



The Newbury Elementary School

Newt-paper

March 14, 2014 Volume 1, Issue 24

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Parent Conferences



March conferences are scheduled for the 20th and 21st. Make sure you have signed up for a time to discuss your

child's progress with his/her teacher. This is a time to celebrate successes as well as address concerns. There will be a letter coming out by XXXXXX to address class placement for next year, so we ask that you keep the March conferences focus on the achievements and struggles that currently face your child. Thank you for your support.

No Smoking on NES grounds



All schools are no smoking facilities. Please honor this policy both in the building and on the school grounds.

For your reference, here is the policy from our handbook:

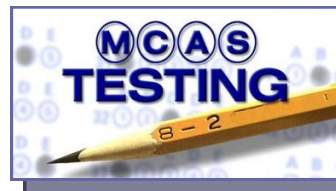
Tobacco Use/Possession Policy

According to Federal Regulation and Massachusetts General Laws, use/possession of any tobacco products within the school buildings, the school facilities, on school grounds or school bus, by any individual including school personnel, is strictly prohibited. Tobacco products will be confiscated.

When Dropping off and Picking up your NES Students...



For the safety of our students and the entire NES community, we ask that you remain in the drop off and pick up line. Any vehicle that tries to pass or drive by the line can be unsuspected and makes it unsafe for walkers as well as students getting in or out of their car. We thank you for making this time of day safe for all.



During the month of March, NES students in grades 3-6 will be taking the MCAS Reading Comprehension and Long Composition tests. It is important to make sure students come to school well rested each day and have had a nutritious breakfast. Please note that testing will begin promptly at 9:00. Any student who comes to school on a testing day after 9:00 will not

be allowed into the classroom as it will disturb students who are testing. Below is the schedule for testing in March. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Monday, March 17th	Grades 3 and 5	Reading Comprehension (Day 1)
Tuesday, March 18th	Grade 4	Long Composition – Starting at 8:45
Wednesday, March 19th	Grades 3 and 5	Reading Comprehension (Day 2)
Tuesday, March 25th	Grades 4 and 6	Reading Comprehension (Day 1)
Wednesday, March 26th	Grades 4 and 6	Reading Comprehension (Day 2)
Wednesday, March 27th	Grade 4	Long Composition Make-up Day



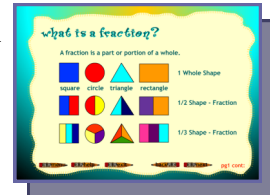
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Fourth Grade Update



Math: Since our last NEWT news update, fourth grade students have tackled two major units: geometry and fractions. During the geometry unit, fourth graders were introduced to the “basic building blocks” of geometry: point, line, ray, and line segment. After a few rounds of Geometry Simon Says, the students came to master the definitions of these concepts. Moving on, the students investigated the relationship between the number of sides and angles in a shape and its name. When they became familiar with the variety of shapes within the study of geometry, the fourth grade students were introduced to acute, right, and obtuse angles as well as the skill of measuring angles using protractors. If you find yourself in the fourth grade hallway, take a look at the bulletin boards and you will see the beautiful Polygon Pals that the fourth grade students have created using all of their geometric knowledge!

Moving on from geometry, the fourth grade began investigating fractions! After a number of fraction-themed read aloud picture books and an inventive rap, fourth grade students came to understand that a fraction is a part of a whole. Soon, vocabulary was introduced and students were determining how to find fractional parts of visual models. The fourth grade students are currently working hard in order to use visual representations in order to determine equivalent fractions as well as identifying the same fractional part of different wholes.

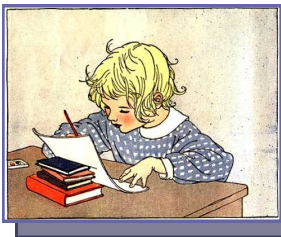


The fourth grade team has also begun using MobyMax in order to supplement the learning in the classroom as well as track student progress. Your child can get extra practice in by accessing this resource from home by entering their individualized username and password combination at www.mobymax.com/ma1291.



Reading: “You’re opening Pandora’s box!” “What a Herculean task!” “You’ve got the Midas touch!” “Getting to school through the snow felt like an odyssey!” Chances are that if you were to stand outside the door of a fourth grade classroom, you may hear one of these exclamations. For the past several weeks, the fourth grade students have been immersed in a study of Greek mythology. During the unit, the fourth grade students read many myths. They practiced summarizing and citing specific text evidence, specifically when they were asked to identify character traits for the major characters from each myth. The fourth grade students were also asked to compare and contrast different myths and characters. Beyond their summaries, citation of specific text evidence, and ability to identify themes in each myth, the students learned the meanings of the many famous allusions that we use in our vernacular.

Having recently wrapped up the very exciting mythology unit, the students are in the beginning stages of their study of historical fiction. As with their realistic fiction unit during the first trimester, the fourth grade students will be asked to keep a weekly reading response journal for which they will be asked to respond to a variety of questions. In anticipation of the ELA MCAS, which is rapidly approaching, the fourth grade team has also been studying how to draft written responses to readings.



Writing: Lively leads, red flag words, the magic of three, oh my! The fourth grade has continued their study of narrative, expository, and persuasive writing by carefully dissecting the devices used in each genre of writing. The students have become highly familiar with the different types of graphic organizers used in order to frame pre-writing brainstorming. Since our last NEWT update, the students have worked hard to internalize the writing process by completing significant expository and narrative writing assignments. Whether it was writing a story of a magical sled or the discovery of something strange on a tropical island, the

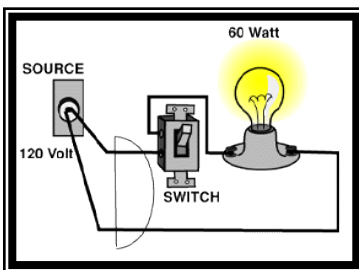
students let their creative minds shine while applying everything they have learned about narrative writing since September. In early March, the students completed an expository assignment for which they were asked to describe someone they would like to switch places with for a day. Responses varied from siblings to Tom Brady to Katy Perry! The fourth grade students are currently hard at work interacting with different kinds of writing prompts in order to practice identifying what genre of writing the prompt is asking for. Additionally, the students are practicing prewriting activities by drawing their graphic organizers and populating them.

“Learning is a treasure that will follow
its owner everywhere..”

-Chinese Proverb

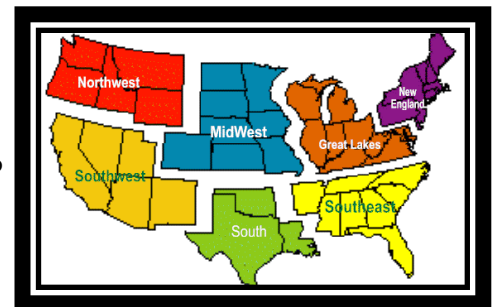
Fourth Grade Update Continued...

February, the students were given the assignment of keeping a "moon calendar" on which they were asked to draw the phases of the moon as observable from their homes. The students were also asked to record the names of the phases. In order to enrich the students' understanding, the fourth grade teachers arranged for guest speaker Scott Negely to come to Newbury Elementary School. During Mr. Negley's presentation, the students were able to interact with space at an arm's reach within an inflatable planetarium. In addition to this special occasion, the students created Solar System booklets and performed research in order to compare and contrast Earth with another planet of their choice.




After wrapping up their study of space, students began a hands-on immersion into electricity and magnetism! They have since conducted three experiments. During the first, students explored the concept of static electricity, trying to draw conclusions about why balloons will sometimes cling to certain surfaces. Understanding that this relates to the charges of particles, students then made their way to the science lab in order to attempt to build circuits using batteries, wires, and small light bulbs. After becoming familiar with conductors and insulators, students were handed many different objects to test using their circuits in order to determine whether the objects conducted electricity or blocked its flow. After more exploration of electricity, we will move on to magnetism!

Social Studies: The students have continued their travel across the United States, covering the Southeast and Southwest regions since our last NEWT update. They are currently studying the Midwest, analyzing the different industrial belts, rivers, and geological features of the region. The students' knowledge of the United States of America continues to bloom as we get closer to springtime. They now know the states and capitals of the Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest regions! Additionally, their passport projects continue to grow. The amount of information that they have amassed so far is impressive as they have identified the state, capital, location, bordering states, fun facts, and tourist attractions of each state studied thus far in the year. The students will continue to study the states, capitals, and regions of the United States with a specific focus on land, economy, and culture until they have covered the entire United States at which point, the end of the year project -- a map of the United States -- will be introduced.



The Friends of the Newbury Town Library are pleased to announce that their new permanent Book Store is open for business located in what was once the library's computer room. The store includes hundreds of books of all varieties: fiction and nonfiction, hardcover and paperback, collectible books, children's books, and coffee table books. Please visit the store during regular library hours. You may purchase books from the store by bringing them to the circulation desk. As always, all money raised by the Friends goes directly back to the Newbury Town Library to help support their programming.

For more information, please visit: <http://fontl.wordpress.com/2014/03/07/friends-of-the-newbury-town-library-book-store-is-open-for-business/>



Free Presentation for Parents of Teenagers:

The CIA is Coming

to Triton Regional High School Auditorium

Triton Regional Middle School Council is hosting
its Third Annual Parent Presentation on
Tuesday, April 8, at 6:30 PM
for Parents of Teenagers

The Program

After polling the parents of teenagers at Triton two years ago, we want to continue to offer to our parent community valuable and informative information you think is most important in raising your teenagers. This year, we opted to select three of the most requested topics by you, our Triton parents, and have formed a panel of professionals in three areas of expertise that are so important in themselves and, surprisingly, overlap. Speakers will present for 15 minutes each, with a 45-minute Q&A:


- **Concerns about transition** - Is your teen (or you) uneasy about his/her transition to middle or high school? Nancy Tsakirgis, Social Worker, and Vice Principal Liz Finn of TRMS and Guidance Director, Sheila Deam, and Social Worker, Tim Fontana, of TRHS will discuss handling transition.
- **Internet safety and awareness** will be addressed by Kathryn Cartini, Communications Specialist and CEO of Peacock Media. You won't want to miss this! How much do you know about the social media sites your teen is using??
- **Anxiety in teens** is an ever-growing concern for parents. Lynne Bishop will share her expertise in anxiety, parent-child communication, and the trials and tribulations of teen social media.

Light refreshments will be served ~ Coffee generously donated by Plum Island Coffee Roasters.

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.

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!

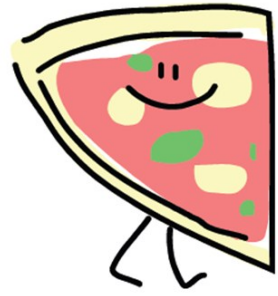
SILENT AUCTION: Featuring gift certificates, travel, sports outings, fun experiences with school staff, and more!

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.





Rowley House of Pizza

Will be supporting Newbury Elementary School
15% of all checks will be donated to the NES PTA

On Thursday, March 20th
From 12 - 7 p.m.

Looking for lunch on the half day?
Need a quick, easy dinner after parent-teacher conferences?

Call (978) 948-2761 or 978-948-2762 to place an order
144 Turnpike Road, Rowley, MA

No flyers or coupons needed-menu is at www.allmenus.com
RHOP delivers and all major credit cards are accepted

PTA News...

One week until the Family Spring Fling and Silent Auction!

Bring your family to the PTA Family Spring Fling and Silent Auction on Friday, March 21st, 5-7 pm for a GREAT time! Join the fun with mini golf, spin art, games, sand art, food, and the silent auction. The Chill Room will be open for a quiet, calm break, and you can eat pizza or grab a hot dog from Mr. LaBella's famous hot dog cart!

This is our largest fundraiser of the spring, and we hope you'll help make it a success! Admission is \$5, and all adults will receive a one-week membership to Latitude Sports Clubs.

Bid Now on Silent Auction Items

Our generous community has donated some amazing items for our auction. You can bid ahead of time on auction items – look for a complete list of items in the coming days at our website, www.newburypta.com.

For now, consider submitting a bid on these highlighted items. Just send an email with the item number, item name, your name, your phone and email, and your maximum bid to newburyptainfo@gmail.com by March 20th at noon. Your bid will be entered on the bid sheets at the start of the auction on the 21st.

Item S2 Principal for the Day

The winning bid will earn the honor of leading NES for a day! The principal for the day will set some rules for the school day, attend meetings, make announcements, enjoy some surprises and maybe even declare no homework for his/her grade.

Item S31 Fire truck Ride to School

Skip the school bus and make a grand entrance to school with a ride on the Byfield Fire Company's Ladder Truck! The winning bidder will be picked up at his/her house by one of our brave Newbury Firemen and then drive around town to pick up their friends. Sit in the cab, check out the gear, and make amazing memories. Date to be arranged and is subject to a last-minute postponement if there is an emergency fire call. One parent/guardian must accompany the students for the ride. Total number of riders, including the parent, is eight.

Item S1 Frozen Sing-a-Long Party

Join third grade teacher Mrs. Williams to watch (and sing with) the movie "Frozen" on the SmartBoard, make Olaf ice cream, and create snow globes. The lucky winner can bring along up to five friends to share the fun!

Item S29 Bowling Party with the Fourth Grade Teachers

Get ready for a fun night out at Leo's Super Bowl in Amesbury. The four fourth grade teachers, Mrs. Arsenault, Mrs. McParland, Mr. Astuccio, and Ms. Dolphin, will host SIX students for a night of bowling and pizza on Friday, April 11th. Keep score and see if students or teachers are better bowlers! Use of bumpers is optional! (Sorry, no arcade visits during the party! Parents are to provide transportation.)

Item S33 School of Rock

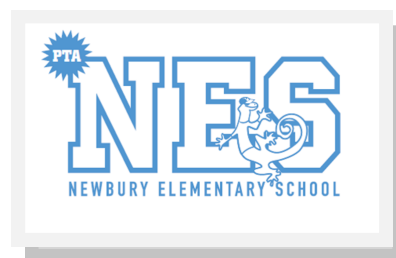
The winner and a friend will have the opportunity to rock out and practice with a variety of guitars and drums. They will have the chance to create and record their own song in this two-hour after school session with Mr. Williams.

Item G1 Golf Package at Ipswich Country Club

It's a sanctuary to those looking for great golf. Legendary golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. blended the perfect amount of challenge and pleasure into this 18-hole championship layout. Get a foursome together to enjoy a round of golf for four.

Item G36 Baking Party at Chococoa

Whoopie!! Bring 12 friends over to Chococoa in the Tannery and learn how to make their signature whoopie pies. Great idea for a birthday--or a ladies' night out!



Can you Volunteer? Please?

PTA News Continued...

We need your help to run the Spring Fling. Please visit our website, www.newburypta.com, to sign up for a volunteer shift or to donate baked goods for our bake sale. We have fun jobs for everyone. If you have questions, email us at newburypta@com.

Restaurant Fundraiser on Thursday

The Rowley House of Pizza is generously donating 15% of their sales on Thursday, March 20th, 12-7 pm to our PTA. The restaurant has dine-in, takeout, and delivery. And, they sell a lot more than just pizza – roast beef, chicken kabobs, pasta, burgers, salads, hot and cold subs, and more. Read their menu at <http://www.allmenus.com/ma/rowley/314718-rowley-house-of-pizza/menu/>. Thursday is a half day of school, so consider visiting for lunch or dinner – or both!

Do you want to help NES GROWS?

Concerned about the condition of the NES play structures? Want to see more creative play opportunities for your children during recess? Would you like to help in the edible gardens or serve food grown at NES at a food tasting? Want to help maintain the trail and outdoor classroom area? How about helping with an exercise trail? We are a committee of parents and staff who are improving the NES grounds for the benefit of all.

We are holding a meeting on Thursday, March 27th at 7 pm in the cafeteria at NES. Children are welcome! If you are interested or have questions, please contact Eileen Wallwork at nesgrows@gmail.com. All are welcome! No experience necessary, just enthusiasm for improving the outdoor grounds for all of our children. Thank you!

Upcoming SEPAC events

The next Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) meeting is Monday, March 24th, at 6 pm in the Newbury Elementary School Library, 63 Hanover Street. Superintendent Christopher Farmer will join us for the meeting.

The mission of the SEPAC is to work for understanding of, respect for, and support of all children with special needs in the community. We welcome your involvement.

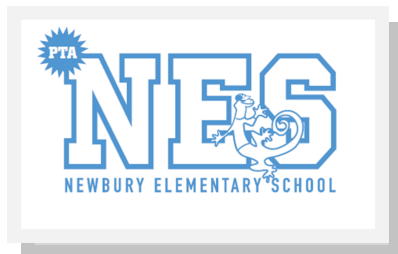
The SEPAC receives its statutory authority from the Chapter 71B, Section 2 of the Massachusetts General Laws. The SEPAC's duties include, but are not limited to, advising the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials; and participating in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school district's special education programs.

For more information, email SEPACtriton@gmail.com.

Spring and Summer Athletics Clinics

Triton Athletics is offering a great selection of sports clinics for students this spring and summer. Visit <http://trsdathletics.net/Page.asp?n=87922&org=trsdathletics.net> to see descriptions, dates, and registration information.

The Athletics Department has generously donated a spot in each clinic for the PTA's Family Spring Fling and Silent Auction on March 21st, so consider bidding on your favorites. Athletic Director Sean McInnis will have an information table at the Fling and be able to answer any of your questions.





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 7:00/School Comm.	13 6:45 PM/Kindergarten Information Night Grades 5/6 Choir and Advanced Band to District Arts Festival	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



Room 146

Hello from room 146!! Our room welcomes students from kindergarten through sixth grade for academic support. For the past three years, each Spring, we have hatched chicken eggs in our room. It has turned into a multi grade science experience! This year we hope to branch out and try our hand at duck eggs. We believe there is always room for one more in our circle!

Back row: Cheryl Wilmonton, Joanne Mihalchik, Liza Marcolini, Liz Godzyk

Front row: Joyce Alders, Cindy Bell, Judith Canning, Christine Brown