

The PEIRCE LINK

A Near-Weekly Publication of the Peirce PTO

Absent/Tardy: (617) 559-9650

Peirce Office: (617) 559-9630

<http://www.k12.newton.ma.us/Peirce/>

Patience Equality Inclusion Responsibility Cooperation Effort

Calendar

October

- 4 Family Picture Day
- 12 Columbus Day, NO SCHOOL
- 17 Mystery Progressive Dinner
- 22 Early Dismissal at 12:30PM
- 22 & 23 Book Fair, Peirce Gym
- 31 Family Picture Day

Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear Peirce Families,

Thank you to Amy Harkins and Maureen Kocisko for organizing the teacher appreciation breakfast and to the parents who donated food. One of the most important roles of the PTO and all the parents at Peirce is to support our teachers.

To our teachers at Peirce – we are lucky to have such a team of dedicated, hardworking, and amazingly talented people who have such an important role in our children's lives.

This Wednesday, October 7th is International walk to school day. The Peirce community is using the walk to school as the first step to change community culture and create environments that are more inviting for everyone. The walk to school day is intended for the health and safety of our kids and environment. Please use this day to enjoy a walk through the neighborhood with your children. Leave the house ten minutes early so that you can stop and talk to neighbors, enjoy the nature around you, and chat with your children about their day ahead. If your children do not want to walk have them scooter, bike or even pogo stick!. If you live outside the neighborhood consider walking to your bus stop or dropping your kids off a few streets away and walking. If you have any questions about this event please contact our coordinator Paula Gannon (psgannon@comcast.net).

Sincerely,

Penny Macht, Jody Klein, and Janet Clay

School News

WORD OF THE WEEK –Dawdle (verb) : to do something slowly or to waste time. Monday- Jenny dawdled over her breakfast.

STRATEGIC PLAN TASK FORCE: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - In the process of strategic planning, a number of promising ideas were put forward. We are establishing task forces to study three of these ideas in greater depth. Each task force will have a team leader and include both educators and community volunteers. The team leader will establish a process for selecting other team members who will work together to establish goals and timeframes. After they are constituted and have developed a timetable, each task force will report to the School Committee about their proposed

work. The three task forces are: *Partnerships with academic institutions and businesses*, *Virtual learning opportunities*, *Expanded learning time*. A description of each task force and how to apply may be found at the end of the newsletter.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE BOOK FAIR: The Annual PTO Book Fair will be held Thursday and Friday, October 22 and 23. We need your help to set-up, staff, and break down the book fair. Please sign up to lend a hand! We need your help Wednesday from 4:15 – 6:00PM for set-up, Thursday 7-7PM, and Friday 8-8PM. You can work as much, or as little, as your schedule permits. Please e-mail your availability to Vicki Spetter (vspetter@earthlink.net) or sign up on the sheet in the lobby.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM - Mark your calendars and get your walking shoes ready! On Wednesday October 7, 3 million school children from around the world are joining together to walk to school in the 13th annual International Walk to School Day. Did you know that children who walk to school are better prepared to learn when they arrive? When you were young, you most likely walked to school. Maybe you took the bus. Very few children a generation ago were driven to school. Today, too many children are driven to and from school. This is impacting the feeling of community at our neighborhood schools and creating dangerous traffic situations near the schools. Please consider joining your Peirce neighbors on October 7 and walk with your children to school. You may learn that it isn't that hard or that far after all. You can show how important it is that we build and maintain walkable neighborhoods. You can make a statement about the importance of more exercise for our children, and best of all you can have fun! If you would like more information, or if you have ideas you would like to share, please contact the Peirce School coordinator for the Newton Safe Routes to School program, Paula Gannon at psgannon@comcast.net or at 617-694-1973.

ROOM PARENT SIGN UP FOR RANDOLPH, MITCHELL, BROOKS – We still need room parents for the Randolph, Mitchell, and Brooks classrooms. We would like to have two or more parents per classroom. If you are interested please contact Kathleen Kusiak 617-842-6611 or Kathleen.Kusiak@verizon.net.

The responsibilities of the Room Parent include:

- communicating information from your teacher or the PTO to the other parents in the class
- helping the teacher as each teacher requires
- helping coordinate the class in the case of an emergency.

PTO SPEAKER - The PTOs of Peirce, Mason-Rice, Angier, Ward and Zervas schools are excited to announce the co-sponsoring of renowned speaker Dr. Edward Hallowell on October 26th at 7 pm at the Mason Rice auditorium. Dr. Edward M. Hallowell is a child and adult psychiatrist, and best-selling author of 14 books. He is a highly recognized speaker around the world and has prominently been featured in the media. His approachable style combines his expertise as a Harvard Medical School instructor with his uncanny understanding of human nature. Dr. Hallowell will be presenting on the family topics of strategies on handling your fast-paced life, and the Childhood Roots of Adult Happiness. For more information please contact Jody Klein at jbrownklein@comcast.net or refer to Dr. Hallowell's website at www.drhallowell.com.

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY FOR PEIRCE ACTIVITIES/EVENTS - Please note that any posters, email blasts, flyers, or other printed communications to the Peirce Community need to be reviewed and cleared by the Principal's office before distribution. This is to ensure that all messages to our students are appropriate. Also, before posting any notices on the doors and/or in the halls, as a courtesy, please check with the Principal's Office first.

HEALTH SCREENINGS - In the next few months the following mandated school health services will take place:

Heights and Weights	Grades: K, 1, 4
Hearing Screening	Grades: K, 1, 2, 3
Vision Screening	Grades: K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Becky Brooker, School Nurse, 617-559-9636.

GIFT WRAP FUNDRAISER EXTENDED - Our annual Innisbrook Gift Wrap Sale is EXTENDING for one more WEEK UNTIL OCT. 9! This year, the sale is online. Go to www.innisbrook.com and select EZ to enter your order (Peirce School number is 108572). To ensure a successful fundraiser we ask that you look at the catalog and share it with family and friends. Please feel free to email this blurb to out-of-town friends and family as they can order online and have their order shipped directly to them. There is a great selection for gift wrap, chocolates, gifts and other items. There are many new items in this year's catalog. Peirce PTO earns 50% on every purchase. Proceeds are used for enrichment programs, technology and classroom needs. Our hope is that everyone will participate in this fundraiser. Every student who

participates gets a prize. So please look through our catalog and help support our school. For information contact Nancy Breslin (617- 795-0696, nbreslin@bidmc.harvard.edu) or Mia Wenjen (617-332- 8135, mwenjen@aquent.com). Thank you for supporting our school.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE MYSTERY DINNER - Save the date and book a sitter for the Peirce Mystery Dinner, Saturday, October 17. Get ready for an evening of drinks, dinner, and dessert with fellow Peirce parents to raise money for your child's education - elementary, my dear Watson! Interested in hosting a meal or sponsoring cocktails: contact cynthiawillen@comcast.net or jmarcus1@mac.com

FAMILY PICTURE DAY - The Peirce PTO and Coffee Pond Productions are pleased to offer you an opportunity to have family pictures taken in a beautiful park setting. This fundraiser is a great opportunity for you to obtain wonderful family portraits while supporting your school. The available dates are October 4, or October 31 (rain dates are November 1 or November 8). The photos will be taken at Auburndale Cove. The cost of the photo shoot is \$70 (valued at \$200) per family. Half of this fee (\$35) is paid to the Peirce PTO, and the other half is to be paid to Coffee Pond at the time of the picture sitting. Once you have written the \$35 check to the Peirce PTO you can contact Coffee Pond directly to schedule a sitting at 508-907-6633 ext. 0. Your checks to the Peirce PTO can be dropped off in a box marked "Family Picture Day" near the school office. Please contact Heather Maffie at heather.maffie@comcast.net with any questions about this event.

NEWTON COMMUNITY ED CLASSES AT PEIRCE - Registration is now underway for fall classes with Newton Community Education. Coming up at Peirce we have Mad Science on Mondays, Manga (Japanese Cartooning) on Tuesdays, NEW Girls Science Club and Chess on Thursdays, and Drama and The Stockmarket Game on Fridays. Check out our family programs this fall (they include two kayak trips, Family Night Under the Stars, the returning favorite Chocolate Connection, Stargazing, and more), and our classes for older elementary schoolers, like Fencing at Bigelow; Robotics, Bio Lab, or Sewing at South; Archery at Day; Babysitting; and lots more. For younger kids as well as for soccer moms we have Saturday soccer, and for middle school siblings we have lots going on after school too. In addition we have a wide variety of classes at schools throughout Newton, and we welcome kids from all schools at all of our classes. For more information or to register, call our office at 617-559-6999 or visit our website at www.newtoncommunityed.org.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT POLICY STATEMENT – Please see Newton's Out-of-District Policy Statement attached at the end of this newsletter.

Community News

MENTORING - Could your child, ages 6 to 11, benefit from the consistent, caring friendship of a Newton teenager? Newton's One to One Program has an enthusiastic new group of high school seniors from Newton North and Newton South High Schools. If you would like the opportunity to have your matched this academic year with a "Big Brother/Sister", please call Nancy Holczer, Program Director, at 617.559.9063 by the end of October. Please leave a message on the answering machine, which includes your name, address, and phone number. A program of the Newton Public Schools since 1972. Funded by The Newton Partnership (formerly the Newton Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative).

NEWTON'S CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION (CAP) PROGRAM SEEKING VOLUNTEERS - Each year CAP volunteer Prevention Specialists present 125 workshops to students in Newton's kindergarten, second and fifth grade classrooms. Working in teams of 3 and using simple and age appropriate language, we address bullying, stranger safety, and sexual assault by known persons. We are looking for community members who are interested in becoming volunteer Prevention Specialists. We offer a flexible schedule to volunteers who enjoy teamwork and can make a commitment of six hours per month for one school year. Training begins October 23. Please note that the Newton Community Service Center requires all volunteers who work with children to participate in a personal interview and successfully pass a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) screening. For more information, contact Gail Sommer, Director, 617 969 5906, x 143 or gsommer@ncscweb.org.

MAYORAL ACCOUNTABILITY NIGHT - Newton Congregations and the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization Mayoral Accountability Night with final candidates Ruth Balser and Setti Warren. Wednesday October 14, 7-9PM, Temple Beth Avodah, 45 Puddingstone Lane, Newton. Greater Boston Interfaith Organization member churches and synagogues in Newton and allied Newton religious congregations will present our platform of shared issue priorities to the candidates, asking each to endorse this platform and implement it during their term of office.

RESOURCE FOR KIDS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES - The No Biggie Bunch has landed in Newton with their latest title: TRADE-OR-TREAT HALLOWEEN. The No Biggie Bunch Children's Book Series helps to start the food allergy conversation in positive ways giving the opportunity for kids to creatively cope with their food allergies in social situations. Meet the bunch and order books at www.nobiggiebunch.com. Author readings available upon request. Reach us by email at info@nobiggiebunch.com.

SPECIAL NEEDS DRAMA TROUPE - All Newton Music School is offering a class for kids with special needs ages 10-13 yrs. old Mondays from 4:00 – 4:45PM. The theater class will be full of games, plays and fun. Drama David, a teacher for the past 16 years, offers a class where students of varying needs can feel successful and confident on stage. The class will focus on movement, projection, reactions and stage cues. Using several different techniques, Drama David will help bring voices out of the children. If interested, you can call the school at 617-527-4553 or go on the website at www.allnewtonmusic.com. If you have any questions, you can e-mail David Gaita at david_gaita@newton.k12.ma.us.

RAISING HAPPY, SUCCESSFUL AND MORAL CHILDREN - A Lecture with Richard Weissbourd, author of *The Parents We Mean To Be: How Well-Intentioned Adults Undermine Children's Moral and Emotional Development*. Wednesday, October 28. Mount Ida College, 777 Dedham St., Newton, Carlson Hall Auditorium, 6:00 to 7:30PM. To register please contact Marlene Greenstein at 617.928.4530 or mgreenstein@mountida.edu.

PUMPKIN PATCH - The United Parish of Auburndale is hosting its third annual Pumpkin Patch, from October 4 through October 31. Pumpkins large and small, gourds and baked goods will be for sale. The proceeds help the UPA support a number of programs in the New England area. Don't miss this fun family outing! Pumpkin Patch hours are: M-F, 10AM-6PM; Sat, 9AM-5PM; and Sun, 11AM-6PM. The UPA is located at the corner of Woodland Road and Grove Street near Williams Elementary in Auburndale. For more information, please contact the UPA at 617-964-8516.

ART CLASSES – Children's art classes at the New Art Center starting now and in November! Many classes still have openings for the Early Fall Term (late September through end of October), and for the Late Fall Term (first week of November through mid-December). Visit our website to register for classes, call us, or stop by the New Art Center in Newtonville! Classes for children include Ceramics, Draw Fantasy & Manga, Artistic Architects, Play-n-Clay Clay Creatures, Adventures in Art, and Young Artists. We also offer a Saturday Drop-In Art Class for grades K-5 from 10 to 1:00PM with a different project each week. Check the New Art Center's many classes for Teens and Adults. For more information or to register, visit our website www.NewArtCenter.org, or call 617-964-3424.

ALL NEWTON MUSIC SCHOOL - Lessons and classes have begun but there is still time to enroll. ANMS offers lessons on most instruments. There are still openings in a few classes. You may begin lessons at any time. Late start lessons and classes will be prorated. You may check online at www.allnewtonmusicschool.com or call the Registrar Joseph LeBarron at 617-527-4553 with questions.

MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY - Kids Wanted! Let's put on a show! Join this troupe and learn to sing and act. Feel comfortable on stage singing, dancing and acting. "Willy Wonka", Junior, to be performed on stage and in costume at the Turtle Lane Playhouse in June 2010. A great opportunity for boys and girls ages 9-14 to perform in a professional theater space. Tuesdays from 3:30-5:00PM. Tuition is \$625 for 30 sessions. Laura Backley, Director. Go to <http://www.allnewtonmusicschool.com/> for more information.

BROADWAY CABARET WORKSHOP - This is an exciting introduction to the musical theater world. The workshop emphasizes proper singing technique, stage presence, and develops performer self-confidence. The performance of Disney's "The Aristocats"-Kids, will be a fully staged and costumed production. A great experience for kids ages 7-10. Thursdays from 6:00-6:45PM. Tuition is \$550 for 30 sessions. Laura Backley, Coach. Go to <http://www.allnewtonmusicschool.com/> for more information.

NEWTON SPECIAL EDUCATION - A guide to programs for Preschool to Grade 12: Judy Levin-Charns, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. of Student Services will present and discuss the 2009-2010 program guide for special education. Staff in leadership roles for the programs will lead the discussion. Two Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00PM: Sept. 21 for middle and high school families; October 5 for preschool and elementary families. Open to all. Refreshments offered at 7:15PM, before the program. The Education Center, 100 Washington Street, Room 210. Information: www.newtonpac.org or email info@newtonpac.org.

NEWTON GIRLS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (NGBA) - Registration is underway for the upcoming Newton Girls Basketball season. Second graders through high school. Recreational league for Newton girls, beginners and experienced players alike! Games on Saturdays for all grades, December 5 through mid-March; Grades 3-8 practice for 1-hour on one evening during the week (Mon-Thurs). No weekday practices for Grade 2 and High School. Registrations are due by Tuesday, October 20, for Grades 2-8, and Monday, November 30, for High School. Late fee applies after those dates. Scholarships are available based on need; please see the website for details. Pre-season clinics for grades 3-6 will take place on Sunday, October 25, and Sunday, November 22. To register or for more information, please visit our website at www.ngba.net.

BASKETBALL OPP FOR GRADE 4 GIRLS - Newton Metrowest Basketball is a program that has developed most of the players currently playing at our two high schools. We stress skill development, sportsmanship and fun in a slightly more intensive (but very manageable!) structure than NGBA. The Newton travel basketball program begins in 4th grade and runs through 8th grade. Newton places one team in each age group in the Metrowest Basketball League, which is made

up of about 35 area towns. Because we only place only one (occasionally two) teams in each age group, we select the top players in each age group. Tryouts for 4th Grade Girl's Basketball will be held from 6-7:30PM at Brown Middle School on Tuesday October 13 and Tuesday October 20. Girls who would like to tryout should plan to attend both sessions. Teams start practicing in November. Every effort is made to encourage girls to play fall/spring soccer and other sports. Games are on Sundays from early December through early March. Teams generally practice twice per week. In 4th grade, it is possible for very committed girls to also play in the NGBA program, although many girls and their parents decide to play only in the travel program. In 4th grade we look more for interested athletes than polished basketball players. Learn more about the Metrowest Basketball League at <http://www.metrowestball.com/> or at www.eteamz.com/NewtonTravelBB

A STEP AHEAD BASKETBALL - This fall "A Step Ahead" is offering variety of after-school and weekend classes for boys and girls ages 7-17 in Newton. For more information please visit www.asahoops.com or contact Coach Smith at 617-909-5990 / Coachb@asahoops.com

NEWTON GIRL SCOUTS - Girl Scouting is open to girls in grades K-12 and adult volunteers. Parent or guardian signature required for registration. For more information, contact Newton Girl Scouts at newtongs@gmail.com or leave message at 617-671-1223.

ENERGY FITNESS & GYMNASTICS - High-quality gymnastics instruction in a non-competitive environment with low student-to-teacher ratios. Free cardio workouts for parents while children attend classes. Personal training for teens and adults. Birthday parties. Free trial classes. Two complimentary personal training sessions and one free nutritional consultation. E-mail frontdesk@energyfitnessgym.com for more information or visit www.energyfitnessgym.com for more info.

Classifieds

CAMBRIDGE FENCING CENTER - Newly-opened fencing club has been designed to create opportunities for men, women, and children of all ages to learn an excellent Olympic sport. Fencing classes, practices and individual lessons will be led by a renowned set of coaches with international experience including the Head Coaches of MIT and Harvard University. The club is a registered member of the United States Fencing Association (USFA) and fully committed to providing world class instruction and excellent service. Please look at our website www.cambridgefencingcenter.com e-mail us at cambridgefencingcenter@yahoo.com for more info and start your adventure with this fascinating activity today!

CHINESE TUTOR - In-Home Tutoring from an Experienced Chinese (Mandarin) Teacher. Effective--Personalized--Convenient. Stella has created a unique and creative way to teach a second language. E-mail her at stellapan@comcast.net or call 617-244-3827. Excellent references.

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE HOLIDAYS - Have current family portraiture taken at your home or at my photography studio, conveniently located in Newton near Homer Street. Please keep my photography services in mind for all your Bar Mitzvah needs. Call for an appointment today for your professional photo session. Visit the website <http://www.donnastangerphotography.com>.

SEEKING RENTAL - Single mom with two-year-old son seeks affordable rental housing in Metrowest area. One or two-bedroom apartment (or shared house with separate entrance) located near Rte. 128 would be ideal. Excellent references (including some from members of Peirce School community!) and employment history. Please contact merylkessler@comcast.net.

KIDS' KARATE - Free trial class and free uniform for those who enroll. Entry ages 1st through 5th grades, boys and girls. Friday, Nov. 6, 4:45-5:45, or Saturday, Nov. 7, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Cost per 7-Week Session: \$79 for once-a-week or \$99 for twice-a-week. Renting beautiful space at Trinity High School, Newton. For information package, please leave message at (617) 527-8052 or see kids-karate.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Parent-Child Home Programs of Newton Community Service Center is looking for volunteers to provide home visits to low income families with toddler children. Home visitors bring free literacy tools (books and toys) to the families and model ways to increase positive verbal interactions in the home. Training and weekly supervision is provided. Commitment is for 6 hr/week during the school year. Please contact Debbie Brush at 617-969-5906 ext 113 or at dbrush@ncscweb.org

FLUTE TEACHER - Nurturing, goal oriented FLUTE TEACHER welcomes new students of all ages and levels. First lesson is complimentary. Barbara@newtonfluteteacher.com or call Barbara Nakazawa (617) 527-4413.

TUTOR - Retired Newton teacher with K-8 certification available for tutoring. My classroom experience includes grades 2-6. I am familiar with the Newton curriculum and can focus on content areas as well as MCAS preparation and organization skills. References will be supplied upon request. If interested, please contact Judy Caragher: j-caragher@comcast.net. I can also be reached at 508 359 2010.

ART CLASSES - Beginner and intermediate students. Learn in my sunny private studio located in Newton Centre. No more than 5 students per class. For inquiries or enrollment please contact Judy Brickman at 617-964-0544 or jrb322@gamil.com. Peirce family references upon request.

PRIVATE TUTOR - Newton Public School teacher with Masters in Elementary Education and 9 years teaching experience. Available this year to tutor students in grades K-6 in all subject areas (reading, writing, math, etc.), be it for extra help, for enrichment work, or for general homework assistance. Email or call Alicia Arkin at 617-875-6870 or aliciakeat@aol.com.

LICE REMOVAL - Lice Aunties is an in-home, non toxic, all mom, lice removal business based in Newton. Thousands of heads checked with affection and a sense of humor. www.liceaunties.com

ACTIVEMINDS TUTORING - Your source for in-home tutoring. Effective, Personalized and Convenient. All grades/all subjects, including test preparation (MCAS, SAT, SSAT...). Sign your child up for academic success and receive a free lesson! Call: 617-663-5700 during business hours, or 617-227-2225 Eve/Wknds. Please visit our web site at www.activemindstutoring.com.

YARD SALE OF THE DECADE - Saturday October 3 and Sunday October 4 from 9AM to 4PM. Linder Terrace, Newton Corner. Toys, kids' clothes, adult clothes, jewelry, books, furniture, art, and much, much more. Plus family fun activities. Rain or shine. Proceeds to benefit environmental programs of Green Decade/Newton. For more information go to www.greendecade.org

PIANO INSTRUCTION - Berklee & New England Conservatory graduate with 30 years teaching experience has several openings in studio. Beginners Welcome. Learn Jazz/Blues/Classical, theory, sightreading from a patient, caring teacher. Gloria Jasinski, phone: 617.566.9704, email: piano566@comcast.net

BOSTON PARENTING CONSULTING – BPC specializes in the in-home consulting of families with preschool aged to high school aged children. Issues may include behavior management, discipline, and positive parenting. BPC provides support to mothers, fathers, and others who are involved in the parenting of children. The philosophy of BPC is that parenting is the most difficult, and often the least appreciated and undervalued, job there is. As such, many caregivers want and need support to be sure they are doing the best job possible or help when additional resources are needed. Please check out my website or call for further information: www.parentingconsulting.com or 617-965-9121.

EXERCISE BOOT CAMP - Get in the best shape of your life and have fun doing it! Workouts That Work Boot Camps will use kettlebells, ropes, bands and more to get the heart pumping in the fat calories burning. Two Week Free Trial for first time boot campers only! Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30am at Lincoln Park (Waban Center). Email or call to reserve you spot today! Jen@workoutsthatworkbootcamps or 617-223-1050.

WEST NEWTON HILL HOUSE FOR RENT - 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 2 car garage, completely renovated, new kitchen and new appliances, hardwood floors throughout, large backyard, walking distance to Peirce. Please contact Laurent at 617-851-1350.

PEIRCE LINK SUBMISSIONS – *Please be sure to follow these simple guidelines when submitting an item for THE PEIRCE LINK. They will save the weekly editors a lot of time when formatting the newsletter. Basic Guidelines: Put all copy in ARIAL 10 PT.; CAP and BOLDFACE the titles of each item; Single space each item. Also, because the editors change from week to week, and because we receive a large volume of submissions, you need to resubmit your item each week. Otherwise, we can't guarantee it will be included. Thanks!*

Submissions may be made by email only to newtonpeirce@yahoo.com

Submission deadlines are Wednesdays, by 5:30pm.

For fairness and reliability, we strictly adhere to this deadline.

Coordinating Editor: Roberta Martone Pavia.

Editors: Alexa Dulchinos, Lisa Gianelly, Sarah Kish, Katya Salkever, and Holly Umina



Paul Stein, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2009

CONTACT: Paul Stein
617-559-6115

Out-of-District Policy Statement for School Publications

Out-of-District placements for students who wish to attend a school in Newton other than his/her district school are limited. Such placements are made on a space available basis only. Newton families, as well as members of Units A, B, C, D, E, NESAs, Custodians and Boston parents of students in the METCO Program, should call the Elementary Education Office (**grades K – 5**) at 617-559-6105 or the Deputy Superintendent's Office (**grades 6 – 12**) at 617-559-6115 for information. Students who receive acceptance for Out-of-District placement must remain in the school selected for the duration of the school year.

Applications for the following school year must be submitted on forms which will be available **beginning November 2** in the **Elementary Education Office (grades K – 5)**, Room 218, or the **Deputy Superintendent's Office (grades 6 – 12)**, Room 214, at the Education Center.

If necessary, a lottery will be implemented to determine the order in which placements will be made. Completed applications, signed by the in-district principal, can be submitted no earlier than January 4, 2010 and no later than March 31, 2010. Applications submitted after March 31, 2010 will not be included in the lottery.

Class size in a given grade, in a given year, in a specific school, may preclude any placements including siblings.

Parents will be responsible for transportation.

Tuition Free Enrollment is limited to the per pupil cost of regular education.

STRATEGIC PLAN TASK FORCES

Each task force will have 8 to 12 members, and will include (at a minimum) 3 teachers, 2 administrators, and 3 community members. At this point in time, we are looking for representatives to serve on each of these task forces.

Meetings will take place monthly according to the following schedule:

Monday, October 26
Monday, November 23
Monday, December 14
Monday, January 11
Monday, March 1

All meetings are 3:30 -- 5:30 PM.

Please consider joining one of these task forces. If you are interested in serving on a particular Task Force, please email the Task Force Leader of your our interest by October 16, 2009.

Task Force on Partnerships:~ This task force seeks to forge partnerships that will enhance professional development, curriculum and program development, and in turn, the quality of teaching and learning. Such partnerships would foster a dynamic learning environment, as well as create mechanisms through which NPS will more systematically hire and retain top quality, diverse educators. We intend to investigate various partnerships with local colleges, universities, businesses and organizations to rethink teacher training and professional development programs in order to attract and maintain a reliable pool of high quality, talented and diverse educators who are equipped with the mindset and skills necessary to realize the NPS's mission of developing students for a global age. Please contact Joe Russo at joseph_russo@newton.k12.ma.us <mailto:joseph_russo@newton.k12.ma.us> regarding the Partnerships Taskforce.

Task Force on Virtual Learning: The NPS as a Permeable Campus Working Group (spring, 2009) has recommended that "NPS should expand and explore online learning options for preK-12 students and the use of other online resources." During the past eight years, the Newton Public Schools' technology infrastructure (network, hardware, software, and professional development) has expanded to take advantage of a variety of online resources for students and teachers. Additionally, NPS has begun to offer online courses in two ways. One is for teacher professional development; the other is a blended learning opportunity for students. This task force will review these and other online models in order to make recommendations regarding the future and potentially expanded use of virtual learning in the Newton Public Schools. Please contact Shelley Chamberlain at shelley_chamberlain@newton.k12.ma.us <mailto:shelley_chamberlain@newton.k12.ma.us> regarding the Virtual Learning Taskforce.

Task Force on Expanded Learning Time (ELT). Quoting liberally from the recommendation of the Permeable Campus Working Group: Expanded Learning Time (ELT) rethinks and retools the traditional six-hour day/180 day school year. Today's students are required to know and do more than previous generations to remain competitive in our global economy. As we strive to teach more and more content, the constraint is time, and we endeavor to squeeze more and more into the school day. With ELT we treat time as "permeable;" it is a fundamental restructuring of the school day/week/year to accommodate student learning. It may provide 1) more instructional time in core subjects to support student achievement, 2) an opportunity to integrate enrichment and applied learning opportunities into the school day; and 3) more time for teachers to do common planning, engage in professional development and collaborate with community based organizations. The task force will review the potential of employing ELT in Newton, and make recommendations based on its research. Please contact Paul Stein at paul_stein@newton.k12.ma.us <mailto:paul_stein@newton.k12.ma.us> regarding the Extended Learning Time Taskforce.