



The Newbury Elementary School Newt-paper

February 28, 2014

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Welcome Back!

We hope you had a relaxing and rejuvenating February vacation. It was so nice to see everyone back at school. The students are back in class and ready to learn!



Moby Max

Did you know that every NES student has an account with MobyMax.com? This is an on-line resource that students can access from school or at home. The website addresses a wide variety of skills from math computation, problem solving, basic facts, reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing, and conventions of standard English. Many teachers have offered a contest for students to spend time on MobyMax. Ask your child if he/she has logged on today.



Odds Bodkins



On Wednesday, February 26th, the NES community was fortunate to have an Empathy Awareness Performance by storyteller Odds Bodkin. This event was sponsored by the NES PTA and benefitted all. Mr. Bodkins performed two shows with age-appropriate tales that incorporated music and compelling character voices. Each of the stories shared taught how kindness works best. After the stories, Mr. Bodkin led students in a discussion to strengthen the message of empathy and kindness. Each story demonstrated The Golden Rule, and the students of NES were quick to make the connection of The Golden Rule to our own school rules. The performance was a wonderful way to learn while being entertained.

Thank you to the NES PTA for providing such an enriching experience for all!



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Sixth Grade Math Update

The current mathematics unit of study in sixth grade is Expressions and Equations. Sixth graders have been writing and solving equations in solving multi-step problems. They have been applying algebra skills as they learn about mathematical properties, order of operations, variables, how to simplify expressions, and inverse operations. Upon communicating their ideas, they are coming to appreciate the many ways in which a single problem can be approached. For example, during the last snow storm, meteorologist Harvey Leonard announced that the heavy wet snow weighed about 7 pounds per shovelful. I presented students with this problem: If it takes 15 shovelfuls to clear a parking space and 20 shovelfuls to clear a crosswalk, how much weight in snow would you lift if you cleared 3 parking spaces and 3 crosswalks? Students discussed the different ways of solving this problem by representing their work algebraically (see student work). As we continue this unit of study, students will explore the use of tables in solving more complex problems involving dependent and independent variables. So . . . if the rate at which snow melts is dependent upon warmer weather, then I look forward to warmer days ahead and to the students continuing to solve problems in a variety of ways.

$$\begin{array}{l} (15 \times 3 + 20 \times 3) \times 7 \\ (45 + 20 \times 3) \times 7 \\ (45 + 60) \times 7 \\ 105 \times 7 \\ \underline{735 \text{ lbs}} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} (15 + 20) \cdot 3 \cdot 7 \\ 35 \cdot 3 \cdot 7 \\ 105 \cdot 7 \\ \underline{735 \text{ Pounds}} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 7 \times 15 \times 3 + 7 \times 20 \times 3 \\ 105 \times 3 + 7 \times 20 \times 3 \\ 315 + 7 \times 20 \times 3 \\ 315 + 140 \times 3 \\ 315 + 420 \\ \underline{735 \text{ lbs}} \end{array}$$

"We took the combined amount of shovelfuls needed for both one driveway and one crosswalk and multiplied that by 3 to find the total amount of shovelfuls needed for all 3 jobs. Then we multiplied that answer by the weight of each shovelful." (By Emily D., Paige V., and Sergey A.)

"I multiplied the number of shovelfuls needed to clear one driveway by 3 and the number of shovelfuls needed to clear one crosswalk by 3. I added these two products together to get the total amount of shovelfuls. Then I took the number of shovelfuls needed for both jobs and multiplied it by the weight of one shovelful." (Jamie B.)

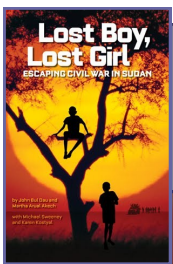
"I multiplied the weight of one shovelful by the number of shovelfuls needed to clear the driveway, by the number of driveways. Then I multiplied the weight of one shovelful by the number of shovelfuls needed to clear the crosswalk, by the number of crosswalks. Finally, I added the total weight of all snow in all 3 driveways to the weight of snow in all 3 crosswalks." (Cody W.)

Sixth Grade ELA and Social Studies Update

English Language Arts and Geography have combined into something really exciting for our sixth graders. Just before February break we finished up two novels related to the central idea of escaping civil war in Sudan. Ms. Schnagel at the Newburyport Public Library was able to find us 45 copies of A Long Walk to Water, a historical-fiction novel written by Linda Sue Parks. Our Newbury PTA generously purchased 40 copies of Lost Boy, Lost Girl, a nonfiction novel co-written by John

Bul Dau and Martha Arual Akech. Although both novels share the common central themes, one is based on the

life of Salva Dut and the other is the actual experiences of John and Martha. Students were intrigued by the determination and survival of the 'Sudanese Lost Boys and Girls'. In addition to reading the novel, students participated in group discussions, researched to help better understand people, places, and events, and brainstormed/responded to student generated prompts. We're looking forward to moving into Asia in the next few weeks! Also, thank you again to our NES community members for supporting us via Donors Choose! We now have an array of technology to use with our sixth grade students!



**A LONG
WALK TO
WATER**

"The best way to predict your future is to create it."

-Abraham Lincoln



Sixth Grade Science Update



Sixth grade scientists have enjoyed our chemistry topics this term. There were lots of activities that helped with learning about describing and measuring matter. The students have a solid understanding of how important it is for scientists to use the metric system all over the world. It's all about communication!

Students enjoyed selecting projects to show an understanding of concepts, such as physical and chemical changes, from our chemistry unit. The projects included a demonstration, a presentation, and creating an instructional poster to teach the important concepts in their project. Some of the project titles included: Bubbling Lava Bottle, Color Changing Milk, Incredible Can Crusher, Taco Sauce Penny Cleaner, Soap Souffle, Straw Through Potato, Folding Egg, Sinking Soda Surprise, Baby Diaper Secret, Rubber Eggs, Floating Water, and Nails for Breakfast. The posters are on display in room 204.

A favorite unit from this term was learning how to use triple beam balance scales for the many "I LOVE Density" labs. Applying the formula for density strengthened student understanding of the metric system. Students learned how to use water displacement to find the volume of irregular solids, and they have a good understanding of the difference between weight/mass. The culminating lab was to create density towers of up to 12 different items. The students had a great time calculating the density of many different liquids and then layering them. It was fun to see where bolts, bottle caps, popcorn kernels, and ping pong balls fit in the towers!

Each science class has been visiting the computer lab to participate in "The Hour of Code" project. A special thanks to Mr. Fournier for introducing this to us! This program helps students learn the basic concepts of computer science. Using fun games, the students learn the basics of computer programming. From the enthusiasm of many of the students, it looks like some of our sixth graders will choose a career with computer science!

Students have enjoyed writing poems to show their understanding of some of their favorite science topics. We are getting ready to enter some of them in the Massachusetts Science Poetry Contest. Winners will be announced later in the spring.



Again this year, we are participating in the DIGITS program, a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) awareness/education program that pairs STEM professionals with sixth-grade classes throughout the state. The purpose is to increase student knowledge of STEM careers. Our visiting scientist will meet with each science class in the spring. The visit will include lots of hands-on activities and explanations of how they use math and science each day. The program is designed to help students make connections between what they study in school and how math and science are used in the real world.

Sixth Grade Art

Students have learned about M.C. Echer and his brilliant tessellations. Tessellations are designs that divide the picture plane into equal interconnecting pieces. First, students learned about rulers and measuring and used them to create a grid. Then they changed a three inch square into a shape using the slide method. The fun part is when students used their imagination to assign meaning to the shapes that they made. Tracing the shapes and coloring them can take some time, but the results are worth the effort.

We will be starting our Totally Awesome Super Cool Monster Project soon. The fabric has been purchased and the monsters will take shape over a 6-8 week period.



NES School Days Fundraiser with Tea Collection

Newbury Elementary School is participating in Tea Collection's School Days fundraising program between February 24th and March 2nd.

What does this mean? When you shop TeaCollection.com, use code SDS14NEWBURY for free shipping and we receive 15% of your order for next year's 6th Grade Camp. We also have the chance to win an additional \$100, so please help us spread the word by forwarding this email along to your friends and family!

Please contact Belen Wieler-Hawes with questions at belenwieler@gmail.com



Dresses for Princesses Fashion Show

Come find that perfect dress for your next special event!

Where: First Congregational Church of Rowley
175 Main Street, Rowley Ma
When: Sunday, March 2nd, 2014
Time: 3:30pm

Questions? Contact Amanda Rotberg at 978-948-3374 -or- email her at les-amy@comcast.net

Refreshments will be served after the show!

All dresses are free, and have been donated as part of my Girl Scout Gold Award project.

School Days program runs February 24th - March 2nd

Shop TeaCollection.com
and our school receives
Free Shipping + 15% of all sales

1. **SHOP** TeaCollection.com between February 24th & March 2nd
2. **ENTER** this code at checkout: **SDS14NEWBURY**
3. **CHEER** when our school receives a check for 15% of our sales

TEACOLLECTION.COM
SIZES 0 - 12

Dresses for Princesses Fashion Show

Amanda Rotberg is a junior at Triton High School. She is working on her Girl Scout Gold Award which is the equivalent to the Eagle Scout. Her project was to collect slightly used dresses for girls K-12 to wear to dances, Easter, etc. She is now having a Fashion Show where girls can come, look at the dresses and take home a dress for free for what ever occasion they need to look like a Princess. Check out her flyer for more information.

Thank you, Amanda Rotberg Troop 60617

Little Farmers Summer Enrichment Program

This program immerses younger children in fun farm-related activities at Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm in Newbury, Massachusetts. *Little Farmers* is a safe, stimulating daily adventure for youngsters in a beautiful farm setting. Each day, activities have different farm-related themes and include outdoor games, indoor crafts and activities, and visits with farm animals. Our low teacher-to-child ratio ensures lots of attention for your child. Activities are geared to the children's ages and skill levels.

[Little Farmers 2014 Brochure \(PDF\)](#)

Two one-week sessions are offered in 2014:

- July 7 - 11
- July 14 - 18

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Ages 5 to 8

Each session is limited to 25 children.

The sessions fill up quickly, so register early.

Fee:

- \$150 per child, per week for Historic New England members (membership must be valid as of July 29, 2014)
- \$205 per child, per week for nonmembers (fee includes Historic New England [Household membership](#))

Farm Adventures

Kids investigate fields, gardens, and animals while discovering the wonders of farm life at the 230-acre Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm. They ride a hay-wagon and explore neighboring sites such as Plum Island Airfield, Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center, and the Parker River Wildlife Refuge. Pack a lunch and get ready for an adventure!

[Farm Adventures 2014 Summer Enrichment Brochure \(PDF\)](#)

Monday - Friday, July 21 - 25, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ages: 8 - 11

- \$150 per child for Historic New England members (membership must be valid as of July 31, 2014)
- \$205 per child for nonmembers (fee includes Historic New England [Household membership](#))

Advance registration and payment are required. A full refund, minus a \$5 registration fee per child, is available for cancellations at least one month prior to the program. We reserve the right to cancel the program if it does not reach minimum enrollment.

To automatically receive the membership discount, please [join online](#) before registering.

Cost includes all materials. Children bring their own snack and lunch.

[Register online.](#)

<http://www.historicnewengland.org/school-youth-programs/k-12-programs-resources?cbCamps=on>



ESSEX COUNTY BULLDOGS

YOUTH RUGBY CLUB

Teams for U9, U12, & U15

Sign Up On-Line TODAY!

bulldogrugby.com

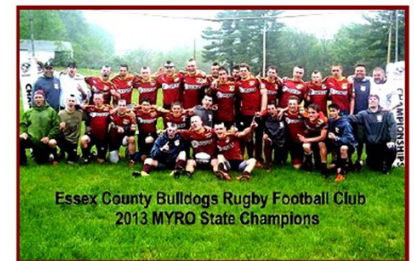


Rugby has it all!

A sport with the combination of strength, speed and strategy. **Safer** than Football, Hockey and Lacrosse, Rugby is the ultimate team sport!

Be a Part of the Best
Youth Rugby Club in New
England!

2012 & 2013 High School
State Champions



Essex County Bulldogs Rugby Football Club
2013 MYRO State Champions

PTA News...

What are you doing March 21?

Plan now to join us for the all-new Family Spring Fling and Silent Auction on Friday, March 21, 5-7 pm.

Be sure to:

- Play a round of real miniature golf
- Create a spin art masterpiece
- Grab some dinner
- Make a bid on some of the awesome silent auction items

Some of the great auction items donated by our generous staff and community supporters include a Ride to School in a Fire Truck, Principal for the Day, Cartoon Drawing Workshop, A "Frozen" Sing-a-Long party, weekend stay in Maine, and gift certificates to some of your favorite local businesses.

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 by the Wednesday before the newsletter is published.

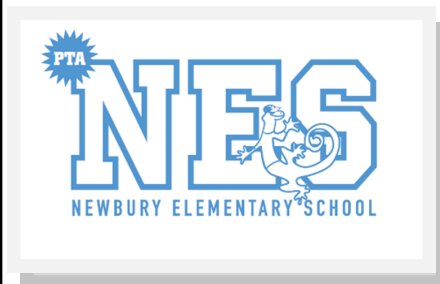
Admission is \$5/person (under age 4 is free) and all adults will receive a week's pass to Latitude Sports Club. See you at the Fling!

PTA Memberships still available!

Sign up online at www.newburypta.com.

Rowley House of Pizza Day!

Our March restaurant fundraiser is Thursday, March 20, 12-7 pm. It's a half-day of school, so grab a pizza, salad, burger, or sub for lunch or dinner at Rowley House of Pizza. They will donate 15% of all sales--dine-in, takeout, and delivery-- to the PTA. No coupon is necessary.



Newbury PTA FAMILY SPRING FLING AND SILENT AUCTION

All proceeds benefit the Newbury PTA to support the school's programs and activities!

Friday, March 21
5-7 pm

NEWBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ACTIVITIES: Miniature golf, spin art, face painting, games, and food!

SILENT AUCTION: Featuring gift certificates, travel, sports outings, fun experiences with school staff, and more!

ADMISSION: \$5/person, under 4 free

All adults in attendance receive a one-week membership at Latitude Sports Club.

Email newburyPTAinfo@gmail.com for more information.

NES Calendar



March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Read Across America 4:30-6:00 NES School Council	4	5	6	7 Half Day – Professional Development	8
9	10	11	12 4-8 PM/PTA Panera Fundraiser 7:00/School Comm.	13 6:45 PM/Kindergarten Information Night	14	15
16	17 MCAS–Grades 3 and 5 Reading Comprehension	18 MCAS–Grade 4 Composition	19 MCAS–Grades 3 and 5 Reading Comprehension	20 Half Day –Parent Conferences 1st Day of SPRING! 12-7 PM/ Rowley House of Pizza Fundraiser	21 Half Day – Parent Conferences 5-7 PM/NES Spring Fling	22
23	24 6:00pm SEPAC	25 MCAS–Grades 4 and 6 Reading Comprehension	26 MCAS–Grades 4 and 6 Reading Comprehension	27 4:00 NES Technology Committee	28	29
30	31					

Visit us on the web!
<http://newbury.trsd.net/>

Who's Who at Newbury Elementary School



Mrs. Merluzzi

Did you know that Mrs. Merluzzi went to Newbury Elementary School when she was a child? Back then her favorite subject was art and now she feels very lucky to spend her days in the art room. She has been working for the Triton District since 1999 and has had the opportunity to teach in all three Triton communities.

When she is not teaching children about art, she may be making stained glass windows, teaching adults how to make them or relaxing at her camp in Maine.

She has been married for 31 years and has two grown children and two grown cats.

Respect—Integrity—Excellence for All