



**A Bucketful
of News...**



Francis T. Bresnahan School
333 High Street Newburyport, MA 01950

**Important
Dates**

September 12th

School Council, 3:15

September 13th

PTO ASEP
Registration Begins

September 14th

School Pictures:
PreK & K

September 22nd

Early Release Day

Open House, Grades
1-3, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

September 23rd

School Pictures:
Grades 1-3

September 26th

PTO ASEP Begins

September 27

PreK Field Trip

September 28

PreK Field Trip

Principally Speaking...

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the 2016-2017 school year. The Meet and Greets were very well-attended. The first couple of days are now behind us, yet this week may still feel like a transition week. Bresnahan School is suddenly abuzz with energy, enthusiasm, smiles and laughter. Yet, like any new beginning, there is a little anxiousness and some tears as well. All of this is to be expected. We are here to support and nurture each and every child as they adjust to a new learning environment, become familiar and comfortable with their teachers and peers. Please be in touch with your child's teacher, school adjustment counselors, Debra Eggers or Colleen Wile, or us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's transition.

When your student will not be present in school, please call the OFFICE to let us know. The number to call is (978) 465-4435: press 2 then 1 for Prek & K Office, press 3 then 1 for the Grades 1-3 Office. We will let the teacher know. While an email is appreciated, the teacher may be out and no one would receive an email in that case, whereas many people can check the attendance line. We appreciate your cooperation with this.

The Newburyport Public Schools community including teachers and staff, parents, students, administrators and school committee members have developed a strategic plan which will guide our work for the next three to five years. As a result of this process, the district has developed Beliefs, a Mission Statement, Parameters within which we work, Objectives, Strategies, and Clipper Values. We have also identified our focus strategies for the upcoming year. Each week you will be introduced to a component of this plan. Please note that you will see posters within our school including these beliefs, the mission statement and core values also known as "Clipper Values".

Beliefs

We Believe That:

- Each person is worthy of respect
- A strong community celebrates individual uniqueness
- Each individual has inherent worth
- Opportunity stems from adversity; growth from mistakes
- Through reflection we gain understanding
- Compassion and empathy build community

October 4th

Title One
Informational
Meeting, 8:30 AM

- Everything can be done with kindness
- Individuals are responsible for their own actions
- Attitude has power
- We have an obligation to serve one another
- Trusting relationships require clear and open communication
- A community is responsible for its individuals
- Education is fundamental to an empowered, evolving society

October 5th

International Walk
to School Day

Spotlight On...

October 6th

Early Release Day
PK/K Open House
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Expected Behaviors:

The Bresnahan School is committed to becoming a safe and supportive environment for all, in support of our District Mission Statement. In our research, we have determined that common language is key to teaching and reinforcing appropriate actions and behaviors to ensure that we all feel safe and supported here at school. We are using “expected behaviors” which denotes actions that are predictable, appropriate, thoughtful and safe and “unexpected behaviors” that include invading personal space, impulsivity and uncaring actions.

This year, we are excited to introduce our Expected Behaviors Posters that we have placed throughout the school in eight common school locations: Hallways, Bathrooms, Stairwells, Cafeteria, Playground, Gymnasium for assemblies, Walker Dismissal, and Rider Dismissal. Our hope is to assist all students and staff in feeling safe and supported in all locations by creating environments that have predictable sensory, behavioral and social aspects that support positive learning and relationships. Each poster has a simple statement of the Expected Behaviors with matching visual pictures to support all learners in recognizing and understanding what the expected behaviors are. We have also added a numbered and tiered Voice Level system to support voice volume levels as noted on the posters, that identifies voices as: 0 = Voices Off, 1 = Indoor Voices, 2 = Outdoor Voices. This voice system is easily identified by both students and adults by raising a hand with a formed zero (voices off) one finger raised (indoor voice) or two fingers raised (outdoor voices).

We’re looking forward to a safe and supportive year ahead as we introduce, model and implement these common expectations for students and adults alike.

STEM in Action

The STEM class is in full swing and the students are enjoying this new program. All grades 1-3 started with learning what is STEM and what the year will entail in this class. They got a tour of the room and brainstormed what the word "team" meant to them. This will build the foundation for our projects down the road. When the discussion was done



they found a partner and had to complete the objective of "building a tower of six cups using a simple machine".



At first, they didn't think they could do it, but shortly after the room was filled with cheers when they successfully completed the assignment. Some groups challenged themselves with getting more cups and building a taller tower and other groups formed groups of four to see if they could complete it. It was wonderful to come back together on the rug to share thoughts and ideas of what worked and what didn't work. We talked about STEM being all about discovery and exploring multiple ways of doing a task. They learned communicating together made their objective easier to accomplish.

Mrs. Foster's Pre-K got to explore STEM by listening to the book "Little Cloud" and acting out different parts of the book. After that they learned their science word of the day "moisture". They were given cups, blue water (rain), shaving cream (clouds), and pipettes. The students then used their materials to make their cloud rain and created moisture in their cups. It was so wonderful to see how engaged they were and how excited they got when their cloud rained. Room 235 will be full of discovery, learning, building, and communication!



Amy B. Sullivan
Principal of PK/K

Kristina Davis
Principal of 1-3

Karina Mascia
Assistant Principal of 1-3