

The Newton School Newsletter

Mission: To develop each child's potential for academic success, engagement and overall well-being. Through this process, we will enrich each child's education with community involvement, collaboration and outreach.

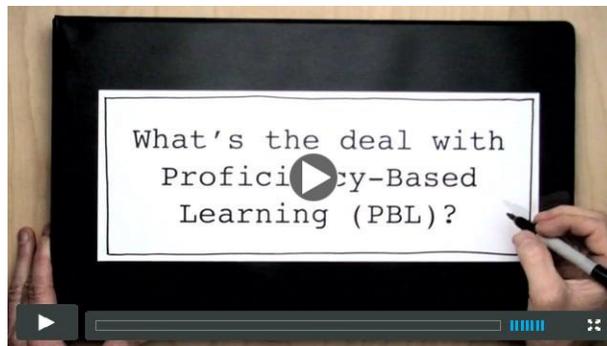
Friday, March 9, 2018

School Notes and Athletics

Mr. Bagnato, Principal

While February Break felt like spring, the first week of March feels like we are back in the thick of winter. Yesterday was our third snow day of the year, so we are currently scheduled to get out of school on June 14th. If there is another snow day, our last day will be on Friday, June 15th.

Last Monday, all Newton School staff worked with their WRVSU colleagues to work on proficiency scales that will be implemented at Newton. Basically these scales will identify the most important skills a child needs in a particular content area. Please click on the link below to get a better understanding about proficiency-based learning.



What's the Deal with Proficiency-Based Learning?

The transition to proficiency-based learning will take time. Students will learn the same content standards, but their teacher will work with them to personalize their learning. This is done by putting more energy into the areas the students need to work on (by examining proficiency scales) and by giving students more voice and choice.

I will give a brief presentation on some of this proficiency work at the beginning of the PTA meeting on Monday, March 12th at 6:00 pm.

Athletics and School Activities:

- **Monday 3/12:**
 - 2nd trimester report cards going home
 - PTA meeting 6:00 pm

- **Tuesday 3/13:**
 - Strafford School Board meeting 5:30
- **Wednesday 3/14:**
 - Pi Day triad 8:30 am
 - Student Led Conferences starting right after school.
- **Thursday 3/15:**
 - 12:30 DISMISSAL for Student Led Conferences
- **Friday 3/16:**
 - 12:30 pm - Lion's Club Ski/Snowboard Program (Dartmouth Skiway)

For school and athletic events, please visit the calendar on our [website](#).

3/4 News

Ms. Catalano & Ms. Cote

The third and fourth graders are busy reflecting upon their learning in the different subjects and are selecting artifacts to share at conferences next week. Parents will have the opportunity to hear about interests as well as hear about some goals. The students will have ten minutes to present their artifacts and answer questions. After that, the parents and teachers will have ten minutes to talk. We look forward to seeing the students share what they have been learning about!

5th Grade News

Mr. Eric Walker

After a long break away from school, the 5th grade students are back in the swing of things. We are seeing our trout swimming up stream and feeding. It has been fun watching the eggs hatch and seeing the different stages of growth. The foam sides to the tank came off this week, so we are now able to observe the alevin (a newly spawned salmon or trout still carrying the yolk) more easily.

The students have also begun their Industrial Revolution unit. The photo below shows Maddy having fun and learning about cotton bolls. The kids had the task of picking all the seeds and debris out of each boll, which was not an easy thing to do. They then discovered how important the cotton gin was in the production of fabric and how this simple device was one of the impetuses of the Industrial Revolution in America.



Middle School Fundraising News

Please continue to sign up your child for the recycling center. Many Saturdays available. [Recycling Sign Up for Middle School Fundraising](#) A fundraising meeting is scheduled for March 13.

One Planet News

Mrs. Kiersten Harlow

There will be no One Planet on Thursday, March 15, 2018

Library & Technology News

Ms. Simone Pyle

Overdue notices will be going home next week! Remember that if you find a book is lost or damaged, in lieu of purchasing a new one, the library will accept a donation of any similar book. Thank you for helping us save money on replacing lost books, and maintaining our collection!

Our second trimester 7/8 technology elective wrapped up before the break, with students completing final projects based on their independent research. Over several weeks we discussed complex topics such as: digital identity and online reputation; the digital environments we create; online behavioral tracking; and digital government surveillance. For their independent research, students chose a topic of interest to explore, and created a final project in a format of their own choosing. We had Keynote and Google Slide presentations, infographics, a podcast, and a video, shown below.



Alexa, What's Your Deal?

I hope that every student has a greater understanding of their rights and responsibilities as digital citizens, and feel empowered to take more control of their digital environment.

Health News

Ms. Kerri Juergens

Passport to Winter Fun Update

The Passport to Winter Fun program is almost over! All students who complete 30 days of the Passport will receive a Polar Bear Achiever Prize and be entered into a Grand Prize Raffle (a chance to win snowshoes, ski passes, an ipod, and more!). To be entered, make sure to fill in the back flap of your passport and hand it in to your school by March 14th!

Let's keep our kids healthy and active this winter!

More information can be found on the Upper Valley Trails Alliance website at: www.uvtrails.org. Questions? Contact Laura Romig at laura.romig@uvtrails.org

Everyday Preventative Care, Actions That Can Help Fight Germs Like Flu

A Flu Guide For Parents

Healthvermont.gov/flu

[Cleaning to prevent the flu](#)

Hot Lunch News

Gret Hewes

"Welcome Back!"

March/April Hot Lunch Menu 2018

PTA News

Christine Bailey-Kellogg & Shannon Varley

Town Meeting Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who helped with town meeting lunch. It's one of our biggest fundraisers, and we rely on so many people to make it a success. Thanks to all the people who solicited food items, made something yummy for breakfast or lunch, helped set up or clean up, or supported the PTA by purchasing lunch. We are so grateful!

Next PTA meeting: Monday, March 12th

Please join us for the next PTA meeting, which is this coming MONDAY, March 12th at 6 pm at the Newton School Library. Please note this is a different day than our normal meetings. One of the agenda items will be looking ahead to our plant sale in May. Please join us if you can, or be in touch if you'd like to volunteer but cannot attend the meeting.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

[Sharon Academy Arts Day](#)

[Horizons Summer Camp](#)

[Little League Information](#)

[Little League Registration](#)

[Upper Valley Music Summer Camps 2018](#)

[Vins Camp Information](#)

[Ravenswood Winterbreak Camp](#)

[Tumble Time For Tots](#)

Classes at Seven Starts Art Center

Greg Bagnato, Principal

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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