

The Newton School Newsletter

Friday, November 4, 2016

School Notes and Athletics

Mr. Bagnato, Principal

This past Tuesday, I held a principal chat regarding the Habits and Attitudes of Learning at Newton School. Including these specific grades K-8 is a [new initiative](#) at our school. We feel it is important to give specific feedback to students and parents about skills that have been shown to be vitally important in developing students' learning potential. Progress in these skills is illustrated on report cards.

This week we held Parent/Teacher conferences. I want to thank the PTA, parents, and conference dinner organizer Tori Lloyd for providing nutritious AND tasty dinners for the staff. I would also like to give a shout out to the 7th and 8th graders who provided child care on Thursday and Friday. Lexie, Jordan, Julia, Emma, Callie, Emme, Sophie, Mary Gage, Erik, and Tia were a huge help keeping the children of parents at conferences entertained.

The goals of the conferences were to

- Facilitate a collaborative and supportive relationship between the student's parents/guardians and the educators involved in the student's learning program.
- To gain further insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the student as a learner.
- To leave with specific steps to continue to promote student learning and achievement.

We are very proud of the overwhelming participation we get during conferences. We hope you feel this is a beneficial process. If you have any suggestions to make the conferences better, please feel free to e-mail me (gbagnato@newtonschool.org)

K-2 News

Ms. Kicza, Ms. Longcore & Mrs. Robinson

During our Wellness time this week we kicked off our learning about Respect by reading a funny book about manners called Manners are NOT for Monkeys by Heather Tekavec. In this book the monkeys have wonderful manners and the children don't, causing the zookeeper to put the children in the cage and let the monkeys go. We then started filling in a chart about what respect "looks like" and "sounds like." This will be an ongoing conversation in the K-2 throughout the year, filled with role playing and fun activities.

KINDERGARTEN FOREST DAY BLOG

3-5 News

Ms. Cote, Mrs. Hill & Mr. Walker

This week we would like to step back from telling you about what's happened inside the 3-5 cluster, and, instead, thank the parents for everything that they do. It was wonderful meeting with all of you this week. As always, your insights, dedication, and caring about your child and our community are so helpful and appreciated.

Just a quick reminder that as we get into our 2nd quarter the weather will be getting chillier, so please make sure your child has his or her hat, gloves, and warm jacket. It would be great, too, that on days when your child wears boots to school he or she also brings in a pair of shoes.

3rd Grade Hood Trip Visits:

4th & 5th Grade Hood Trip Visits:

Middle School

Ms. Kanoff, Ms. Tieff, Mrs. White

NYC Trip Go Fund Me Page

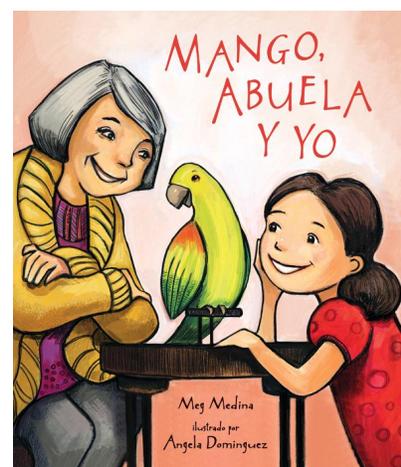
Library & Technology News

Ms. Simone Pyle

This week in library, the K-4 classes talked about how books are written in many different languages. We looked at foreign language publications of some familiar titles, and read some of the Spanish version of Red Clover Award nominee *Mango, Abuela and Me*.

We've begun a new technology elective with the new quarter, Web Building and Design, as well as a technology class with 5th grade. We use Google Classroom to keep track of assignments and activities, and I encourage parents/guardians to sign up to receive weekly updates. (This won't show your student's grades, only a list of what's been assigned/posted to the class.)

[Email Simone](#) if you're interested!



Art News

Ms. Janet Cathey

K-2 students are exploring lines and shapes. K students are exploring lines in 2 dimensions and 3 dimensions. 1/2 students are filling up small sketchbooks with shapes pictures made only by "drawing with scissors".

3/4 students have finished a drawing exploration. Over several art periods they drew with seven different art media and reflected on why they prefer some over others.

5/6 students are finishing their paintings of a National Park they'd like to visit or have visited. They will be adding text digitally to their images in order to turn these into "postcards".

The second quarter 7/8 art elective has begun. Students will be asking these essential questions among others: Why do some artists choose to work in three dimensions? How do artists express their identities using sculpture?

Ms. Cathey

Health News

Nurse Ellen

There is a viral illness going around school, which is causing fevers as high as 103-104 degrees. Sometimes there is an accompanying cough. There have been 3 probable cases of pneumonia.

If your child has persistent fever and a cough please take your child to the pediatrician. If you have questions please call Nurse Ellen. If your child has a fever over 100.0 please remember that your child shouldn't return to school until he/she has been fever free for 24 hours.

Dr. McWilliams is next here, Monday November 7, 2016.

Friendly reminder:

Please get **immunization** records/exemption forms to Nurse Ellen IF you have received a written request. We are missing records on several kindergarteners and several 7th graders.

Parents are **required** by Vermont State Law to provide the school with this information.

Music News

Mr. Nils Fredland

Hello Newton School community!

We've been having a great time this year. The students and I are getting to know each other, learning what it means to work together in a musical context, and

making lots of good music. It's a pleasure to be part of such a vibrant, thoughtful, and caring school community.

Here's an overview of what we've been doing this year, by class:

Kindergarten - Seasonal songs, working with contrasts (high-low, strong-soft, short-long), practicing choral speech, and playing games!

Grades 1/2 - A lot of singing, a little dancing, learning about various instruments (and how to care for them!), practicing choral speech, creating our own movement to go along with our singing, and more!

Grades 3/4 - Laying the groundwork for music reading, working with call and response songs, form and precision in movement, respect and support of each other, and dancing!

Grade 5 - Individual participation, working together, strong singing, music reading, rhythm games, and beginning to create our own musical arrangements!

Grade 6 - Lots of singing! Recognizing and working with rhythm as a way to increase the effectiveness of our music. Working together, respect and support of each other, improvisation, music literacy, and the emotional impact of music.

Grade 7/8 - We finished our "Roots of Rhythm" elective last week, and have started "Ukulele 101" this week.

I look forward to making more music with the students, and meeting more of you as this school year unfolds. Thank you for the warm welcome!

With appreciation,
Nils Fredland

One Planet Afterschool Program News

Ms. Kiersten Harlow

Our Lights On event was a huge success! We had 45 kids attend who carved pumpkins, created with Phil, enjoyed art projects and ate pizza! A huge thank you to the parent volunteers and an even bigger thank you to Kim, Art and Leif Hanchett for donating 33 pumpkins!



PE News

Mr. Casey Grimes

K,1,2's have been working on dribbling passing and shooting basketballs. This short week and next we will be working on some fitness stations, running, and we will begin working on perfecting our pushups and situps.

3,4,5's will also be working on fitness training and fitness testing as well as getting stronger and faster.

6,7,8's will also be working on fitness training and fitness testing as well as getting stronger and faster.

The strength and conditioning class will be targeting certain muscle groups. We will also do a number of sprint trainings and fast footwork. We could still use some dumbbells, a weight bench with bar, and weights.

I would like to encourage students to bring in proper footwear, activewear, a towel and water bottle.

I went to a PE conference last week and learned a lot of new ideas and games to bring back to Newton. I also won a Spikeball set that I'm excited to use for classes.

Have a great weekend.

Farm to School

Ms. Cat Buxton

Lots has happened in the past few weeks!

Kindergarteners painted some Tennessee Dancing Gourds, a tiny gourd that spins like a top; we grew hundreds of them this year! Some fifth graders helped with the craft project during their enrichment time. The 'groovy gourds' will be among the exciting list of garden-grown and inspired products we'll sell at the Holiday Craft Fair in December to raise money for Farm-to-School.

1st and 2nd graders harvested a variety of interesting vegetable and flower seeds last week.

The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders prepared Owl Eye pumpkins (a golden hybrid variety) and Ancient Squash (an heirloom hardy squash) for roasting. The squash, pumpkin, and roasted seeds were served for lunch the next day in the cafeteria - thanks Gret!

The 3-5 students also planted garlic and harvested turnips, turnip greens, beets, kale, and our popcorn (Black Dakota variety)! We hung the corn to dry, processed dried parsley, shelled our black beans, and cleaned up the onion crop for use in the school kitchen. Next week the students will thresh the popcorn (and pop some!), clean black beans and cranberry beans and package them up for the Craft Fair, and seed trays of salad greens in Mr. Walker's grow lab.

Middle school students will chart our food waste weights through November and help us to design the compost bin shed, to be built next spring.

Can you donate some wood? We'll build a cold frame cover for one of our raised beds so that we can begin growing greens earlier next spring. If you have some lumber to donate please let Ilene or Cat know. We need light weight 2x4's and maybe a little building advice!

Thank you Molly O'Hara for putting together a beautiful display of Farm-to-school photos on the bulletin board outside the library - check it out! Thank you Mindi and Eric Goodling for donating mulch hay, Dori Wolfe for donating a scale to weigh our food scraps, the Reimanis family for donating some seed garlic, and to Paul Sadowski for keeping the after school program kids involved in the edible schoolyard activities!

We're so grateful to all of our enthusiastic students and teachers and to all of the wonderful parent and community volunteers that help us achieve our garden and farm-to-school goals. Thank you!



PTA News

Amy Donohue/Shannon Varley

The Newton School PTA, in cooperation with Clausen's Greenhouse, is excited to host our annual poinsettia fundraiser.

Orders may be placed for poinsettias in a dizzying array of colors and sizes and all proceeds directly benefit programming at the Newton School.

Orders must be paid and submitted by Friday November 18.

Poinsettias will be delivered to the Newton School Library on Wednesday, November 30.

Year after year, Clausen's has delivered poinsettias that are fuller and more brilliant in color than the plants you may see at local discount stores. Please consider buying poinsettias for your home, office, church or as a gift. The Newton teachers, students and parents will thank you!

Announcements and Upcoming Events

[PICTURE RETAKES WILL BE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH.](#)

[Seven Stars Art Center](#)

[Family Fridays at Seven Stars](#)

[Fifth Grade Passport for Skiing](#)

[Pico Ski Pass for \\$89 \(VT students only\)](#)

[Tunbridge Craft Fair](#)

[HOLLY JOLLY INFORMATION and APPLICATION](#)

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Stay Connected



"The strength of the team
is each individual member.
The strength of each
member is the team."

- Phil Jackson