



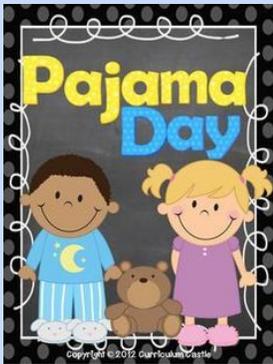
Bucketful of News...



Francis T. Bresnahan School
333 High Street Newburyport, Mf1 01950

Important Dates:

December 22
Full day of school.
All School Pajama Day -
Last day of school
before the holiday
vacation.



**Lost & Found Will
be Donated after
12/22**

PTO-Sponsored Staff
Cookie Swap



**December 23-
January 2**
Holiday Break



Principally Speaking...

Our students, teachers and staff will enjoy holiday parties, winter solstice parties, and special activities acknowledging the holidays we celebrate. On Thursday, December 22nd, we will enjoy an ALL School Pajama Day and All School Holiday sing-along led by our music teacher, Mrs. Conte. We're looking forward to a festive day! We wish all of you a festive holiday season with your family and friends and an enjoyable holiday vacation with your children.

LOST & FOUND DONATED THIS THURSDAY: On another note, please be sure to have your child check the lost and found located in the hallway leading into the cafeteria. Please know parents are welcome to take a peek as well. There are valuable items to be retrieved before the holiday vacation. All unclaimed clothing will be donated on Thursday afternoon to a local organization. Please claim your items!

One more pertinent piece of information is a reminder for when you dismiss your child(ren) from school after a special event. Parents are required to receive a dismissal slip from the student's classroom teacher and then must bring it to either the PK/K office or the 1-3 office for Ms. Phillips or for Mrs. LeBlanc to process before you and your children leave the school. This is very important for record-keeping purposes and to ensure we know all children are accounted for at all times. Thank you!

Student lunch balances should remain current at all times. At this time our records are showing that we have numerous students with outstanding lunch account balances. Please make every effort to update your child's account. Balances should be checked by parents every week. Payments can be made online at myschoolbucks.com or given to your child's teacher. All procedures making online payments remain the same as nutrikids, except for the low balance email alerts. You have to reset this feature. If you have any questions, please call the Food Service Department at (978)465-4460.

The School Council has established a meeting schedule for the year. Please join us anytime! Please feel free to contact any members of the council at any time. The meeting schedule for January through May is:

- January 9, 2017
- February 13, 2017

January 3

Classes Resume

January 9

Crazy Hat Day

School Council Meeting,
3:15 p.m. Bresnahan
Library

January 13

Early Release

Dismissal Times:

Preschool: 11:15 AM

K-Grade 3: 11:40 AM

No PM Preschool

January 16

No School, Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr. Day
Observance

January 17

Coffee with the
Principals, 3:15 - 4:15

January 18

Bring Your Parent to
Lunch Day, Grade 1:
Mrs. Ahern, Mrs.
Boucher, and Mrs. Platt
PTO Meeting, 7 PM

January 23-27

Priority Preschool
Registration for
Returning Students and
Siblings

January 26

PK/K Progress Reports

2017-2018 Preschool
and Kindergarten
Information Night
Bresnahan Gym
Preschool @ 6 PM
Kindergarten @ 7 PM

January 27-

February 17

Preschool and
Kindergarten
Registration

February 1

- March 13, 2017
- April 10, 2017
- May 8, 2017

All meetings are held at 3:15 in the library.

On another note, if you are in the building and have an opportunity, please check out the artwork on display throughout the hallways. They are truly impressive! We are fortunate to have such young budding artists and a teacher who values publishing student art work. Thank you Mrs. Jamison!

Warmly,

Amy B. Sullivan

Principal of PK/K

Kristina Davis

Principal of 1-3

Karina Mascia

Assistant Principal

Grade 1 students consider themselves expert "clippers" demonstrating the art of snip, trim and clip construction paper!



As a reminder if you are interested in supporting the NEF and honoring a teacher through Teacher Tribute

The holidays are just around the corner! Don't miss out on honoring those teachers that are making an impact on your child(ren)'s education!

What do Teacher Tributes mean to teachers?

"It means we are able to upgrade our technology and provide the kids with an enhanced learning experience,"

states Newburyport High School Librarian Lynne Cote.

Click below to make your gift now!

<https://www.newburyportef.org/wha.../tributes/teacher-tribute/>

Bring Your Parent to Lunch Day, Grade 1: Mrs. Dow, Mrs. Doyle, Mrs. Harrington, Mrs. Mailloux

February 2

Early Release
Dismissal Times:
Preschool: 11:15 AM
K-Grade 3: 11:40 AM
No PM Preschool

February 13

School Council, 3:15 - 4:30

February 15

Bring Your Parent to Lunch Day, Kindergarten: Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. Doyle, Mrs. Gershuny, and Mrs. Leahy

February 20-24

No School,
February Winter Break

March 1

Preschool Lottery Drawn



PTO Highlights

1. Leary's PTO Fundraiser. Dec 20-23rd. 50% of each sale goes to the PTO. You must tell the cashier you are there for the PTO.
2. Holiday Staff Cookie Swaps at Molin/Nock and Bresnahan! Bake a batch or 2 for our hard-working teachers and staff. Bring them in on Tuesday, 12/20 (2-3pm), or Wednesday, 12/21 (before 9am).

Bresnahan	Molin/Nock
Bresnahan Sign Up Genius	Molin/Nock Sign Up Genius

3. Happy Holidays, Newburyport PTO Spirit-Wear Families!

Pick up for Sweatshirts / Long Sleeve Tees at Amesbury Sport at 77 Macy Street, #3, Amesbury. Proceed to the far end of the parking lot and walk to the left side of the building to find the entrance (downstairs).

The Hats, Scarves and Socks will be ready the 2nd week of January. We will send out another notice via email and on the PTO FaceBook page when those items are available for pickup!

Spirit wear pick up time is Tuesday from 2 pm to 6pm!

Additional pickup times will be posted on the www.amesburysport.com website as well as the PTO FaceBook page.

We thank you for your support and wish you the Happiest of Holidays!



Law on Teacher Gifts



We would like to remind parents of the state ethics law regarding gifts to public school teachers and staff. At the risk of sounding *Bah-Humbug* ... we must follow the law set forth. In a nutshell, limits for holiday gifts to teachers must be under \$50.00 per individual student/family and class gifts should not exceed an aggregate amount of \$150.00. Please read the law carefully as it is listed below.

Gifts to Public School Teachers and Staff

During the holidays and throughout the year we receive many inquiries about the state ethics law surrounding gift-giving for teachers. We hope that the following guidelines found on the official website of the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission may serve as a guide for families and class liaisons this holiday season: <http://www.mass.gov/ethics/gifts-to-public-school-teachers-and-staff.html>.

In general, a public employee may not accept any gift worth \$50 or more that is given because of the position he or she holds. Public employees may accept gifts that are worth less than \$50, but they have to disclose in writing that they have done so if, based on the specific circumstances, a reasonable person would think that the public employee might unduly show favor to the giver or the giver's child,

or be influenced by the giver. The law prohibits gifts to public employees, not gifts to public agencies. You may give gifts to a public school, or a particular classroom, and the \$50 limit does not apply. Your school district may have its own additional rules about gifts, which you should follow.

Example: A Parent-Teacher Organization wants to give \$75 gift cards to teachers to buy classroom supplies. The teachers may accept the gift cards but must use them to buy classroom supplies, and should keep receipts to show that they did so. Supplies bought with the gift cards are the property of the school, not the teachers.

Exemption- Class Gifts

The Ethics Commission recently created an exemption to permit class gifts to teachers. A teacher may accept a gift, or several gifts during the school year, from public school students and/or their parents and guardians, with an aggregated value of up to \$150, if the gift is identified only as being from the class, and the identity of the givers and the individual amounts given are not identified to the recipient. Gifts received pursuant to this exemption are not required to be disclosed. The donor is unknown, so a reasonable person would not conclude that the gift would influence the teacher's conduct with regard to any individual or would cause the teacher to favor any individual.

Example: A teacher has a class with 23 students. Parents of 20 of the students collect money and give the teacher a \$150 gift certificate to a bookstore, indicating that it is a class gift. The teacher may accept the \$150 class gift certificate and no disclosure is required. The teacher may not knowingly accept any additional gift from any of the parents who participated in the class gift. A teacher may accept a class gift and also individual gifts from persons who did not contribute to the class gift. Unlike class gifts, which are not required to be disclosed, individual gifts must be disclosed if, based on the specific circumstances, a reasonable person might think that the teacher's actions would be influenced by the gift.

Example: A child who did not participate in the class gift gives a plate of homemade cookies to the teacher. The teacher may accept the cookies, and no disclosure is required, because a reasonable person would not think that the teacher would be influenced by a gift that has no retail value. Similarly, a teacher would not be required to disclose acceptance of other homemade food items, hand-picked (not purchased) bouquets of flowers, and handmade gifts, candy, or other gift items worth less than \$10, because a reasonable person would not think that the teacher might unduly show favor to the giver of such gifts or the giver's child, or be influenced by the giver.

Example: Parents of a child who did not contribute to a class gift and whose child is awaiting a college recommendation gives the teacher who is writing the recommendation a bottle of wine worth \$40. The teacher must disclose the gift in writing to her appointing authority, because a reasonable person might think that such a gift might influence the teacher to write a better recommendation for the student.

Gifts to teachers from individual students should not total more than \$50.00 for the entire school year.