



# The Newbury Elementary School Newt-paper

March 7, 2014

Volume 1, Issue 23

## Inside this issue:

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!	1
MCAS Update	2
Items from home making their way into the classroom...	2
Donor's Choose	2
Fifth Grade Update	3
District Arts Festival	3
PTA News	4-5
SEPAC Update	5
Calendar	6
Who's Who	6

## Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!



Read Across America is a day set aside each year to celebrate reading and Dr. Seuss's birthday. We celebrated Read Across America Day on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We were fortunate to have members of our school community join us as guest readers for our students in grades K-4. The students in grades 5 and 6 were provided with a program from Laurie Collins and Margie Florini, author and illustrator of The Pajamas of My Dreams, on their personal journey in the development of their book.

Many thanks go out to Superintendent Christopher Farmer, Assistant Superintendent Brian Forget, Chief Academic Officer Kim Croteau, Data Support Specialist Kim Cadieux, Manager of Facilities and Grounds Christopher Walsh, Athletic Director Sean McInnis, School Committee Member Robin Williams, Newbury Police Officer John Regan, past School Committee member Joan Weyburn, Laurie Collins, Margie Florini, Donna Anderson, retired and very loved teacher Mary Ann Fraser and 15 members of the various sports teams from Triton High School. The students appreciated the time these leaders of our community took from their busy schedules to come to read to them and share their favorite books from their own childhoods.

We have two up and coming 6th grade authors who shared their personal and published writings with the school. Sam B. author of a self published book titled Water and Fire and Annabelle S. author of Word of Honor shared chapters from their books. Thank you for reading to the student body and congratulations on a job well done!

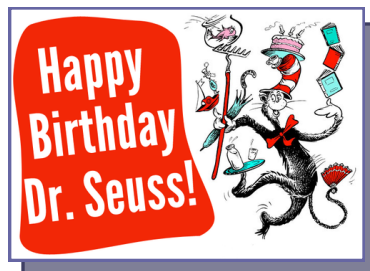
Many parents also participated in Read Across America by reading in their child's classroom. Thank you to all involved for a wonderful day of literacy!

Last but not least, thank you to Thing One and Thing Two and to the teachers of NES for making Read Across America a success.

Mrs. Ryan



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You're never too old,  
too wacky, too wild,  
to pick up a book  
and read to a child.

-Dr. Seuss

## MCAS Update

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

## Items from home are making their way into the classroom...

We are seeing more and more toys, trading cards, and other knick knacks in school. Although these items may be entertaining and fun, they are becoming a distraction in school as well as a source of great stress for some students. Please refer to the NES policy as outlined in our handbook regarding items from home.

It reads...

*Items from Home*...Students may not bring items to school that have the potential to interfere with the educational process or present a safety issue. Items include, but are not limited to, portable electronic devices, laser pointers, toy weapons, bats, hard balls, etc. Items brought to school will be taken and stored in the office. Parents will be responsible for coming to the school to retrieve the item.



Thank you for helping your child follow this guideline and sending them to school ready to learn.

## Donor's Choose...

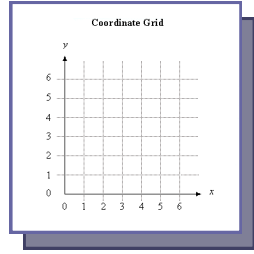


We asked and you answered! Ms. Raycroft sent out a request for families of NES to donate through the Donor's Choose program. She requested funding for two iPads that will be used in the NES technology lab. The request for both iPads was fully funded within 48 hours! The support and generosity of the NES community is amazing! Thank you to all of the families who gave!

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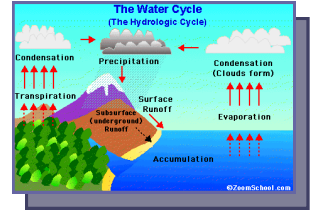
# Fifth Grade Update

In fifth grade math we will be finishing up a unit in geometry this week that we have been working on for several weeks. First, the students learned that all two-dimensional figures within a category share the same attributes. Also, the students have learned to classify two-dimensional figures into categories and subcategories according to their properties. This week they will understand a coordinate system and coordinates, and will correctly plot ordered pairs on a grid. Lastly, the students will graph points in the first quadrant of the coordinate plane, as well as, use the points to represent real world problems and interpret the values of points according to the data they represent.



Fifth graders have recently traveled through the 13 original English colonies in our social studies curriculum. We've studied with partners and utilized our Keys to Literacy skills with top down webs and two column notes. We learned how early settlers made their livings and that colonies were often organized around a central building. We talked about the importance of the big port cities and the diverse cultures of these colonies. Did you know that Georgia was settled as a colony of people who owed money to the English crown? After studying the colonies, we moved into the French and Indian War. The outcome of the war, staggering debt for Great Britain, leads to the taxation of the colonists and a terrible growing conflict between the two.

In the past few months students in the fifth grade have made great strides in the world of science! We are nearing the end of our water cycle and weather unit, and each class has learned a great deal about some Earth's most important systems.



After learning about the steps of the water cycle, students put their knowledge to use with a creative writing project. They each took on the perspective of a water molecule going through the water cycle. Each student wrote a unique narrative using science vocabulary and a large amount of their own creativity.

TRITON ARTS

# Arts DISTRICT FESTIVAL

A districtwide celebration of student creativity

THURSDAY

MARCH 13

5 - 8 :45 PM

TRITON HIGH SCHOOL

5:00-6:30 p.m.

K-12 Art Exhibition  
Make-and-Take Stations  
Student-Artist Demonstrations

6:15 p.m.

Color Guard Performance  
Winter Percussion Performance

7:00 p.m.

Festival Concert

Triton High School, 112 Elm Street, Byfield MA 01922 (978) 462-8171

for more information, visit [tritonarts.net](http://tritonarts.net)

As we moved into our study of weather, fifth graders used parts on the Keys to Literacy program to dig deep into non-fiction text. They created top down webs, summarizing, and two column notes, enabling them able to organize and understand many important parts of the weather. As the unit progressed, students studied all the different types of precipitation they see in their own backyards and weather instruments to explore how scientists measure the parts of the weather they had studied. Moving into spring, students will begin their study of energy and how it takes many forms in the world around them.

Finally, the fifth grade participated in the "Hour of Code". In the computer lab, students collaboratively completed activities that taught introductory computer science principles that are used in software and web development every day. Judging by their enthusiasm, we will see some current fifth graders in the computer science field one day.



"Knowledge speaks,  
but wisdom listens."  
  
-Jimi Hendrix

## PTA News...

### 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.

### The Family Spring Fling and Silent Auction is coming!

The PTA has put together a great event for Friday, March 21st, 5-7 pm at the school. We're combining the best of a fun school party with a silent auction. This is our last big event until the fall, so you don't want to miss it.

Admission is \$5/person (under 4 free) and all adults will receive a one-week pass to Latitude Sports Club. All children need to be supervised at the event; there are no drop-offs.

### Great Auction Items!

Some of the highlights of the items available for bidding are:

Enrollment in each of the sports clinics being offered by Triton Athletics this spring and summer (see [tritonathletics.net](http://tritonathletics.net) for a schedule)

Principal for the Day

A "Frozen" sing-a-long party with Mrs. Williams

A bowling party for six students with the fourth grade teachers

A ride to school in a fire truck

Walk with a friend and Mrs. Harper on the Rail Trail and then enjoy an ice cream treat at Haley's

Beautiful stained glass hanging made by art teacher Mrs. Merluzzi

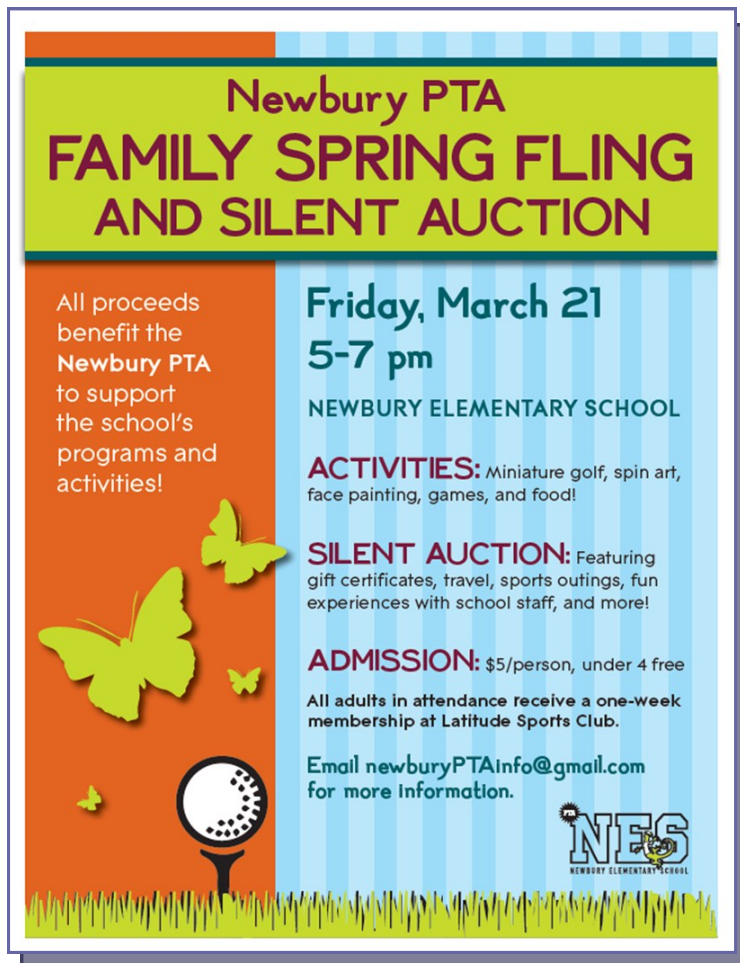
Honorary Team Member for Varsity Sports

Plus gift certificates, merchandise, and travel.

Look for a full listing of available auction items a few days before the auction and rest assured: if you can't attend the auction, you will be able to submit a bid ahead of time via email. And huge thanks to our staff and community for being so generous!

### Lots of Activities!

There is something for everyone at the Fling: mini-golf, games, face painting and crafts. And, the Chill Room will be open for anyone needing a quiet, calm place to take a break from the action.



**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

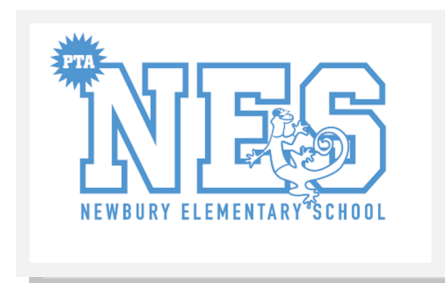
**ACTIVITIES:** Miniature golf, spin art, face painting, games, and food!

**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](mailto:newburyPTAinfo@gmail.com) for more information.

  
NEWBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



## PTA News Continued...

### Food for Sale!

Buy a hot dog from our own Mr. LaBella, or enjoy pizza, popcorn and drinks. Our popular bake sale table will be set up, too.

### Auction Donations Welcome

We still welcome donations for the auction. If you have an item or service to donate, please email [newburyptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:newburyptainfo@gmail.com) by Monday. We will need to know the item, description, restrictions on use, value (if applicable), donor, any restrictions, and a suggested minimum bid. Items can be brought to the school office.

### Volunteers Needed

The Family Spring Fling and Silent Auction do not happen without the help from our wonderful school volunteers. Please visit our website at [Volunteer Sign Up](#) to sign up. If it's easier, email us at [newburyptainfo@gmail.com](mailto:newburyptainfo@gmail.com) to offer your time.

### Half Day: Make it a Rowley House of Pizza Day

The PTA's next fundraiser gives you something to do on our next half day, Thursday, March 20th. From 12-7 pm, Rowley House of Pizza will give a portion of all sales to our PTA. Make plans to meet friends for lunch or dinner, get take out, or enjoy delivery. Rowley House of Pizza's phone number is 978-948-2761.

### Book Fair Organizers Needed

The PTA funds the new purchases for our school library by hosting two book fairs each year. We need help organizing our next fair which runs April 14-18. Can you help? We have two chair people, but need more help with organizing the marketing, scheduling, and inventory. Can you help? Please email [newburyPTAinfo@gmail.com](mailto:newburyPTAinfo@gmail.com).

### Annual Fund Update

The NES PTA Annual fund was launched in the fall based on feedback we received to enable the NES community members to make a one-time tax-deductible donation to the PTA. These funds are used to support the enrichment activities and core competencies that Principal Yando and the PTA identified as important to the school, but not funded in the regular school budget. We set a goal of raising \$7500 during this inaugural year, and to date, have raised roughly \$4200. We also received an anonymous donation of \$12,000 to enhance the playground. We are close to hitting our goal and are very appreciative to those of you that have donated.

Donating to the annual fund is easy and tax-deductible. Just go to [www.newburypta.com/donate](http://www.newburypta.com/donate) and enter "annual fund" in the message. Or, you can write a check payable to the NES PTA, place "annual fund" in the memo line, and return to the PTA box in the school office.

Be on the lookout for the combined February/March update later this month. Please contact Belen Wieler-Hawes, our Annual Fund Chair at [belenwieler@gmail.com](mailto:belenwieler@gmail.com) with questions or suggestions.

## Upcoming SEPAC events

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) will host a time for district families to meet one another on Tuesday, March 12th, 9-10 am at the Newbury Town Library, 0 Lunt St. All are welcome to attend to talk casually with others about their experiences, share resources, and enjoy snacks and coffee. Children not enrolled in school are welcome to attend.

The next 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 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. 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.

For more information, email [SEPACtriton@gmail.com](mailto:SEPACtriton@gmail.com).



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



Mr. Fournier is in his third year teaching math, science, and reading to fifth graders at Newbury Elementary. He loves to come to work every day helping students make mathematical discoveries, investigate important science concepts and

systems, and analyze literature and non-fiction. His favorite part of being a teacher is seeing how much students grow and learn over the course of the school year. Mr. Fournier grew up in the Boston area, but made a cross-country move to California to attend college studying elementary education. His love of math, science, and reading were fostered by his grandfather's work as a chemist, his mother's love of literature, and his father's work with computers. Outside of the classroom, he can usually be found cooking, playing board games, going to concerts in Boston, and playing music. Although during this cold winter he is more often found under a blanket with a mug of tea enjoying a good book with his wife and loyal cat.

Ms. Dow grew up in Newbury and graduated from Triton. She has lived in Salisbury for 16 years with her two

children who are 18 and 16 and both attend Triton. She enjoys the beach in the summer, as well as gardening and walking her two dogs. Ms. Dow has taught at NES for 25 years. She is very much looking forward to spring this year and getting her hands back in the dirt.

Ms. Lapham has lived in Byfield for the past 10 years and has taught at NES for eight of those years. She is so happy to see her students grow up through the district and is about to see her first class of second graders graduate from Triton this spring! Jen has two boys that also went to NES and are currently 10th and 8th graders at Triton. She skis with her family in Maine most weekends from Thanksgiving through April, and spends all summer reading from a recommended reading list compiled by her friends here at NES.

For 16 years, Mrs. Fremont-Smith has lived in Newburyport with her husband Jamie, who is a music teacher in Ipswich. Their two sons are 18 and 15. Amy and her family love to play tennis and ride bikes in the summer and ski in New Hampshire during the winter. She has taught for 27 years, 20 of those here at Newbury. She has loved getting to know the extended families of her students over her tenure here as a fifth grade teacher.