

## The Newbury Elementary School

# Newt-paper

October 3, 2014

Volume 2, Issue 5

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blogspot.com

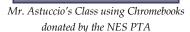
## **Institution for Savings Chromebook Grant**

We know what we are thankful for...

We would like to thank The Institution for Savings Charitable Foundation for their very generous donation of \$20,000 to Newbury Elementary School to fund Chromebook carts. The carts will move among the classrooms and will be used daily to enhance the curriculum and help ready our students for the 21st Century.

We at NES are so very fortunate to have friends and neighbors like the Institution of Savings!









For the safety of all of our students, please follow the NES procedures when dropping off and picking up your child from school.

- All parents should stay in their car, as it is a moving drop off/pick up line.
- Have your family sign clearly visible to NES staff in the afternoon.
- Please do not stop in the crosswalk as we need to provide a safe place for all to cross.
- Please do not pass cars ahead of you in line when dropping off. Sometimes students exit on the driver's side and we need to keep everyone safe.
- Slow down, we have a large student population and during drop off and pick up it is extra important that we watch our speed and keep all safe.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to keep everyone safe!



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### **NES Ski & Snowboard Program**

Coming soon....sign up for the Newbury Elementary School Ski & Snowboard Program

The Newbury Elementary School Ski & Snowboard Program is open to students in grades 4, 5 and 6. Students travel by bus to Bradford Ski Area in Bradford, MA on six Friday afternoons from 3 – 6 pm beginning at the start of January. This program is coordinated by parent volunteers who monitor the buses, the lodge, and the slopes. *The program will be limited to the first 70 students*.



Students may purchase the lift only option or may take lessons. Lessons are available for beginners through advanced and class sizes are generally small. Beginners must take lessons. Rentals are also available from Bradford, although many local ski shops have rental packages for the season. Ski helmets are required for all NES participants. These may also be rented at the ski area.

Ellen Manning, the parent coordinator, is looking for a co-parent coordinator to assist with running the program this year. Please email Ellen at nesskiprogram@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming a parent coordinator.

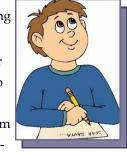
Information about the program will go out the week October 27th and will be due no later than

## Fourth Grade ELA: Up, up, and away! Fourth grade students began the year by working

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on their very own, personalized "All About Me" hot air balloons, which allowed the students to share some fun facts and favorite things with their teachers and classmates. In addition to allowing the students to get a jump start on some of the reading and writing skills they will be working on in fourth grade, it allowed each fourth grade class to begin building classroom communities by learning about one another. Once the *All About Me* assign-



ment was completed, fourth grade began our very exciting writing program: *Empowering Writers*. So far, fourth grade students have learned about the three different types of writing: expository, persuasive, and narrative. For each of these types of writings, fourth grade students have learned the structure by analyzing and populating the program's varied but specific graphic organizers. Most recently, fourth grade students have been studying how to build interesting and detailed sentences. During Reading block, the fourth grade students have just begun using an exciting new resource: Scholastic Storyworks magazine, which is host to a diverse range of texts. Storyworks will allow the students to compare thematically-compatible articles as well as perform close reading activities, which are meant to bolster and support comprehension strategies.

### **Fourth Grade Math:**

Fourth grade students began the year in math by studying place value. Students learned to identify the value of numbers in every place value up through the millions. In order to interact with place value and develop stronger number sense, fourth grade students practiced building large numbers. From there, students learned

"The expert in anything

was once a beginner."

- Helen Hayes

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about the different ways that numbers can be written: standard form, word form, and expanded form. After some practice, fourth grade students moved on to rounding and learned several different methods in order to round: the rounding rhyme, the number line method, and the boss number method. In addition to all of this as well as reviewing addition and subtraction with regrouping, the fourth grade has also focused on the problem solving steps for solving word problems. Fourth grade students have also been practicing their math facts! They have just begun using Xtramath.com



and Mobymax.com in order to practice their math facts. Students were sent home with their online codes so that they may access these sites and their account from locations outside of the school building.

#### **Fourth Grade Social Studies:**



Fourth grade students have been learning all about maps. They have become cartographers! Students have been learning all about maps, what features are placed on a map, and the different purposes maps are used for. After learning new map vocabulary, identifying the location of vocabulary terms on an assortment of different maps, and playing a few rounds of "Latitude and Longitude Battleship" the students were introduced to the unit's culminating project when they were asked to create their own islands based on a theme of their choice. The

project is meant to synthesize student understanding of the concepts they've been learning about maps. The students were also introduced to the skill of referencing a rubric when working on a project to see what is necessary for success. Once these projects are complete, we will be kicking off our very exciting year-long study of the regions of the United States.

#### **Fourth Grade Science:**

In science, fourth grade students have been learning about the scientific method and the states of matter. Science began when the students wondered about what a scientist is, what a scientist does, and what a scientist looks like. After a brain-storming session, students were introduced to pictures of modern scientists on the Smartboard. Fourth grade students were

guided to the realization that scientists don't always work in labs and that they aren't the picture-perfect mad scientist that so many students pictured. Moving forward, students learned about what scientists do: follow the scientific method. Students were introduced to the scientific method, and then began their exploration of the states of matter. After being introduced to the scientific concepts of matter, mass, and volume, the students performed an enjoyable experiment during which they attempted to identify its state of matter.



## **SEPAC Update...**

#### **Special Education Workshop**

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) and TRSD are sponsoring a workshop for parents and professionals to learn about basic rights in special education.



The Basic Rights workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Massachusetts Special Education Law. This workshop is designed to help parents learn to be effective partners with their child's school to decide their child's eligibility for special education, and to plan, make decisions and monitor their child's progress in school.

**Date:** 10/7/2014 **Time:** 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Location: Triton Regional High School Library Contact: <a href="mailto:sepactriton@gmail.com">sepactriton@gmail.com</a>

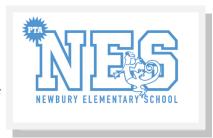
A presenter from the Federation for Children with Special Needs will conduct this workshop. Federation workshops are free and open to the public. You are welcome to attend any workshop in or outside of your immediate community.

Join us!

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#### PTA News... Playground Unveiling

A huge THANK YOU to all the families who joined us for the Design Day Celebration and Unveiling Monday night. The day started with the students meeting with the designer and offering ideas for their "dream playground". The creativity and suggestions were endless: some wanted wiggly slides or a hot tub, while others called out for climbing walls, a reading area, football field, and a fence to keep the balls from rolling into the parking lot. The day culminated with a fun celebration to reveal a preliminary redesign of the playground, much to the delight of the many kids who were there. Stay tuned for the release of the final plan.



We cannot complete this project without strong community support. There are many ways you can help. *Please* visit <a href="https://www.newburypta.com/nesgrows">www.newburypta.com/nesgrows</a> or email <a href="mailto:nesgrows@gmail.com">nesgrows@gmail.com</a> to learn how to get involved. If you can help, even in a

small way, please sign up. Don't forget to speak with your neighbors and friends to see how they might join in too!

Thank you!

Eileen Wallwork, NES GROWS Committee Playground Chair

#### 2013-14 Yearbooks still available

Are you new to the school and want to put names with faces easily? There are still a few of last year's school yearbooks available. See Mrs. Fecteau in the office to purchase one. They are \$15 and checks can be made out to NES PTA.

#### Oct. 16th PTA Meeting

The PTA general meeting on Thursday, October 16th, 7-8:30 pm will include a presentation by Deb Jones, Triton Regional School Technology Coordinator. She will show parents how to use the Aspen Portal system. Plan now to attend.

#### Fundraiser will supply grants

Has your student told you about the masterpieces created in art class? The PTA fall fundraiser will transform students' artwork onto keepsakes through <a href="https://www.silvergraphics.com">www.silvergraphics.com</a>. Order forms will be sent home and online ordering will open on Oct. 29th, with delivery in early December.

The fundraiser's profits will be used to fund grants for teachers and staff. We hope to raise at least \$9,000 from this fundraiser to keep the same levels of support available at NES.

#### Please remember to join the PTA!

Membership in our PTA shows your support of our efforts and our school. Sign up online at <u>PTA Membership</u> or pick up a membership form in the school office. Individual membership is \$10 and family membership is \$20.

#### **NES Coffee House**

The first NES Coffee House was a success. It was great seeing both new and familiar faces. Thank you to Addison and Aidan for helping their mom set up. Addison enjoyed serving the first coffee of the year!

Please join us on December 5th, 8:30 AM -10:00 AM for our next Coffee House!





## **NES Calendar**



### October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29 7:00pm Play- ground Design Meet- ing	30 6:30 pm Instrumental Information Night	1 Individual Student Pictures 4:30 School Council 6:30 Storm Surge Mtg.	2 Individual Student Pictures	3 Half Day	4
5	6 5:00-6:30 PM/TWS Costume Sale	7 6:00 pm 6th Grade Parent Meeting — Environmental Camp	8 7:00 pm School Committee	9 5:00-6:30 PM/TWS Costume Sale	10	11
12	13 No School – Columbus Day	14	15	16 3:15 Technology Committee Meeting 7:00/PTA Meeting	17	18
19	20	21 7:00 pm Town Meeting	22 7:00 pm School Committee	23	24 5:30-7:30 pm PTA Halloween Party	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Did you know?

#### **Trash Tower at NES**

Have you ever noticed the amount of litter on the roads? Carol Baum has and she has committed herself to making a public awareness campaign. Each week, Carol walks a two mile loop near her Newbury home and picks up the trash that she finds. This fall, students from Whittier Vocational Technical Regional High School in Haverhill will build a 12 foot high trash tower that will have clear sides. Each week, Carol will deposit the trash that she collects on her walk into the trash tower. The tower will be an artistic way to raise awareness to the amount of litter. In addition to the tower, Carol will have an informational sign to help educate the community about decomposition. For more information, visits Carol's website at: https://www.kickstarter.com/ projects/480096185/trash-tower

