



**A Bucketful
of News...**



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

**Important
Dates**

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

October 4th

Principally Speaking...

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 which focus on re-imagining teaching and learning and creating a safe and supportive school. 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”.

**Newburyport Public Schools
Mission Statement**

The mission of the Newburyport Public Schools, the port where tradition and innovation converge, is to ensure each student achieves intellectual and personal excellence and is equipped for life experiences through a system distinguished by students, staff, and community who: - practice kindness and perseverance - celebrate each unique individual - value creativity; experiential; rigorous educational opportunities; scholarly pursuits; and life-long learning - provide the nurturing environments for emotional, social, and physical growth - understand and embrace their role as global citizens.

Community Meeting

Last Thursday, Bresnahan School students attended our school’s first community meeting. As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, the Bresnahan School is committed to becoming a safe and supportive environment for all students and adults. 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

Title One
Informational
Meeting, 8:30 AM

October 5th

International Walk
to School Day

October 6th

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

**American
Music and
Harvest
Festival**



Enjoy a full day of
live music, baseball,
and farm activities at
the historic
Spencer-Peirce-Little
farm in Newbury.
This festival
celebrates everything
from New Orleans
brass bands to rock,

Hallways

- Voices off 
- Personal space 
- Eyes forward 
- Walking in a line 
- Smile to say Hello 

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).

Voice Levels	
2	Outside Voice 
1	Inside / Classroom Voice 
0	Zero Voices 



**Buddy
Bench**

During the community meeting we also introduced the students to the Bresnahan School's new buddy bench!!! The buddy bench was graciously gifted to our school on behalf of the Joseph Middlemiss Big Heart Foundation and Kindness Champion, Samantha Gibbs.



Six year old Joseph Middlemiss, lost his life unexpectedly to Cardiomyopathy on September 23, 2013. (Cardiomyopathy (KAR-de-o-mi-OP-ah-thee) is a disease of the heart muscle.)

Joey's infectious laugh, and curly-lashed blue eyes were never happier than the day his baby brother was born. His special heart held a wisdom and empathy far beyond his 6 years. He was a student at the Tyngsboro Elementary School where he spent many happy days alongside his many friends as well as his Dad, Scott, who is the Associate Principal.

Joseph's parents, Scott and Kate Middlemiss, have created this foundation to honor their beautiful son by continuing the kindness and love that Joey shined on everyone. The Foundations 3 Main Objectives:

1. To expand "The Joseph Middlemiss All You Need is Love Mission," fostering the spread and documentation of Random Acts of Kindness on local, national and international fronts.

funk, jazz, and beyond.

2016 FESTIVAL INFO:

**Saturday,
September 24th
10:00 a.m. to
7:00 p.m.**

Get your tickets now!

THIS YEAR'S BANDS

Freevolt
Das Pintos
Watts
The Fawns
Soggy Po Boys
B11
King Carubia's Hot Society Band
Encore
Portermen
Zach Fields Drum Circle
Community stage with GNCC and Chuck Walker Jazz

Experience a variety of farm activities and crafts during the festival:

Meet friendly farm animals;
Watch the Essex Base Ball Association play by 1861 rules;
See tractors and other farm equipment from the last eighty years;
Try your hand at corn husking;
Learn how farm machines pump water, press cider, and help with the harvest;

2. To educate children on the power of kindness by supporting the efforts of schools (creating and leading motivational assemblies, providing books and related resources), and empowering students through scholarships for music and martial arts.
3. To contribute to research for and spread awareness of childhood heart conditions while providing financial, social and emotional assistance to families impacted by these.

In support of our teaching of bucket-filling and our new Clipper Values we were honored to accept the donation of a buddy bench from Samantha Gibbs. Samantha is a student in Reading, MA and the daughter of our former School Adjustment Counselor, Lisa Gibbs. Last year, Samantha worked to solve a problem in her community as part of her requirement for a silver award as a Girl Scout Cadet. She chose to focus her project on friendship and inclusion, which resulted in a partnership with the Joseph Middlemiss Big Heart Foundation that her mother worked closely with during her time in the Newburyport Public Schools. Please take a moment and watch the video that Samantha made to introduce students to the concept of the Buddy Bench.



[View Buddy Bench Video on YouTube](#)

Please stop by and take a peek about our spectacular new addition to a playground-located adjacent to the large playground in the back of the school!

New Parent Support Group

Newburyport Youth Services is offering a New Parent Support Group beginning on tomorrow, September 14th from 10:00 11:00 AM at the Newburyport Recreation Center. Melinda Crossman, LICSW will facilitate each session. This is a drop-in center approach and is free! Please *take a look* at the published flyer included in today's posted notices.

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.

Amy B. Sullivan
Principal of PK/K

Kristina Davis
Principal of 1-3

Karina Mascia
Assistant Principal of 1-3

Enjoy a wagon ride through brightly colored autumn fields;
Tour the 1690 stone and brick manor house;
...and much more!



Grades 1-3

September

22nd

6 - 8 PM

PK/K

October 6

PK: 6 PM

K: 7 PM

Spotlight On...Introduction of New Staff continued



Jill Grelle is a Physical Therapist who has been practicing in the pediatric field for over 10 years. She received her B.S. from the University of Connecticut in Human Development and Family Studies and her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from MGH Institute of Health Professions. She has worked in a variety of settings, including: Children's Hospital Boston, Exeter Hospital's Pediatric Rehab Center, Seacoast of NH area schools, as well as our own Molin, Nock and High Schools. She is excited to work with the younger students to watch them grow and develop functional skills in their natural environment. Welcome, Jill!



Dennis Mathew has joined the Bresnahan Staff this fall as a Speech and Language Pathologist, filling in for Lisa Bartholomew who is on maternity leave. Dennis graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a Masters in Speech Language Pathology. This is Dennis' tenth year working in school settings with children of all age groups preschool through high school. Most recently, Dennis worked at Newburyport High School and we are thrilled to have him at the Bresnahan helping us out this fall.



Colleen Wile is our new School Adjustment Counselor and comes to us dually certified as a school adjustment counselor and licensed mental health counselor. Most recently she has worked as a school adjustment counselor at the Lowell Community Charter School with a very diverse population. She is familiar with both the Responsive Classroom program and the Social Thinking curriculum Prior to working at the Lowell Community Charter School, Colleen worked at Saint Anne's Hospital on a unit with some of the most challenging children with social, emotional, behavioral and mental challenges. She has also worked to supervise doctoral candidates pursuing counseling degrees.