



Bucketful of News...



Francis T. Bresnahan School

333 High Street Newburyport, MA 01950

Important Dates:

March 6-April 10th
PTO ASEP begins.

March 8
Bring Your Parent to School and Bring Your Parent to Lunch Day for Mrs. Herzig, Mrs. O'Malley and Mrs. Ouellette's Kindergarten Classes.

PTO Sponsored Oregon's Night- Grades PKK,
4:00- 7:30 p.m. @
Oregon's Restaurant,
Pleasant St, Newburyport

March 10
PTO Sponsored Country Dance, Grades 1-3

March 10-April 1st
Young and Budding Artists Exhibition at Newburyport Art Association ~ Look for more details in ***Take A Look Tuesday***

March 13
School Council 3:15

March 15
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 16
Professional Development Day, No school for students

March 20

Principally Speaking...

This week we are excited to publish an article by Linda Dodge, our preschool and kindergarten intense special needs teacher, that appears in the latest issue of the Greater Newburyport Mothers and Families Club newsletter.

How to Talk to Kids About Autism

by Linda M. Dodge, M.Ed., BCBA, LABA
Special Education Teacher

....Hey mom, there is a boy who comes into my class who doesn't really want to play with any of us. He doesn't talk or look at us and he makes funny noises. When we sit at morning meeting he flaps his hands and moves his body and a teacher has to sit behind him all the time. He kind of scares me when he makes those noises. His teacher always lets him have a fun ball to hold or a goldfish to eat. Why can't I get something to hold or eat all the time? Or... dad I keep trying to play with a boy in my class at recess. I really like him but he doesn't want to play any of the games we play. All he wants to do is swing. I like to swing too but not ALL the time! Why doesn't he want to do something different? Or....mom, remember that friend I really liked in preschool. We did lots of things together. We built blocks, painted and went to the sensory table together. She didn't really talk much but we did lots of things together. She is in my class in kindergarten this year! But she doesn't come to class very much now when we do our work and when she does she works on different things than me! The teacher lets me sit next to her and I even get to help sometimes! I like being her friend!

Have any of you been asked these questions by your child? The child your son or daughter is talking about may have autism. Autism is a developmental disability characterized by difficulties in social interactions such as decreased or absent play skills, difficulty making friends, understanding other's feelings, lack of interest in others as well as repetitive or restrictive behaviors (flapping hands, flicking objects, limited interests,) and speech/communication deficits (repeating words, nonverbal, unable to follow directions). Approximately 1 in 68 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) according to estimates from CDC Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network. ASD is about 4.5 times more common among boys (1 in 42) than among girls (1 in

- Progress Reports, Grades 1-3
- Scholastic Book Fair is Coming! Stay tuned for the details!

March 22

Bring Your Parent to School Day, 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.

March 22

PTO Sponsored Oregano's Night, grades 1-3

March 24

PTO Sponsored Cultural Night

March 30

Coffee with the Principals, 7:00 PM

189) and ASD is reported to occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20634960> .

While there is no cure for autism there is treatment. Children with autism benefit from intensive therapy to address deficits in social skills, decrease behaviors and increase communicative skills. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a scientific and systematic approach to understanding and improving human behavior.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) specifies that all children with disabilities are entitled to a "free and appropriate public education" regardless of their abilities. Children with autism do not learn the same way that typically developing children do. Most require explicit instruction to learn basic skills such as making eye contact, attending to a speaker, interacting with peers, increasing functional play, transitioning from one activity to another and learning to make their needs and wants known appropriately. We are fortunate to have staff here at the Bresnahan School and throughout the Newburyport School District who are trained in applied behavior analysis and who can provide the necessary individual instruction to many of these students. An important part of any instruction is to learn how to generalize the information you have learned. So, it is important for children with autism to "practice" the skills they do learn while in intensive therapies. That is why children with autism are members of your child's classroom often with the support of a trained Instructional Assistant. Children can be wonderful role models! Because children with disabilities are entitled to intervention from birth, many children with disabilities have been included with their typically developing peers in their classrooms since turning 3! What a wonderful opportunity for children to develop empathy, practice compromise and learn about how we are all the same but are all so different! These are our children, our neighbors' children and part of our community. Please encourage your child to embrace differences, ask questions and include children who may have a difficult time making friends or who don't get invited to birthday parties or who may not be asked on playdates. You will raise a child who is confident, caring and accepting. What more could a mom or dad ask for?

Warmly,

Amy B. Sullivan

Principal of PK/K

Kristina Davis

Principal of 1-3

Karina Mascia

Assistant Principal

Spotlight on...

A Message from Director of Youth and Recreation Services, Andrea Egmont

March is quickly approaching and The BEACON Coalition is excited to announce the 2nd Annual Addiction, Prevention and Awareness Month. March will once again highlight community initiatives to foster healthy youth development and decrease substance abuse through a series of events taking place in the community throughout the month.

Please mark your calendars for our first event, a panel discussion on The New Massachusetts Marijuana Laws with Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives, Mayor Donna Holaday, and Marshall Mark Murray from the Newburyport Police Department. This event will take place on Wednesday, March 1st from 7:00-8:30pm at the Newburyport

City Hall. This event is designed for the public to learn about some of the new regulations and to provide an opportunity to ask questions. The event is free and open to the public.

Other events taking place throughout the month of March include:

- Parenting Today: Understanding Protective Factors for Your Kids on March 15th from 6:30pm-7:30pm at the Brown School (free childcare provided),
- 9th Annual Asset Builder Awards on Tuesday, March 21st at the Newburyport City Hall from 7:00-8:30pm (winners announced next week),
- Community TiPS Training on Saturday, March 25th from 10:00am -3:00pm at the Newburyport Public Library in the program room.

In addition, the BEACON is also doing a social norms campaign for middle school youth at the RA Nock School, presenting at the Newburyport Public Schools Professional Development day and offering an additional TiPS training for local bars.

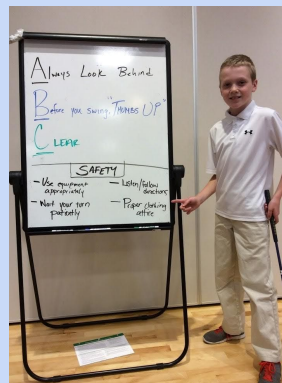
*Andrea Egmont, MS, CPRP
Director of Youth and Recreation Services
Newburyport Youth Services*

Spotlight on...Lifelong Fitness

If you didn't see the Monday, February 20th issue of the Newburyport Currant, please check it out at

<http://newburyport.wickedlocal.com/news/20170220/shaping-future-bresnahan-school-program-promotes-lifelong-fitness>

Kudos to Mrs. Hill and Mr. Craddock for their efforts in developing the curriculum focused on non-competitive activity, health and wellness.



An Important Note About Our Lost & Found

Our Lost & Found will be donated after **March 15th**. We have quite a few items that we hope you will stop by to check if your student has lost anything. The Lost & Found is located near the cafeteria outside the GR. 1-3 office. Please check in and check it out!!

PTO Highlights

It's a busy spring for the PTO!

Oregeno's Opportunity Nights are coming! Stop by between 4:30- 8:30 and maybe you'll see some of your favorite staff helping serve your dinner! Be sure to make reservations! PreK/K night is THIS WEDNESDAY 3/8! 1-3 night will be 3/22.

Bresnahan Ho Down! Friday, March 10th from 6-7:30 p.m. for students in Grades 1-3 and their families. All children must be accompanied by an adult! If you would like to donate water, cookies or goldfish see our Signup Genius on Facebook.

Reminder: ASEP sessions start this week!

Join the SPRING FEVER 5K organizing team! Roles large and small, and no commitment or helping hand is too small. If you would like to help but couldn't attend the first meeting, please email erinleighmoon@yahoo.com.

Last Call! Can YOU represent your country of origin at the PTO Multicultural Night? Email Afroz at afroz414@gmail.com if you are interested.

This month's PTO meeting will be held on 3/15 at 7pm. We are meeting at the Commune Cafe in Newburyport. Join us for a cup of coffee or tea or dessert and hear about everything the PTO has going on this spring!