

# 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

12 Columbus Day, NO SCHOOL

17 Mystery Progressive Dinner

22 Early Dismissal at 12:30PM

22 & 23 Book Fair, Peirce Gym

26 PTO Speaker

26 Parent Teacher Conferences Begin

31 Family Picture Day

### November

19 Moms' Night Out

## Principal's Letter

---

Dear Peirce Families,

Recently, at Curriculum Night I mentioned Newton's Strategic Plan. In June a strategic planning team published a report entitled "Vision 2020: A Strategic Plan for the Newton Public Schools." This report is the result of the work of teachers, parents, administrators, and school committee members and offers a clear and concise vision of what learning in the "global age" should look like. The report and related articles can be found on the Newton Schools' web pages at: [http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/strategic\\_planning/index.html](http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/strategic_planning/index.html).

This plan established a specific map for implementing 21<sup>st</sup> Century goals and skills (creative and critical thinking, inquiry, innovation, collaborative problem-solving, global understanding, empathy, information and media literacy, interdisciplinary learning) while emphasizing the importance of a core curriculum and high standards. Through the months ahead we will explore this work and how it relates to our ongoing work. Teachers will familiarize themselves with the report as we write our school improvement plan and they write their professional goals.

Related to this ongoing work of preparing our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the challenge of understanding our MCAS data from our 2009 tests for grades 3-5. At my principal's coffee on Friday, I shared with parents the many questions our Data Team is exploring on behalf of our faculty. Our grade 5 students (now grade 6) showed an increase in their joint proficiency and advanced scores of 4% over the previous year with a score of 88% in ELA and an increase of 5% with a score of 89% in Math. Our grade 4 students (now grade 5) showed an increase of 7% over the previous year in ELA with 92% of the students scoring in Advanced or Proficient and for Math there was a 1% increase with a score of 79%. In grade 3 our students showed a 4% increase over the previous year in ELA and scored in proficient and proficient plus with 71% and our math showed a decline for this particular test of 11% with a score of 69%.

Some of the questions we are asking ourselves are:

- In which test items did we score less than 80% accuracy?
- What happened with Open Response questions?
- Are all children internalizing test taking strategies?
- How did we perform with multi-step problems?
- What about the timing of when we teach particular math units?

We have already learned that the two Open Response questions for Grade 3 posed some difficulties for Peirce and did affect our scores. Immediately we know that we must review how our young children write to these questions. We also know the state only releases the first 13 test items for grade 3 ELA and the first 16 math test items, while for grade 4 a few more are released. We will not be able to read our students' individual open response answers but within a month we will be able to read our students' fourth grade compositions. However, there is much more data for us to review. After the faculty and I have met with the data team and have had the opportunity to review these results, I will share with you further information. In the meantime, we have so many successes and reasons to applaud our students' efforts. (We also made AYP.) Please be assured we will think carefully as we study the needs of our students and investigate ways we can improve to meet the curriculum state frameworks.

It is hard to believe already we are in the midst of October. I hope you enjoy the beauty of the New England autumn and its incredible colors.

Sincerely,

Ruth H. Chapman

## School News

---

**WORD OF THE WEEK** – Epilogue (noun): a short speech or piece of writing added to the end of a play, story or poem.

**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.

**PEIRCE BOOK FAIR** - Coming October 22, 8AM - 6PM and October 23, 8AM - 8PM. The Peirce Book Fair is sending readers on an adventure, giving them a passport to meet interesting people and visit amazing places through books. Bon voyage! Happy reading! Mark your calendars for the amazing selection of books that is headed our way. Come join the adventures, discover some new places and select some books for the entire family or classroom to share! Make sure you bring the entire family on Friday, October 23 from 6PM -8PM for Family Night at the Book Fair. Bring the family dressed in costumes for reading hour where the everyone can join in the fun! Check out our exciting Peirce School Book Fair Homepage <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/peircenewton> where you have the opportunity to preview some of the featured books or learn about volunteering. Please contact Book Fair organizers Audrey Lampert, Stella Lee, Julie Goldman, Vickie Spetter or Natalie Andreae with any questions.

**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](mailto:vspetter@earthlink.net)) or sign up on the sheet in the lobby.

**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 26 at 7PM 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](mailto:jbrownklein@comcast.net) or refer to Dr. Hallowell's website at [www.drhallowell.com](http://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.

**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](mailto:cynthiawillen@comcast.net) or [jmarcus1@mac.com](mailto:jmarcus1@mac.com)

**MOTHERS' NIGHT OUT** - Thursday, Nov. 19th, 7:00 -10:00PM. At the home of Shelby and Miceal Chamberlain, 49 Temple St, West Newton Cost: \$10. Please join other Peirce moms for a relaxing evening out. During the morning rush, it is often difficult to chat with other parents about your child's community. This is a great opportunity to meet other families and reconnect with old friends. Contact Debbie Drucker at [druckerdeb@yahoo.com](mailto:druckerdeb@yahoo.com) for more info.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.newtoncommunityed.org).

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

## Creative Arts and Sciences

**NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY GUESTS PERFORM** - On Wednesday, all Peirce students were treated to the first Creative Arts and Sciences Program of the year. Evan Drachman -- a New England Conservatory and Curtis Institute of Music trained cellist -- and accompanist Mary Au performed two concerts featuring works by Felix Mendelssohn, Frederic Chopin, Camille Saint-Saens and Anton Rubenstein. In each of the concerts the children were full of questions. They learned that they were listening to a 288-year-old cello hand-crafted in Venice; The horse-hair on bows comes from cold-weather horses (the best are from Siberia) because cold-weather horse hair is stronger than warm-weather horse hair; cellists use rosin on their bows for the same reason that baseball pitchers use it on their hands: to make the bow stick to the string – or the ball stick to the hand. The children also learned that composers often create stories in their music, and musicians then interpret and tell those stories to audiences in their own unique way. Evan Drachman is the founder and executive director of The Platigorsky Foundation, a non-profit organization named for Evan's grandfather, cellist Gregor

Piatigorsky. The organization is dedicated to evoking cultural curiosity through educational and accessible live performances. Your children and their teachers thank you for making this program possible through your generous contributions to the PTO.

## 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).

**UNDERSTANDING OUR DIFFERENCES** - The 30th Anniversary Celebration of Understanding Our Differences on November 10, 2009, 7- 9PM at the Brae Burn Country Club in Newton. The guest speaker is **Governor Deval Patrick**. Leadership Awards will be presented to Carol Kanin, past president of the Board of Directors, who has led with passion and wisdom to promote UOD's mission, and Ming Tsai, chef/owner of Blue Ginger Restaurant for his work with State Senator Cynthia Creem in promoting food allergy awareness. The Understanding Our Differences curriculum team members will be honored for their expertise and extraordinary dedication in updating the curriculum and developing the new Autism Spectrum Disorder unit. For more information or tickets, visit our website: [UnderstandingOurDifferences.org](http://UnderstandingOurDifferences.org) or call 617-559-6075.

**HELPING KIDS COPE WITH THE CANCER DIAGNOSIS OF A LOVED ONE**- Starting on Monday, October 19, and every day during the week of October 19, WGBH will be airing a special new episode of *Arthur*, called *The Great MacGrady*. This episode features Lance Armstrong as a special guest "star" and deals with the issues surrounding cancer and survivorship and helping kids to cope with the cancer diagnosis of a loved one. The real life segment of the episode features the Mason-Rice School community discussing how they dealt with their principal's (Mark Springer's) diagnosis and treatment of Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma three years ago. In conjunction with that episode, on Sunday, October 18 from 2:00 to 3:30PM, WGBH is conducting a special invitational screening of *The Great MacGrady*, followed by a panel discussion entitled "When a Child Knows Someone with Cancer: Helping Young Children Cope with the Cancer Diagnosis of a Loved One". A host of new resources and effective strategies for supporting young children as they cope with the cancer diagnosis of a loved one will be provided. This event is limited to guests over the age of 16. For more information and to make your reservations, go to [www.wgbh.org/arthursscreening](http://www.wgbh.org/arthursscreening), or you can call WGBH at 617-300-4200.

**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 three 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](mailto: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.

**MAYORAL CANDIDATES' FORUM** -NCSC's Council of Advisors will host a free Mayoral Forum on Tuesday, October 13 at 7:30AM. Moderated by Brooke Lipsitt, the Forum will focus on Ruth Balser's and Setti Warren's visions for providing a safety net to Newton citizens in this time of economic crisis and uncertainty. To ensure honest and candid responses, NCSC will not provide the candidates with a list of questions in advance. To be held at Newton Community Service Center, 492 Waltham Street in West Newton, the Forum will begin with a continental breakfast at 7:30AM. For more information or to RSVP, please call 617-969-5906, extension 300 by October 9. Walk-ins are welcome.

**MAYORAL DISCUSSION** - The Newton Highlands Area Council presents a discussion with Setti Warren and Ruth Balser on Thursday, October 15 at 8:00PM. at Brigham House, 20 Hartford St, Newton Highlands. The candidates will be answering questions from the audience. Refreshments will be served.

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE** - The CPC will meet on 21 October 2009 at 7PM in the City Hall Cafeteria (basement). The agenda includes a possible new process for considering supplemental funding requests; distribution (but not substantive discussion) of new proposals; supplemental funding requests for two projects at the Newton History Museum; and a working session on the proposal for the old Charles River railroad bridge and approaches in Newton Lower Falls. For details, contact Alice Ingerson at [aingerson@newtonma.gov](mailto:aingerson@newtonma.gov), 617.796.1144, or check the webpage at [www.ci.newton.ma.us/cpa](http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/cpa).

**KICKOFF MEETING FOR INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK** - Please join us Wednesday October 21 at 100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, Room 210, at 7:30PM to discuss Inclusive Technology. We will plan the citywide celebration that takes place the week of December 7. More details at <http://www.inclusiveschools.org/node/1767> The Newton Parent Advisory Council for Special Education serves as a resource for parents and as a liaison between parents and the school administration. All parents, teachers, specialists and others with an interest in education are welcome. Contact [info@newtonpac.org](mailto:info@newtonpac.org)

**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](http://www.nobiggiebunch.com). Author readings available upon request. Reach us by email at [info@nobiggiebunch.com](mailto:info@nobiggiebunch.com).

**NEWTON TOUCH A TRUCK**- Sunday, October 18, from noon to 4:00PM. This promises to be a wonderful low-cost family fun day, with proceeds from the suggested donation of \$7 per family/carload going to support nonprofit programming for young children and their families in Newton. More than 30 trucks will be available for kids to climb on and explore. Visits from the NN and NS mascots, free snacks, and opportunities for families to have their children fingerprinted are just part of what's in store. From noon to 1:00PM we will be hosting a special "horn-free hour" for kids who may be sensitive to loud noises

**BOWEN COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL**- Enrolling for 2010-2011. Serving the Newtonville area for over 50 years, Bowen embraces the whole child with a developmentally appropriate, play-based curriculum. We are especially proud of our *Transitional Kindergarten* which is designed for older 4's and young 5's who might need another year to develop socially or academically before moving to Kindergarten. In our unique TK program, older preschool children are challenged in a fun and nurturing way that fosters both independence and a sense of community. For more information about this and other programs at our school, please call 617-332-3923 or visit our website at [www.bowencoop.org](http://www.bowencoop.org).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR JEWISH STUDIES FREE LECTURE**- presents a free lecture open to the adult community led by Rabbi David Kudan. Join us on Sunday, November 1 from 10:00-12:00PM at the Oak Hill Middle School in Newton for a lecture on Essential Judaism. Rabbi Kudan will attempt to reveal the key concepts and ideas that have allowed Judaism to thrive throughout the centuries, creating itself anew from age to age. Contact [info@sundayschoolforjewishstudies.org](mailto:info@sundayschoolforjewishstudies.org) for more information.

**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](http://www.allnewtonmusic.com). If you have any questions, you can e-mail David Gaita at [david\\_gaita@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**HALLOWEEN CONCERT**- Winsor Music will present a Halloween concert on Saturday, October 31 at 2:00PM (repeated at 4:00PM) at St. Paul's Church, 15 St. Paul St., Brookline. The two programs will feature pieces played on the theremin (an eerie-sounding electronic instrument) with piano accompaniment. We DARE you to write a Halloween story! Kids, let

your imaginations run wild! Your story should be between 5 and 10 minutes long, and appropriate for all ages. The winning story will be read at the concert and accompanied by sound effects from the spooky theremin and the black keys of the piano. This is a rare opportunity for all young writers and Halloween lovers! Email your story to [info@winsormusic.org](mailto:info@winsormusic.org). Adults \$10 Children are FREE.

**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](http://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](http://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 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](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> grade and runs through 8<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> grade we look more for interested athletes than polished basketball players. Learn more about the Metrowest Basketball League at <http://www.metrowestbball.com/> or at [www.eteamz.com/NewtonTravelBB](http://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](http://www.asahoops.com) or contact Coach Smith at 617-909-5990 / [Coachb@asahoops.com](mailto:Coachb@asahoops.com)

**NAA BASKETBALL** -On-line Registration is now open for the 2009-10 NAA basketball season. The NAA is a nonprofit volunteer-run organization that organizes and administrators basketball leagues in Newton for boys who live in Newton or attend school in Newton. Our leagues are for players from the third grade through high school. To register, or to find out more about the league, please visit our website at [www.NAAbasketball.org](http://www.NAAbasketball.org). Registration deadline is October 20.

**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](mailto:newtongs@gmail.com) or leave message at 617-671-1223.

**CUB SCOUTS AT TEMPLE REYEIM** - Open To All. Cub Scout Pack 247 is looking for more boys to join in the fun! Camp-outs, rocket launching, Pinewood Derby races, and Paw Sox overnights are just some of our exciting events. We are affiliated with the Knox Trail Council of Boy Scouts of America, and chartered by Temple Reyim, located at 1860 Washington Street in Newton. Our pack is open to all boys in grades one through five, regardless of religious affiliation. Our first meeting will be Sunday October 18, at 4:30PM at Temple Reyim. Please see [www.reyim.org/cubscouts](http://www.reyim.org/cubscouts) for additional information, or email Stu at [glovesaker@aol.com](mailto:glovesaker@aol.com)

**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](mailto:frontdesk@energyfitnessgym.com) for more information or visit [www.energyfitnessgym.com](http://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](http://www.cambridgefencingcenter.com) or e-mail us at [cambridgefencingcenter@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 4:45-5:45PM, or Saturday, Nov. 7, 10:00-11:00AM. 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.activemindstutoring.com).

**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](mailto: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](http://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 your spot today! [Jen@workoutsthatworkbootcamps](mailto: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](mailto: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  
6115

**CONTACT:** Paul Stein  
617-559-

### **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) <[mailto: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) <[mailto: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) <[mailto:paul\\_stein@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:paul_stein@newton.k12.ma.us)> regarding the Extended Learning Time Taskforce.