



## Bucketful of News...



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

## Important Dates:

### **January 25**

PK/K Progress Reports

2017-2018 Preschool and Kindergarten Information Night

Bresnahan Gym

Preschool @ 6 PM

Kindergarten @ 7 PM

Snowdate is January 26th

### **January 30-**

### **February 17**

Preschool and Kindergarten Registration

### **February 1**

Bring Your Parent to Lunch Day, Grade 1:  
Mrs. Harrington, Mrs. Dow, 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 20-24**

No School,

February Winter Break

### **March 1**

Preschool Lottery Drawn

### **March 6-April 10th**

## Principally Speaking...



As parents and educators we are faced more and more with how to speak with kids about the onslaught of everything in the news. In the past we have written about how to talk to your children about difficult events. The Marathon bombing, Sandy Hook, and lockdown drills come to mind. This past year has also been challenging with all the politics of the presidential election. With that in mind we thought it would be helpful to share an excerpt of an article from **Common Sense Media** which provides some general guidelines to parents about how to deal with the news that children - even young children- are exposed to daily. It is a different world today than the one we grew up in and knowing how to manage all this information can be challenging.

*Today, kids get news from everywhere. This constant stream of information shows up in shareable videos, posts, blogs, feeds, and alerts. And since much of this content comes from sites that are designed for adult audiences, what your kids see, hear, or read might not always be age-appropriate. Making things even more challenging is the fact that many kids are getting this information directly on their phones and laptops. Often parents aren't around to immediately help their kids make sense of horrendous situations.*

*The bottom line is that young kids simply don't have the ability to understand news events in context, much less know whether or not a source of information is credible. And though older teens are better able to understand current events, even they face challenges when it comes to sifting fact from opinion -- or misinformation.*

*No matter how old your kids are, threatening or upsetting news can affect them emotionally. Many can feel worried, frightened, angry, or even guilty. And these anxious feelings can last long after the news event is over. So what can you do as a parent to help your kids deal with all this information?*

### **Tips for all kids**

**Consider your own reactions.** Your kids will look to the way you handle the news to determine their own approach. If you stay calm and rational, they will, too.

### **Tips for kids under 7**

PTO ASEP begins.  
Stay-tuned for more details.

### **March 8**

Save the Date! More Information to Come...  
Bring Your Parent to School and Bring Your Parent to Lunch Day for Mrs. Herzig, Mrs. O'Malley and Mrs. Ouellette's Kindergarten Classes.

### **March 10-April 1st**

Young and Budding Artists Exhibition at Newburyport Art Association ~ Look for more details in *Take a Look Tuesday*

### **March 15**

Save the Date! More Information to Come...  
Bring Your Parent to School and Bring Your Parent to Lunch Day for Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. Duguie, Mrs. Gershuny and Mrs. Leahy/Natario's Kindergarten Classes

### **March 22**

Save the Date! More Information to Come...  
Bring Your Parent to School for Miss Sue, Miss Sam and Miss Karen and Miss Jessica's Preschool Classes. Bring Your Parent to School and Bring Your Parent to Lunch Day for Miss Giovanna and Miss Tanasi's PK Classes.

**Keep the news away.** Turn off the TV and radio news at the top of the hour and half hour. Read the newspaper out of range of young eyes that can be frightened by the pictures (kids may respond strongly to pictures of other kids in jeopardy). Preschool kids don't need to see or hear about something that will only scare them silly, especially because they can easily confuse facts with fantasies or fears.

**Stress that your family is safe.** At this age, kids are most concerned with your safety and separation from you. Try not to minimize or discount their concerns and fears, but reassure them by explaining all the protective measures that exist to keep them safe. If the news event happened far away, you can use the distance to reassure kids. For kids who live in areas where crime and violence is a very real threat, any news account of violence may trigger extra fear. If that happens, share a few age-appropriate tips for staying and feeling safe (being with an adult, keeping away from any police activity).

**Be together.** Though it's important to listen and not belittle their fears, distraction and physical comfort can go a long way. Snuggling up and watching something cheery or doing something fun together may be more effective than logical explanations about probabilities.

#### **Tips for kids 8–12**



**Carefully consider your child's maturity and temperament.** Many kids can handle a discussion of threatening events, but if your kids tend toward the sensitive side, be sure to keep them away from the TV news; repetitive images and stories can make dangers appear greater, more prevalent, and closer to home.

**Be available for questions and conversation.** At this age, many kids will see the morality of events in stark black-and-white terms and are in the process of developing their moral beliefs. You may have to explain the basics of prejudice, bias, and civil and religious strife. But be careful about making generalizations, since kids will take what you say to the bank. This is a good time to ask them what they know, since they'll probably have gotten their information from friends, and you may have to correct facts.

**Talk about -- and filter -- news coverage.** You might explain that even news programs compete for viewers, which sometimes affects content decisions. If you let your kids use the Internet, go online with them. Some of the pictures posted are simply grisly. Monitor where your kids are going, and set your URLs to open to non-news-based portals.

## REMINDER

**Tomorrow Night**

**January 25, 2017**

**2017-2018**

**Preschool &  
Kindergarten**

**Information Night**

**6 PM Preschool, 7 PM  
Kindergarten**

**Bresnahan Gymnasium**

Reminder--Tomorrow night is our big night as we begin to welcome our next cohort of parents and students to the Bresnahan School for the 2017-2018 school year. Beginning at 6:00 p.m. tomorrow we will hold a Preschool and Kindergarten Information Night in the Bresnahan Gymnasium.

Do you have:

- *A preschooler who will be 3 by September 1, 2017?*
- *A pre-kindergartner who will be 4 by September 1, 2017?*
- *A kindergartner who will be 5 by September 1, 2017?*

Or do you know a Newburyport family that has:

- *A preschooler who will be 3 by September 1, 2017?*
- *A pre-kindergartner who will be 4 by September 1, 2017?*
- *A kindergartner who will be 5 by September 1, 2017?*

Then, please plan on joining us for Preschool and Kindergarten Information Night on January 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. (preschool & pre-kindergarten) and 7:00 p.m. (kindergarten). Please help us spread the word!

We will be offering the following programs in our integrated program during the 2017-2018 school year:

**Preschool Model** Designed for students who are 3 by September 1<sup>st</sup> and are experiencing their first year in school. Our integrated program offers center-based activities structured through play. Skills are taught in a developmental sequence are embedded through daily routines.

**Multi-Age Model** An extended learning program designed to meet the needs of students who are 3 or 4 by September 1<sup>st</sup>. The program focuses on social responsibility in which older children can develop leadership skills and younger children are motivated to learn from their peers. The learning environment is designed to meet the age and developmental



levels of the students within the classroom through differentiation of curriculum and activities.

**Pre-Kindergarten Model** Designed for students who are 4 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> and students who turn 5 after the September 1<sup>st</sup> kindergarten cut-off. The pre-kindergarten model builds upon the preschool integrated model. It also incorporates more advanced academic skills and kindergarten readiness skills in alignment with the National Common Core standards.

Please join us tomorrow night- January 25, 2017 to meet the staff, learn about our programs and tour our school. All application forms and registration procedures are available on-line at the following links:

**PRESCHOOL & PRE-KINDERGARTEN**  
**KINDERGARTEN**

Warmly,  
*Amy B. Sullivan*  
Principal of PK/K

*Kristina Davis*  
Principal of 1-3

*Karina Mascia*  
Assistant Principal

## *Spotlight on...*



The World Harlem Globetrotters bring their ridiculous basketball skills and amazing athletics to the TD Garden on Sunday, March 5 at 1:00PM. The half time performance will be by the Newburyport Third Grade Teams of Tomorrow Basketball Skills Demonstration Team! Tickets must be ordered and paid through Mrs. Hill by February 17, 2017. Please order through Mrs. Hill so all performers, players and supporters will sit together near the team. Front row Loge 15/ Club 145 seats are \$42 each and Corner Loge 15 seats are \$35 each. See the flyer in Take A Look Tuesday. Questions? Email [chill@newburyport.k12.ma.us](mailto:chill@newburyport.k12.ma.us)



# PTO Highlights

1. Wednesday, 1/25, Metzy's will contribute a portion of the proceeds from all orders to the PTO. Good for lunch and dinner, eat in, take out, or delivery!



2. ASEP Registration will begin on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. Session runs the week of 3/6 through the week of 4/10.



3. Interested in helping with the Spring 5K? Email [amanda.bugli@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.bugli@gmail.com) to find out more!



4. PTO is in need of an Assistant Treasurer AND someone to take on the After School Enrichment Program next year. Contact [amanda.bugli@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.bugli@gmail.com) with questions about these positions.



5. Can YOU represent your country of origin at the PTO Multicultural Night? Volunteers needed for Country Booths!



6. Winfrey's Valentine's Day Fudge Fundraiser! Orders and payment are due by **February 1st**



7. Gather up those Box Tops! Collection coming soon!

