Italy" to learn a folk dance called the Tarantella.



**Grade 5** - The students learned the Troika dance from Russia. They also did a unit with Orff instruments playing and singing a song called Rhythm Rondo. They learned about a variety of sixteenth note combinations, sang, played Orff instruments and learned about rondo form. We then learned a Caribbean song that incorporated a very tricky hand clapping game done in teams of four.

**Grade 4** - We had fun with the hand clapping game "Double, Double, This, This", adding hand drums and other unpitched percussion instruments. We also learned an English Folk song, "The Tree in the Wood". Everyone sang, some children played Orff instruments and some children were the "actors". Ask your children about the "Jelly Bean Brigade". Some children played Orff instruments and sang, while others sang, marched, played hand drums and used rainbow colored scarves. These children were the jelly beans!



**Grade 3** - We have kept up with our recorder playing, and most children have now earned their white, yellow, orange and red belts. Remember, Mrs. Towne's class and Mrs. Winter's class can come see me before school (8:10-8:40) on Thursday mornings. Mr. William's class and Mrs. William's classes can come see me on Friday mornings. This extra time is designated for playing songs for beads or belts. The children can play a "non belt" song to earn a bead. These beads can be added to their belts. This week some children will be earning their green belt by playing Polly Wolly Doodle.

**Grades K, 1 and 2** - We continue to use Beanie Babies for our tone drills which help us to match pitch when we sing. In Kindergarten we have learned some new patriotic songs, "God Bless America" and "You're a Grand Old Flag". We have been exploring free movement to music and playing some new listening games. First and Second grades have also been bringing stories "alive" by adding song, music and sound effects to a Robert Munsch book. In first grade, we are using "Thomas' Snowsuit" and in second grade the story is "Mortimer". The children are enjoying the integration of music and literature. Ask your children which instrument they got to play, a xylophone, a glockenspiel or a metallophone.



In Choir we are preparing for our annual **Triton District Arts Festival, on Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup>**. All members of choir and advanced band brought home a notice about this special day at Triton. Parents need to send back the signed permission slip so that their child may attend.

## Music Department News Continued

### BEGINNING BAND

Beginning Band students have been practicing and it shows! All students are working toward their White Badge as well as playing supplemental music in their books. After school Beginner Band rehearsals have begun and they are on Mondays from 3:00-4:00 PM. Please remember to bring your instrument on Monday as well as your band folder, pencils, and any item needed to be successful (valve oil, slide oil, reeds, drum sticks, etc.). Beginning Band rehearsals focus on rehearsal etiquette, listening skills, playing together as a large ensemble, technique, and having fun while playing.



Save the date... Our Spring Concert will be on **Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**. A handout about this concert will be given out a month prior. The dress code is as follows:

*Boys:* Plain white shirt (as white as possible), black pants (no sweatpants or jeans), black socks, dressy shoes (if you do not have dressy shoes, please wear clean dark sneakers)

*Girls:* Plain white shirt (as white as possible), a black skirt below the knee caps OR black pants (no sweatpants or jeans), black socks/nylons/leggings, dressy shoes (if you do not have dressy shoes, please wear clean dark sneakers)

### ADVANCED BAND

Advanced Band members did a fantastic job performing in the Winter Concert! Students were well behaved and sounded beautiful. A packet of new music was handed out in the first week of January for our upcoming concerts. In the next few months, students will be working out of their repertoire packet, technique book, and they will be working toward receiving their next badge. Many eager students have already performed some of their badge requirements for me – what a talented group of students! The **Triton District Arts Festival** is fast approaching as it is on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be performing with the Salisbury Elementary School, Pine Grove School, Triton Regional Middle School, and Triton Regional High School. This event will take your breath away – don't miss it!

Save the dates... Our District Festival is on **Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** and our Spring Concert will be on **Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**. Handouts about both of these events will be given out a month prior.

The dress code is as follows:

*Boys:* Plain white shirt (as white as possible), black pants (no sweatpants or jeans), black socks, dressy shoes (if you do not have dressy shoes, please wear clean dark sneakers)

*Girls:* Plain white shirt (as white as possible), a black skirt below the knee caps OR black pants (no sweatpants or jeans), black socks/nylons/leggings, dressy shoes (if you do not have dressy shoes, please wear clean dark sneakers)

### STAGE BAND

If your child is interested in being a part of the Stage Band (pop/jazz), please e-mail me at [lcyr@trsd.net](mailto:lcyr@trsd.net) or send a letter in on their lesson day.

The Stage Band rehearses every Tuesday from 4:30-5:30 PM at the Newbury Elementary School Band Room. Students involved in the Stage Band will be playing a wide range of music from pop to swing. The Stage Band will perform at the Newbury Elementary School Spring Concert on May 27<sup>th</sup>, Salisbury Elementary School Spring Concert on May 28<sup>th</sup>, and the Pine Grove School Spring Concert on May 22<sup>th</sup>. The Stage Band will NOT perform at the March 13<sup>th</sup> District Festival.

In addition to the Spring Concerts, the District Stage Band will also be performing at the Mass Bay Music Festival. Students will perform for a panel of judges, have an on-stage clinic, watch other groups perform, participate in a master-class (instrument specific class), participate in the award ceremony, eat lunch, then travel to Boston for the Duck Tours. Last year was our first year participating in this music festival and we received a rating of "Excellent".

## Technology News

The technology lab is very busy with classes from kindergarten to 6th grade using any spare computer time for a chance to work in the online programs like Moby Max, Reflex, Study Island, and Big Brainz. These programs allow students to really test their skills and give teachers a great deal of data to analyze what students know and don't know. 6th grade is working individually on classroom projects. The 6th graders are doing a special flex block project with my daughter, Josy Raycroft, an architectural designer, learning how to design their own space while using the Google Sketch Up program. This involves design, many geometry and spatial skills. They are having fun and will present their designed spaces at the end of the sessions.

Ms. Nicholson is bringing her science classes to the lab every 3rd week to continue the "Hour of Code Week" and working on programs such as Scratch, (an MIT programming program and Blockly, a Google programming program).

In regular scheduled class time the **6th graders** have been working on an Excel project using information about nutrition from the McDonalds website, and learning about inserting formulas into Excel to work out totals, differences and percentages. I hope learning about what is in food exactly will make them more discerning about the food they eat in the future. **5th graders** are creating a presentation using animations and sound in Power Point to show the animated action of the water cycle, something they are learning about in science.

**4th graders** are researching something of interest using a site called Wonderopolis. They are writing a letter to someone they know about the interesting things they've learned. The students will be sharing with classmates using videos about their topics.

**3rd graders** continue to work on the Type to Learn program, a year long endeavor.

**2nd graders** have been expanding the work on mapping, continents, and oceans they are doing in class. In technology, they created their own compass rose designs with directions. The students used technology games and quizzes to learn all the continents and oceans.

**1st graders** have been working on an early typing program that allows them to get familiar with the keyboard and learn where the letters are. The program also teaches the home row position for the hands and use of the shift keys for upper case letters.

**Kindergarten** has been learning about life in the Arctic through the eyes of the Inuit people. The children have been involved in a website called Wumpas World, which allows them to steer a kayak through the Arctic waters, dress people in furs, follow the dog-sleds, catch and sort fish, etc.



## Library News

Students in Kindergarten – Grade 3 have been enjoying a variety of nonfiction read-alouds from authors such as Gail Gibbons, Steve Jenkins and Wayne Lynch (Author of the Whose Animal series.) We have been distinguishing between the fiction and non-fiction areas of the library and the clues we can use to determine which area we will find these books. During our reading time, students have also explored the text features found in nonfiction books that help us locate information.

Grade 4 students have been using the Britannica database as a research tool to learn about an animal of their choosing. After students located and accessed the information they needed, they presented their research from the point of view of the animal they studied. Students had the choice to present their information as a diary entry, as an interview, or as a poem. There have been many creative selections shared so far!

Below grade 4 students gathering information from Britannica.



Students in Grades 5 and 6 have been fine tuning their keyword search skills. Use of precise keywords can help students locate reliable information when searching databases or the internet. Grade 6 students utilized their keyword skills in Google Advanced searches to limit results and focus their search.

All NES students in grades K-6 have had the opportunity to use Britannica to explore a wide range of topics over the past few weeks. Britannica is an online database that provides encyclopedia articles, an interactive atlas, dictionary, thesaurus and more. It is funded through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and free for students to use in school and at home. Britannica can be accessed from any public library webpage and from the NES Library Webpage: <http://neslibrary.weebly.com/research-links.html>.

Each year students in grades 4-6 are invited to participate in the Massachusetts Children's Book Award program and vote for their favorite nominee. On Monday, participating students selected Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper as the NES favorite. There were two runners-up tied for second place: The Lost Hero by Rick Riordan and Tango: The Tale of an Island Dog by Eileen Beha. The NES votes will be sent onto Salem State University where all the state votes will be tabulated. The state MCBA winner will be announced in late March. Congratulations to Melina Robertson and Evelyn Pearson for reading all 25 Massachusetts Children's Book nominees!

## PTA News...

### Join us for the next assembly

Experience firsthand how financial support of the PTA is enriching the educational experience of the children at NES. Parents are invited to join us for February's monthly assembly, an Empathy Awareness Performance by storyteller Odds Bodkin.

Students will be engaged in three age-appropriate tales with music and compelling character voices that teach how kindness works best. Not only do the stories teach by example, but Mr. Bodkin will lead the students in a follow-up group discussion, strengthening messages of empathy and kindness.

Please join us for one of the upcoming time slots:

### Wednesday, February 26, NES Auditorium

**K-3:** 9:30am-10:30am      **4-6:** 10:30am-11:30am

### Silent Auction Donations Needed

We are busy making plans for the all-new Family Spring Fling and Silent Auction on Friday, March 21, 5-7 pm. Do you have an item or a gift certificate to donate to the silent auction? Are you able to create an art project with students for the auction? We also are still welcoming more volunteers to help plan the event. Please email [newburyPTAinfo@gmail.com](mailto:newburyPTAinfo@gmail.com).

### Basketball court stencil?

The outdoor grounds committee is in search of a stencil to refresh the basketball court lines this spring. If you have one to lend or know where to get one, please email [newburyPTAinfo@gmail.com](mailto:newburyPTAinfo@gmail.com).

### Easy ways to earn money for NES

#### *Newburyport Five Cent Savings Bank*

Open a checking account at Newburyport Five Cent Savings Bank and \$50 will be donated to our PTA. The first \$25 will be donated within 30 days of account opening and an additional \$25 will be given after 6 months of the account being open and active. This is a FREE checking account with no minimum balance and no hidden fees. The first order of checks is complimentary. (The bank also matches the first \$5 in a child's new savings account plus gives the saver a Gund teddy bear.) Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank has locations in Newbury, Newburyport, Salisbury, Amesbury, and Portsmouth.

#### *Target*

Target's Take Charge of Education program will donate 1% of your REDcard purchases made at Target and Target.com to help our school. Sign up online at <http://www.target.com/redcard/benefits-target-rewards>.

#### *Box Tops*

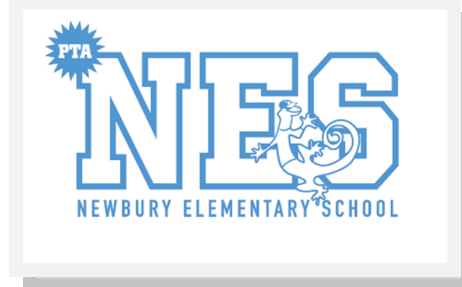
Clip the Box Tops from over 250 participating products and shop online to earn money for our school PTA. Learn about products, the online shopping portal, and special bonus earnings at <http://www.boxtops4education.com>. There is a BoxTops collection bin in the school lobby.

#### *Labels for Education*

By collecting UPCs and beverage/sauce caps from over 2,500 [participating products](#), supplementing your earnings through the [eLabels for Education<sup>SM</sup> program](#) and with [bonus offers](#), our school earns points that can be redeemed for arts, athletics, and academics merchandise. Bring your labels to the school collection bin in the lobby.

### Thanks to you and Oregano's!

The PTA earned almost \$600 at our restaurant fundraiser at Oregano's earlier this month. What a success, thanks to our awesome teacher and staff moonlighters and all of the families who came out!



## TRITON YOUTH LACROSSE OPEN REGISTRATION 2014 SEASON

Triton Youth Lacrosse Association  
(Member of MBYLL, MBGLL & US Lacrosse)

### Spring 2014 Registration Information

- 7th – 8th Grade Boys/Girls (U-15 Division)
- 5th – 6th Grade Boys/Girls (U-13 Division)
- 3rd – 4th Grade Boys/Girls (U-11 Division)
- 1st – 2nd Grade Boys/Girls (U-9 Division)
- New Players up to 2nd Grade (Instructional Play)

Instructional play is an entry level program and offers the opportunity for children who may have an interest in playing lacrosse for minimal cost.

WHERE: On-Line Registration at [WWW.tri-lax.com](http://WWW.tri-lax.com)

### Registration Fees

(Fee includes mandatory US Lacrosse Insurance \$25)

\$175 for U-11, U-13 and U- 15 Divisions

\$135 for U-9

\$110 for Instructional

A late fee \$35 for registrations completed after 3/1/2014 AND multiple family member discount, \$25 per additional player

For Further Information Call:  
Tom Galligan (617) 548-1407  
Email – [trlax@comcast.net](mailto:trlax@comcast.net)

For more information check out our web site ([www.tri-lax.com](http://www.tri-lax.com)) and frequently asked questions on the left hand column

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The NES Newt – paper is published by Amy Pasquarello on a weekly basis. If you would like to submit something to be included in the NES Newt-paper, please email your information to [apasquarello@trsd.net](mailto:apasquarello@trsd.net) by the Wednesday before the newsletter is published.

“The expert in anything was once a beginner.”

-unknown

## SEPAC Update...

### SEPAC meeting on Feb. 24

Join the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) for a discussion about transitions between grades and schools, the district's draft therapy dog policy, and athletics at its next meeting on Monday, Feb. 24, at 6 pm in the NES Library. The SEPAC is open to anyone, and values input from all families. For more information, email [SEPACtriton@gmail.com](mailto:SEPACtriton@gmail.com).

# NES Calendar

February 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 4:30 School Council 6:30 pm SEPAC	4	5	6 Grade 1 – Animal Habitats	7 Half Day – Professional Development	8
9	10	11 100th Day of School!	12	13	14 NES Ski	15
16	17 Schools Closed: Vacation	18 Schools Closed: Vacation	19 Schools Closed: Vacation	20 Schools Closed: Vacation	21 School Closed: Vacation	22
23	24 6:00/PM SEPAC	25	26 Odds Bodkins (Two Shows)	27 4:00 NES Technology Committee	28 NES Ski	

Visit us on the web!

<http://newbury.trsd.net/>

## Who's Who at Newbury Elementary School



Mrs. Bradley has loved getting to know the students and staff at NES this year. She enjoys working with the students in small groups, helping them with comprehension skills and discussing the books they are reading in their book groups. Outside of school

she can be found hiking with her husband and their dog, Truckee. In the winter she is usually snowboarding on the weekends and she looks forward to relaxing on the beach with a great book this the summer. She recently moved to Newburyport with her husband Tim and has truly enjoyed walking around the beautiful town and being near the water.

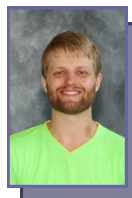
Mrs. Gallant enjoys working upstairs with the staff and students in the sixth grade. She is married to her husband John of many years. They have two daughters and one son who live in the area, which is wonderful. They love to spend time with their seven granddaughters.



Mrs. Wood lives along the Merrimac River in Newburyport. She has two children, Fred and Sheryl. She has been blessed with four wonderful grandchildren, Adam, Matt, Elias, and Brooke. Mrs. Wood has lived in upstate New



York for thirty years where she raised her family. She worked for a Human Service Agency managing group homes for developmentally delayed adults before moving back to Newburyport. Mrs. Wood has been working as an IA at NES for 15 years and finds working with the children a rewarding experience. She enjoys time with family and friends, camping, cooking, and gardening.



Mr. Mitchell is in his second year at Newbury Elementary as an Instructional Assistant. He grew up in Western Montana and spent his time hiking, playing the saxophone in a marching band, and running on the cross country team. After four years at the University of Montana in Missoula, he graduated with a degree in elementary education.

He and his fiancé moved out here to Massachusetts in 2012. He enjoys exploring New England from wandering around the White Mountains, enjoying all the great food in Boston, to getting caught up in Bruins fever! He knew he wanted to be a teacher back in high school when he led a science and history club at an after-school program for third and fourth graders. He believes it's extremely important to instill the love for learning early on. That way students are excited and driven to make education and the process of bettering yourself a life long journey.

*Respect—Integrity—Excellence for All*