

# The Newton School Newsletter

Friday, April 14, 2017

## ***School Notes and Athletics***

Mr. Bagnato, Principal

Happy Spring!

I am hopeful that everyone has a restful break. This holiday is exciting as it seems that students and adults have spring fever. However, I must admit it also signifies the last break before the end of school **Friday, June 16th** and..... there is so much to do.

Next year's calendar was approved by the school board - [2017-2018 School Calendar](#).

Please note two important items:

1. **We are changing our quarter system to trimesters.** Thus, report cards will be sent home three times a year instead of four. This will be beneficial because it aligns to our school calendar better without fragmenting grading periods with vacations. This change will also allow for more time between grading in order to gather evidence on student achievement. As a result, conferences dates have been changed. The fall conference will allow for parents to know how the first trimester is going. The spring conference will promote communication before the last trimester.

2. **The Strafford School Board has requested a waiver to change our February Break.** If it is approved by the Secretary of Education, the dates on the calendar will change to the week before. This would be preferential as our break would then line up to Thetford Academy and the other high schools that our students typically go to.

If you have not been able to fill out the survey...please click below

[Newton School Survey](#)

## ***K News***

Ms. Kicza

Kindergarten learned and had fun on a field trip to the Prescotts' sugarhouse this week! They explored near the sugar maple trees, saw the buckets and sap lines, and had a snack out in the warm spring morning. Then they went into the sugarhouse and learned more about how maple syrup is made. They asked many great questions and showed their curiosity and what they'd already learned! Of course they got a taste of the delicious maple syrup, too! Thank you to the Prescott family for

welcoming the kindergarten class!



### [Forest Day Blog](#)

---

## **1-2 News**

**Ms. Longcore & Mrs. Robinson**

First and second graders completed a week long engineering study yesterday. After a review of the steps of engineering- ask, plan, create, test, improve- they jumped into their first challenge. They needed to create a hanging bucket from a structure they built using straws, tape, a cup, and string. The bucket needed to be able to hold at least ten pennies. While most students had varying degrees of success, nearly all of them collaborated, persevered, and helped each other achieve this success. Their last challenge, in honor of Easter, was the classic and exciting egg drop. Using many different materials, they made protectors for their eggs and then bombed away. Again, varying success but lots of fun! Have a great spring break!

---

## **3-5 News**

**Ms. Cote, Mrs. Hill & Mr. Walker**

This week the students really enjoyed switching rooms for the new quarter of Reading and Social Studies. They liked getting into their new units and new routines. Students especially enjoyed our new Social Studies unit which will focus on Modern Vermont. This week they studied what is culture and how has it changed in Vermont from the early 1900's to now. Students eagerly headed off this afternoon for a much deserved break. We hope everyone has a great week off!

---

## **Middle School News**

**Ms. Kanoff, Ms. Tieff, Mrs. White**

## Raffle winners announced!

Marvelous Movie Night (*Janet Hardy*)  
Pampered Pets (*Ashley Eastman*)  
In the Kitchen (*Marie Baker*)

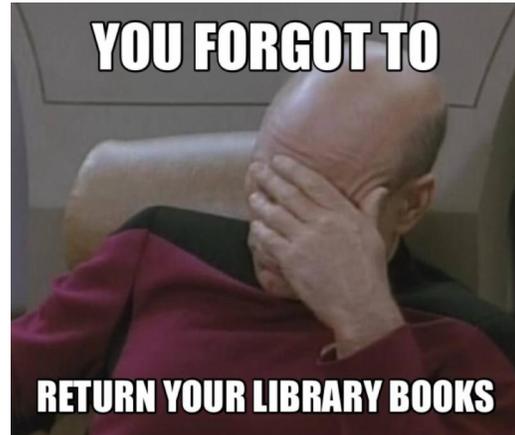
### MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

#### ***Library & Technology News***

Ms. Simone Pyle

Students in the 7/8 Exploratory elective are undertaking individualized projects. Many are working on animation projects, alone or with a team; others are building apps or games. The goal is to give them the time, space, and resources to try something new, and to "fail better" by shaking off and learning from mistakes and challenges.

Overdue notices will go out after we return from break--if you're not traveling, it might be a good time to turn over the couch cushions in search of those knavish overdue library books!



#### ***Health News***

Nurse Ellen

Please remember deer ticks our out. Please check your children from head to toe each evening. If ticks are taken off within 24 hours there is no concern for Lyme Disease. If you do take a deer tick off and it is engorged save it by scotch taping it to a piece of paper so Nurse Ellen or your doctor can identify it. A one time antibiotic dose can be given if an engorged deer tick is found.

Prevention is always the best option: Wear long sleeves and long pants, DEET repellent or oil of lemon eucalyptus can be applied to socks and shoes. Please see the Be Tick Smart PDF on the Health page of the Newton website.

Sunscreen. One in five Americans develop skin cancer. Incidence of melanoma, the most serious skin cancer, is on the rise. Dermatologists encourage parents to use SPF 30 or stronger for children in the sun. Also a hat is a nice idea.

Bike helmets are available through the school clinic. They are \$10.00 a piece and Nurse Ellen can fit them at school.

The dental hygienist for the school clinic took a different position this winter. The dental hygienist will not be back at Newton until next fall to clean students' teeth. If your child has any dental needs, Nurse Ellen has a list of dentists who can help.

The Marshall Manning Good Citizen Award will be presented to students this year. This is a modification of the former Marshall Manning Sportsmanship Award.

We will present this award at the End of Year assembly to a student in each cluster who: inspires others, is involved in extracurricular activity, thinks of others first, and is a good role model. Nominees will also be recognized.

Please see the attached nomination form.

[\*\*Marshall Manning Good Citizen Award Nomination Form\*\*](#)

[\*\*Local Resources for Families Information\*\*](#)

---

## ***Hot Lunch News***

**Gret Hewes**

This week our fruit of the week: Kiwifruit!



Kiwifruit or often shortened to just kiwi is a native "berry" to north-central and eastern Asia. Cultivation of the kiwifruit has spread to New Zealand, Italy, Chile, Greece and France.



The whole kiwifruit is edible including the skin. Kiwifruit is full of vitamins C, K, E, potassium, antioxidants and is a wonderful source of fiber. The kiwifruit has been known to be used for digestive problems and to aid in the reduction

of blood clotting. The kiwifruit was on our fruit table in the cafeteria this week and was a very popular part of the kids' trays at lunch.



I am always looking for ideas for some fun and different fruits to introduce to the kids over the next quarter. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas of fruits and/or veggies you would like to see the kids trying. My email address is [ghewes@newtonschool.org](mailto:ghewes@newtonschool.org)

---

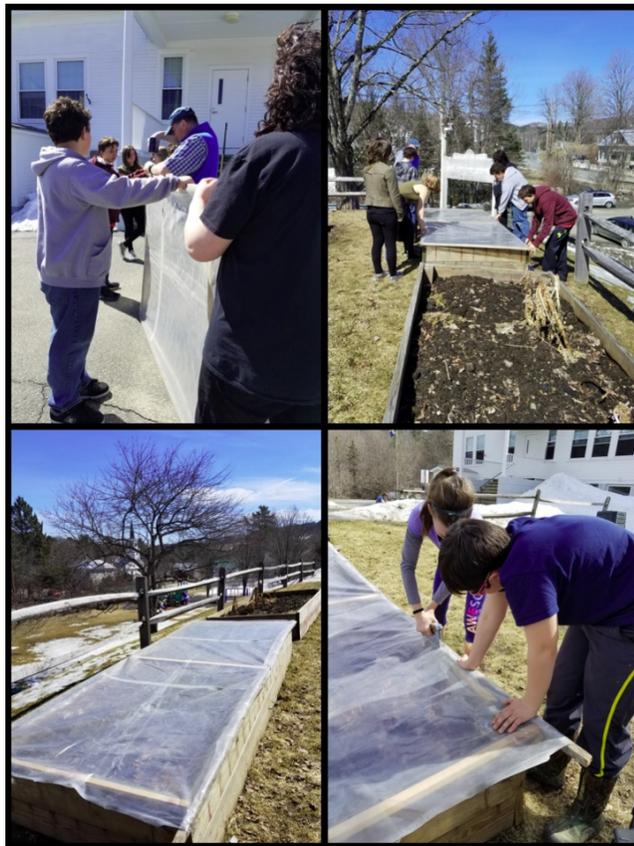
## ***Farm to School News***

**Cat Buxton**

As a part of math class on Monday six grade 8 students helped to build a very basic cover for one of the raised beds that they had built last year as 7th graders. The cover will act as a cold frame, extending our growing season by warming the soil and by keeping any spring frosts from reaching the tender plants. After spring break K-2 students will sow seeds for their salad garden under this cold frame. Big thanks to Erin Masteller for leading the project and to Onley, Daniel, Kesha, Aaron, Kaitie, for their help!

Over the past few weeks students in grades 3 and 4 started flower, pepper, and tomato seeds in the classrooms. On Tuesday some 5th graders chose to spend their enrichment time in the garden by putting finishing touches on the cold frame lid, sanding dried some gourds for crafts and breaking others open to collect the seed. We'll plant some of these seeds this year.

Our compost center is moving along. Once the snow melts away we'll begin building on site. Your donations of time, supplies, and money will be critical to the success of this project. If you want to help out, contact me for details. Best to email me at [cat@growmorewasteless.com](mailto:cat@growmorewasteless.com).



---

## ***One Planet***

Kiersten Harlow

CIT - Counselor In Training packets are available for current 7th, 8th & 9th graders interested in working at our summer camp.

Have a great vacation! One Planet begins again on Monday, April 24th.

[CIT Application](#)

[Newton Summer Camp Registration Form](#)

---

## ***Art News***

Janet Cathey

K students read about spirals in nature and drew spiral snail families. They moved gluey wet yarn into spirals, lines, and shapes on paper.

1/2 students invented and drew something to sit on with a specific family member in mind. Most students have finished their 3D models as well. There are miniature chairs, couches, cushions, flotation devices, and much more on the art room shelves.

3/4/5 students are inventing, reinventing, and teaching each other many ways

to sculpt with paper.

6th grade students are examining Principles of Art, and should be able to identify at least two principles of art in their own abstract paintings.

7/8 Ceramics students are Developing Craft & Engaging and Persisting, two of the Art Studio Habits of Mind. They have started with perfecting and personalizing the lowly pinch pot, and are now persisting by creating challenging clay whistles that really play multiple notes.

---

## ***PTA News***

Amy Donohue & Shannon Varley

PTA Officers needed!!

The PTA is looking for individuals to serve in the offices of Secretary and President for the 2017-2018 school year. Terms are for one year and run August 1-July 31. Offices are well organized for anyone looking to contribute to the many programs that the PTA organizes can easily transition into. Please contact [Kate Reimanis](#), [Laura Ogden](#) or [Pat Kelly](#) if you are interested and would like to learn more about what the commitment involves. Elections will take place at the next general meeting

**Next Meeting:** May 2nd at 6pm in the Newton Library

**Card Making Workshop** - Friday, April 28th 12:30-1:30

Come make a card for mom, dad and your teachers for upcoming holidays and celebrations!

**Teacher Appreciation Week - May 1st-5th**

The PTA is organizing a week to show our appreciation of our teachers. We will send out an email soon for parents to sign up to bring food donations for breakfast on Monday and lunch on Friday.

Monday - Staff Breakfast 7:30

Tuesday - Cards and Notes Day - encourage your child to write a kind note or card to their teacher(s)

Wednesday - Flower Day - pick some flowers from your garden or make paper flowers for your teacher(s). The PTA will be purchasing Pansies for all the teachers and staff, monetary donations welcomed and appreciated.

Thursday - Treat Day - Give your teacher a sweet treat.

Friday - Staff Lunch 12:30

**Bike to School Day - May 19th**

We are looking for parents to walk and bike with kids, both from the upper village and from the Catholic Church just past Coburn's. We will also need parents to contribute breakfast items for kids once they get to school.

Contact [Hilary Linehan](#) if you'd like to help.

**PTA Plant Sale - May 20th - 9:00-12:00**

We need volunteers to make phone calls to local gardeners asking for a donation of plants and local gardening businesses for a donation to our raffle. We also need parents to setup and cleanup. Please contact [Kate Reimanis](#), if you are able to help.

---

## **Announcements and Upcoming Events**

**[Kid Links Annual Dinner featuring Kim John Payne "Being Your Best When Your Children Are At Their Worst"](#)**

**[Ravenswood Week Long Camp](#)**

**[Strafford One Planet Summer Camp](#)**

**[Horizons Summer Day Camp](#)**

**[Chelsea Summer Camp](#)**

**[2017 Summer Camps & Festivals](#)**

**[2018 Paris France, Switzerland, The Alps and Germany](#)**

**[Revels Kids 2017/Revels Kids 2017 Traditions of Zimbabwe](#)**

---

**Greg Bagnato, Principal**  
243 Vermont Route 132  
South Strafford, VT 05070  
Phone: 802-765-4351/Fax: 802-765-4785

.....  
**Stay Connected**



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

- Phil Jackson