



A Bucketful of News...



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

Important Dates:

October 26

Title One
Informational Coffee,
8:30 - 9:30, Cafeteria

PTO Meeting, 7:00 PM
Bresnahan Cafeteria

October 28

**1:30 Halloween
Sing-A-Long
(students only)**

**1:45 Parade-
parents invited**

**Please note this is a
date change.**

**Parents are
welcome to attend
the parade which
will begin after the
singalong. Please
plan on arriving
along the sidewalk
in the parking lot
by 1:45 p.m.**

PK/K Halloween
Family Boo Bash, 6 -
7:30 PM



Principally Speaking...

This is our last installment in the Bucketful of News about the district's new strategic plan and Clipper Values. We hope you have found this series over the past several weeks to be informative and helpful in learning about our focus district-wide. This year we are specifically focusing on two strategies developed in the strategic plan- *Re-Imagining Teaching and Learning* and *Providing Supports so that All Students are Ready and Able to Learn*. Teachers are working in Professional Learning Communities on the identified steps to help us achieve these goals.

Yesterday afternoon, our new 2016-2017 School Council met and began to develop a communication survey that we will send to parents later in the year. The development of this survey is aligned to the action step of increasing school, parent and community communication. Stay tuned for more information about the survey. We will also include a spotlight on the new school council members in next week's Bucketful of News.

Strategy Focus 2016-2017

GOAL 1:

Strategy I: We will Re-imagine Teaching and Learning

Action Plan 1: All students' holistic and academic needs are met through teaching, curriculum and assessment methods.

- Step 1: Provide professional development for administrators and teachers on the topic of growth mindset. Such as Dweck.
- Step 2: Establish a Professional Learning Community culture in the district focused on student work in an ongoing process in which educators work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve. Professional Learning Communities operate under the assumption



November 1

Preschool and
Kindergarten Tuition
Due



[Click here to pay
Tuition On-Line](#)

November 2

Grade 2 Bring Your
Parent to Lunch Day



November 8

NO SCHOOL

Teacher Professional
Development Day

Election Day



November 9

Parent Conferences,
Grades 1-3, 6-8 pm

November 11

No School, Veteran's
Day



that the key to improved learning for students is continuous job-embedded learning for educators. Such as Dufour.

- Step 3: Collaborate in the study of topics directed at innovation and education reform, such as: a) student-centered inquiry b) project-based, and open-lab learning authentic learning: taking the learners' perspective, content that relates to the learners interest areas, and learning that refers to real activities and real situations c) alternative assessments grounded in constructivist learning theory (performance-based, portfolio, constructed response, product-focus, and process-focus) d) addressing habits of mind (such as empathy, perseverance, and confidence) in teaching and goal-setting (not grading) e) our changing world and changing schools; such as Tony Wagner. f) depth of content vs. breadth
- Step 4: Study content central to 21st century skills such as: global and cultural awareness, world languages, STEM, and communication
- Step 5: Use collaborative time (such as staff meetings) to acknowledge existing examples of innovative work and of positive risk-taking in our schools, with a stipulation that all of this be documented.
- Step 6: Identify ways to bring existing innovative practices throughout the district.

GOAL 2:

Strategy VII: We will provide supports so all students are ready and able to learn.

Action Plan 6: A safe and supportive school environment.

- Step 1: Create a safe and supportive schools framework.
- Step 2: Provide professional development for all staff about a safe and supportive schools framework.
- Step 3: Ensure opportunities for collaboration between schools and grade levels in the district.
- Step 4: Ensure that each student has a point person or supportive adult in the school building.
- Step 5: Increased school, parent and community communication.

Library, Tech and STEM Update

We are aware that there is a buzz among the parent community about the changes we have made this year to the students' special subject schedule. As you know, students in grades one through three are participating in a brand new STEM program as a result of the NEF's generous support of STEM in our schools. In previous communications, we have addressed STEM and the amazing hands-on, learning opportunities that children are experiencing. We now realize that we have not communicated on how STEM has been built into the schedule.



November 12

NEF Auction, Nbpt.
Senior and Community
Center 333 High St.,
6:00 p.m.

November 14

PTO-Sponsored
Cultural Event: Sheryl
Faye as Eleanor
Roosevelt, Grades 1-3

School Council
Meeting, 3:45 p.m.

November 16

Parent Conference,
PK-3, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

November 17

Parent Conferences
PK-3, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

November 23

Clipper Pride Day!



Early Dismissal

PK: 11:15 a.m.

K-3: 11:40 a.m.

November 24- 25

No School,
Thanksgiving Day



In order to build STEM into the special subject weekly rotation for students in grades one, two and three, we took library out of the rotation as we reenvisioned how we wanted transform our use of the library media center. We hired Kristin Spinney, as our STEM teacher, and merged Catherine Page’s role to serve as both our certified Library Media Specialist and Technology Integrator. In the library, we are moving toward the 21st Century Learning Commons model, where the library is an open space for students and teachers to come any time, with the exception of when PreK/K classes are scheduled. Learning Commons stem from the concept of the village green, where the townspeople gather to conduct a number of social and business activities like buying/selling/bartering goods and services, and exchanging important or useful information.

The Media Center of today serves the school and community much in the same way, and so--Bresnahan's library has been set up as a flexible, common area for accommodating multiple learning activities. There are areas for teachers to present information to their class, an internet-connected whiteboard/projector with amphitheater seating for multimedia presentation, browsing and reading nooks,



work tables set up for projects and collaboration, a technology cart, and two circulation desks for book exchange. In addition to this, the Media Center contains the entrance to the school's state-of-the-art computer lab, where students work on class projects, use technology to enhance their lessons, and engage in game-based learning. The

juxtaposition of the computer lab provides the perfect complement to the Media Center's learning potential.

How are we utilizing this new model?

For the younger students (preK/K), it is important to have a regularly scheduled visit to the Media Center, where the Media Specialist provides story time, related activities, and the opportunity to browse for books to check out and take home. The preK/K students enjoy the routine, and love coming to the library. On his way in one morning, one enthusiastic Kindergarten student made sure to stop and tell our Media Specialist, "I can't WAIT for library today!" During Open House Night, his parents told her that library was the highlight of his week.

For the older students, the Media Center is a place where, with the guidance of the teacher, and the assistance of the available library workers, they can explore genres, topics, and information more independently. For those students who visit weekly, their time in the Media Center provides them with the ability to practice crucial intellectual exploration and cognitive independence. Allowing students the freedom to search for books aligned to the curriculum, or simply for the pleasure of reading, provides more opportunities for decision making and higher level thinking.



1. Election Day Bake Sale.

Tuesday, 11/8.
Bakers needed!
Sign-up sheet to follow

2. Boo Bash for PK/K students and their parents/siblings!

Games, Photo Booth, Face Paint, Halloween Tattoos, and Family Jack-O-Lantern Carving Contest. Costumes encouraged! Pizza and water will be served. \$10 admission/family. October 28, 6:00-7:30 pm in the Bresnahan Gym and Cafeteria

3. Newburyport VIP Card gives discounts at 180+ local restaurants and retailers.

\$10 of your purchase will be donated to the Newburyport PTO!
www.newburyport.com/newburyport-pt
[o/](#)

Thus, our library has become the hub of learning at the Bresnahan where PK-3 students and teachers grow and learn together. The resources we have are state-of-the-art and we envision the library media center to be used often. Classroom teachers for grades 1-3 will bring students to the library on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to check-out books. The time for this is self-selected by classroom teachers according to their schedules or in collaboration with media specialist, Catherine Page. Many teachers have visited the library already with their students while others are still establishing routines, procedures, etc. that align with the first 6 weeks of school. Additionally, students are always welcomed to visit the media center when the media specialist, library assistant or parent volunteers are available to check out books. We are excited about the endless learning opportunities this model can provide as a result of co-facilitation, collaboration, and teaching with the media specialist.

Caroline McCarthy has joined our school community as a library assistant. Caroline is also a Bresnahan parent of a kindergartener, a Newburyport Public Library substitute as well as a certified Library Media Specialist. We are so fortunate to have an assistant that is a wonderful support for our students, teachers and Library Media Specialist.

Additionally, the library is supported by committed and trained parent volunteers. Ms. Page and Mrs. McCarthy provided a training to a group of dedicated volunteers. If you would like to volunteer in the media center, please reach out to Catherine Page at clpage@newburyport.k12.ma.us or sign-up to volunteer at nbpschoolvolunteers.org.

On an entirely separate note, we have a special request-- no more **Pokemon Cards** at school please. We recognize that many students are bringing Pokemon cards to school to share at recess. At first, we thought it would be ok for students to participate in this activity but unfortunately we have found that trading the cards has led to problems between students and some hurt feelings. We are asking for your support with having your child keep these at home from hereonin. Thank you for your cooperation.

Until next week,

Amy B. Sullivan
Principal of PK/K

Kristina Davis
Principal of 1-3

Karina Mascia
Assistant Principal

Lost & Found



Please check our Lost & Found table in the 1st Floor Lobby across from the Gym for your lost items! Unclaimed items will be donated on Thursday, November 10th.

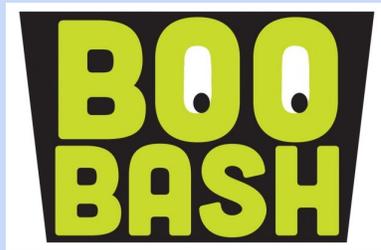
4. Open Board

Positions:

Information
Technology
Coordinator,
Assistant Treasurer

**5. PTO October
General Meeting
is Wednesday,
October 26 in the
Bresnahan
Cafeteria. All**

parents are
encouraged to
attend!



**PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN
FAMILY BOO BASH**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28 TH
6:00-7:30 P.M.**

IN THE BRESNAHAN GYM & CAFETERIA

Please join us for our annual Early Childhood **Boo Bash** for preschoolers,
kindergartners and their parents and siblings.

Activities will include:

Ghost Bowling, Spider-web Toss, Photo Booth, Witch Pitch
Face Paint, Halloween Tattoos, Cookie Decorating

Children and adults may dress in costume for this fun event. Pizza and water will be served.

****Don't forget to bring a carved pumpkin for the pumpkin carving
contest.***

Special prize for the winner!!