

November 18, 2010

<b>The PEIRCE LINK</b>	A Bi-Weekly Publication of the Peirce PTO
	Absent/Tardy: (617) 559-9650 Peirce Office: (617) 559-9630 <a href="http://www.k12.newton.ma.us/Peirce/">http://www.k12.newton.ma.us/Peirce/</a>
Patience <u>E</u> quality <u>I</u> nclusion <u>R</u> esponsibility <u>C</u> ooperation <u>E</u> ffort	

## Calendar

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### November

- 18 SMARTBOARD Presentation, 7- 8PM
- 18 School Council meeting, 7:30AM
- 19 Parent coffee, 8:30AM, Library
- 24 Early Release; 12 noon
- 24 Friendship Walk and sing-along; 10:45AM – Noon; students only
- 25-28 Thanksgiving Break

### December

- 3 Walk to School Day
- 13 "Bullying in the Elementary Schools," Dr. Michael Thompson, 7:30-9:00PM

## Principal's Letter

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Dear Peirce Families,

I hope that this letter finds all of you staying healthy and enjoying the school year as we approach the Thanksgiving break. It is hard to believe that we have been in school for fifty days already, and we have come to the conclusion of our first session of Parent-Teacher Conferences. During these conferences, I trust that you had the opportunity to learn more about how your child is making progress relative to end-of-year curriculum benchmarks and ask questions about the ways that our instructional staff will support your child's individual learning needs. Please know that your questions and concerns are welcome at any time, and we greatly value the partnership between home and school.

Last Friday, we practiced a Lockdown (Shelter in Place) drill in which students identified secure locations within their classrooms where they would go in the event that a person inside or outside the building presented a threat through unsafe behavior. The drill was successful due to students' responsible cooperation and teachers' work of preparation. I am grateful to all members of the parent community for helping us maintain building security by remembering to check in at the office upon arrival, even if you are just dropping in for a moment, wearing Visitor badges if you are here during school hours, and reporting suspicious activity to the school office. In addition to procedures and practices designed to promote safety on a building level, we are also continuing to emphasize respectful and safe behavior in the classrooms and on the playground. You may hear your children refer to a 5-step rating scale that many staff members are using to help students put their frustrations in perspective. The scale ranges from Level 1 (Glitch) to Level 5 (Natural Disaster), with intermediate steps 2 (Small), 3 (Medium), and 4 (Big). The aim of using this scale is to prevent frustrations from erupting into harmful behavior by giving students a framework for explaining how they are feeling and imagining how they might solve their problems without resorting to angry words or hurtful actions. This aspect of social-emotional learning is a key part of a well-rounded elementary school experience as students become capable communicators and cooperative citizens.

In addition to developing self-awareness about their feelings and behavior choices, Second Grade students are developing meta-cognitive skills as they think about themselves as readers.

In both classes, students have been building on their practice of making text-to-text connections and text-to-self connections, and they are beginning to evaluate whether the connections they are making are truly helpful in understanding the story. This very abstract notion of "thinking about thinking" stretches students to a new level of awareness, and their ability to make judgments about the usefulness of connections becomes concrete when they identify with the feelings of characters. For example, students in **Miss Sullivan's** class have read the picture book *Hazel's Amazing Mother* by Rosemary Wells, in which the title character experiences the sorrow of having her favorite doll taken away and broken by other children at the park. They then discussed how their connections could be either based on literal facts (e.g., "I have a doll too.") or delve deeper into characters' experiences (e.g., "It hurts when someone breaks something important to you.") Students evaluated the relative strength of their connections in helping them comprehend the story and understand the characters, focusing on the "inside" connections with feelings as the most meaningful ways to connect with personalities in the story. **Mrs. Wyson's** class has evaluated their connections in the same manner as they have experienced the Roald Dahl novel *The Twits*, which presents two ogreish main characters and the plight of animals who escape from their influence. After reading chapters of the story, students completed written responses such as "I am like \_\_\_\_\_ because he \_\_\_\_\_." The focus is on supporting students in finding similarities and differences based on internal rather than external characteristics. We encourage all of you to ask your children probing questions about their connections with characters as you read together, helping them to get inside the minds of the people/creatures whom they experience in literature.

First Graders have been examining the lives of insects within rotting log terrariums as a part of their Life Science unit, looking at bees, bugs and crickets among other creatures. As they make observations, students are recording what they see in their Science journals and making judgments about the effect of habitat elements on the insects' lives and the purposes for the structures of the insects' bodies. In Math, First Graders are extending their knowledge about patterns, including number patterns such as skip-counting (by 2's, 5's, and 10's), and self-created patterns using cubes. They are also beginning work with subtraction story problems and using number lines to assist in building strength with addition and subtraction. You can help students build this skill at home by creating "take away" stories in which you give them (or have them draw) a set amount of objects, cover several, and ask "How many are still there?"

It was wonderful to see many of you at the Peirce Mystery Dinner on November 6, and we are all grateful to **Kathleen Kusiak** and **Sarah Perry** for all of their work in planning the event, to all of the hosts who graciously opened their homes, and to the families that sponsored the cocktail hour, all working together to make the dinner a successful fundraiser in support of essential PTO programs. I hope that all of you have an enjoyable and safe time with family and friends during the Thanksgiving break.

Sincerely,  
**Mark Chitty**

## School News

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**SMARTBOARD NIGHT AT PEIRCE – TONIGHT** November 18. Peirce School parents are invited to join Fifth Grade Teachers Jenna Ceddia and Kelly Champagne, along with staff members from the Newton Schools Foundation, to enjoy a demonstration of the capabilities of our newest interactive technology. Our teachers will give a brief lesson that showcases the interactive whiteboards and the ways in which they enhance instruction in various subject areas. Parents will have an opportunity to examine the technology and learn more about Newton Schools Foundation goals for the year. All are welcome! This event will be held at 7-8:00PM.

**SRTS – NEWTON FOOD PANTRY THANKS YOU!** - Our *Footsteps to Feed Families Walk to School Day* Friday November 5th was a tremendous success. Collectively we donated 25 bags of goods to the Newton Food Pantry. This will help support 10 – 15 families for the month. **Kuddos to all our walkers/bikers who braved the drizzle and wind to earn their “walking sticker” for the month. Remember.....the weather should not dictate whether you walk or not....but rather what you wear when you walk! Congratulations to Ms. DePasquale’s class and Ms. Ceddia’s class who tied this month for the “Golden Sneaker Award” with 86% students walking/biking. Mark your calendars now for our December 3<sup>rd</sup> walk to school day. More details coming soon.** If you would like to help with our *Safe Routes to School* program, or if you have questions or ideas you would like to share, please contact Paula Gannon at [psgannon@comcast.net](mailto:psgannon@comcast.net). or at 617-694-1973.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES NEW FOOD SERVICE OPERATION** - The School Committee is pleased to announce that it has reached agreement with the Nutrition Workers Unit on a multi-year agreement to shift all of food service operations for Newton Public Schools to Whitsons School Nutrition. Whitsons is a family run company headquartered in New York with food service operations across Massachusetts and the Northeast. Whitsons and the employee union have also reached an agreement, and the union membership voted to ratify both agreements. We acknowledge the many years of service that our food service employees have given to the Newton Public Schools. Regrettably, in order to meet the tight FY11 budget, we had to lay off staff and reduce food offerings while negotiations continued. We anticipate almost all of the food service workers will continue to serve Newton students as part of the Whitsons’ team, including those who were laid off last summer. The negotiated agreement reflects the respect we have for these employees and their years of service. We anticipate that Whitsons’ new operation will be in place on January 4, 2011. Whitsons will be on site in December to train employees and install new equipment. A heartfelt thanks to our students and parents for their patience this fall. We believe that Whitson will bring a high quality professional operation to the Newton Public Schools that is financially stable for the long term. See attached flyer for details.

**ANTI-BULLYING PRESENTATION** - Are you worried about bullying in elementary school? Have you heard about the new anti-bullying statute in Massachusetts but would like to know more about it? Come to a presentation at the Mason-Rice School on Monday December 13, 7:30-9PM, for answers to these and many other questions about bullying in the elementary grades. The speakers are Michael Thompson, PhD and Maura Healey, J.D. Dr. Thompson, a PhD psychologist, consultant, and author of *Raising Cain, Best Friends/ Worst Enemies, and Mom, They’re Teasing Me* is also the clinical consultant to The Belmont Hill School and has worked in more than 500 school throughout the United States. Ms. Healey is the Chief of the Civil Rights Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office. In this role, she oversees the investigation and prosecution of civil rights cases in areas such as hate crimes, housing, education, public accommodation, disability and health care. See attached flyer for details.

**ANTI-BULLYING RESOURCE** - The government's new anti-bullying resource for parents, teachers, and kids can be found at <http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/kids/>.

**PEIRCE EDP FUNDRAISER** - Save the UPC codes from Campbell's and Pepperidge Farm products and bring them in to PEDP. You can drop them in the giant soup can at the dismissal area or in the can across from the Peirce Office. PEDP will receive one point for each label. With those points we can buy supplies for the Program. Last year we were able to get new soft balls for the gym, footsies and jump ropes. Check out [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com) for the entire list of accepted products including their new partners Pop Secret and Bic.

**A PARENT’S GUIDE TO FACEBOOK** – Peirce librarian Jamie Lightfoot recommends A Parent's Guide to Facebook. Includes advice on how to set privacy settings. <http://www.connectsafely.org/Safety-Advice-Articles/facebook-for-parents.html>

## Community News

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**TOWN HALL MEETINGS** - Mayor Warren will hold a series of town hall meetings in November

seeking input from residents on the City's infrastructure needs. Following Mayor Warren's capital improvement plan presentation and budget forecast to the Board of Alderman, the Mayor will be holding a series of town hall meetings across the city to hear directly from residents about infrastructure issues they are concerned about. All meetings are free and open to all residents. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Mayor's Office at 617-796-1110.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sunday, November 21st at 1PM	Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut St
Sunday, November 21st at 3PM	Hyde Community Center, 90 Lincoln St.
Sunday, November 21st at 5PM	John Ward School, 10 Dolphin Rd.
Tuesday, November 30th at 7PM	Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove St.

**CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY** - Mayor Warren wants to hear from you! We are working to serve our residents better and your feedback is essential. Please take a moment to tell us how we're doing by taking our on-line Citizen Satisfaction Survey: <http://www.newtonma.gov/>

**NEWTON FINE ART & CRAFT SHOW** - Nov. 20, 10AM – 5PM; Nov. 21, 11AM – 4PM. Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada Street, Newton. Free admission. One-of-a-kind holiday gifts at reasonable prices. An oasis of colorful textiles, glass, jewelry, pottery, paintings, photographs, ceramics and wooden pieces for sale created by juried artisans from New England. Raffle prizes of unique original art and craft pieces donated by the participating artists. Call 617-527- 8283 or visit [www.newtonculturalcenter.org](http://www.newtonculturalcenter.org) for more information.

**FOODS & FANCIES HOLIDAY BAZAAR** - Saturday November 20. Come to a wonderful old-fashioned church fair with plenty of high end flair. Homemade food items, silent auction table with antiques and unique services, white reindeer table and hand crafted items and children's activities. wonderful luncheon offered. Proceeds are used to fund outreach efforts in the community and around the globe. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 258 Concord St., Newton Lower Falls. 10AM – 2PM.

**EURYDICE** - by Sarah Ruhl, will be Theatre Ink's inaugural performance at the new Little Theatre at Newton North. Directed by Derek Butterton and Mercer Gary. December 9, 10 and 11 at 7:30PM. LittleTheatre at NNHS, 360 Lowell Avenue , Newtonville. Tickets \$7 at [www.theatreink.net](http://www.theatreink.net) or 617-559-6406.

**NEWTON FAMILY SINGERS - *Songs for the Road***, begins at 4PM on Sunday, December 12 at the Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada Street. Come with us on a journey through your favorite traveling songs. We'll ride the *Peace Train*, drive the *Country Roads*, and take the *Yellow Submarine*, far and wide, before heading *Homeward Bound*! The Newton Family Singers is an intergenerational singing ensemble, celebrating family, community and American folk music. For more information, visit [www.newtonfamilysingers.com](http://www.newtonfamilysingers.com).

**CELEBRATE NEWTON ARTISTS** - Join us at Celebrate Newton, an annual juried crafts fair running at Newton South High School on Sunday, December 5. Fabric arts, jewelry, quilts, pottery, paintings, photography, wood sculptures, and more. More than 50 Newton artisans; live music plus a crafts table for kids. Celebrate Newton has been running under the auspices of the Newton Schools Foundation for years, and NCE is proud to take over its sponsorship in 2010. Proceeds will support our mission to provide a breadth of educational and enrichment programs for all ages, and will help to grow our scholarship fund. For more information visit [www.celebratenewton.com](http://www.celebratenewton.com).

**FASHION FOR A CAUSE AT HIPSTITCH** - a sewing lounge and school located in Newtonville. Teaching adults, kids, and teens how to sew and fashion design. Please join us for our first Fashion for a Cause, and give back to a children in need. Friday Dec 10, 7-9PM; located at 435 Newtonville Ave. Sat Dec 11, 7-9PM. Tickets \$25 (includes drinks & appetizers). Proceeds Benefit: [www.Onehomemanyhopes.org](http://www.Onehomemanyhopes.org). This is a great way to see what the girls have made and donate to a charity. [www.Hipstitchers.com](http://www.Hipstitchers.com).

**FREE BASKETBALL CLINIC** - at the John M. Barry Boys and Girls Club of Newton on Saturday, November 20. Newton North High School varsity coach Paul Connolly, and Newton South Varsity coach Joe Killilea will be conducting the clinic this year with help from some of their own players. There will be three two-hour sessions. Boys and girls ages 6-8 will run from 9AM – 11AM. Boys and girls ages 9-11 will run from 11AM – 1:30PM, and boys and girls ages 12-15 will run from 2PM – 4PM. Participants should wear sneakers and appropriate playing gear for participation in drills and scrimmages. For more information email Briana DeSeignora, Athletic Director at [bdeseignora@newtonbgc.com](mailto:bdeseignora@newtonbgc.com).

**INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL REGISTRATION** – at John M. Barry Boys and Girls Club. Many intramural basketball leagues for children ages 6-18. All current club members are eligible to play. New families may purchase a Winter Seasonal Membership for \$100 or a General Membership of \$125 for the remaining year. For more information email Briana DeSeignora, Athletic Director, at [bdeseignora@newtonbgc.com](mailto:bdeseignora@newtonbgc.com).

**BC LADY EAGLES SOCCER SCHOOL** - will be holding their winter clinic for girls ages 6-14, December 27- December 31st, 12-5PM in the BC Bubble. Online registration at: <http://bceagles.cstv.com/camps/bc-w-soccer-camps2.html>

**DIG OUT YOUR MITTENS AND DUST OFF YOUR SKATES** - A new season of Learn to Skate classes are beginning soon at the Newton Daly Rink on Nonantum Road. Lessons are offered on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Registrations are also being accepted for both the Cleveland Circle Reilly Rink on Beacon St. and the West Roxbury Roche Arena on the VFW Parkway where lessons are held on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. Classes are for children and adults starting at age 4.5. For more information call 781-890-0556 or [www.baystateskatingschool.org](http://www.baystateskatingschool.org).

**EARN MONEY SHOVELING SNOW** - This is a joint effort between the Mayor's Office, Volunteer Services, DPW and Parks & Recreation. The Newton Department of Public Works is preparing a list of students (or adults) willing to shovel snow for your local senior residents for a fee. Can you please help out? Please contact Robin with any questions, 617-796-1510.

**VOLUNTEER TO SHOVEL** -The Newton Parks & Recreation Department and Public Works Department are preparing a list of students (or adults) willing to **volunteer** snow shoveling services for your local senior/disabled residents. Visit City of Newton home page, click on 'residents', click on 'volunteer services' for more information, or [e-mail\\_parks@newtonma.gov](mailto:e-mail_parks@newtonma.gov)

**WINTER PROGRAMS AT NEWTON SOUTH** - The Newton Parks and Recreation Department is offering a variety of Sunday programs at the Newton South Recreation Complex starting in January 2011. This state of the art Recreation Complex will feature sports, fitness, and recreation programs for all ages. The Newton South Recreation Complex is located at the Newton South High School and programs will begin Sunday January 9. Pre registration is required and can be done online at [www.activityreg.com](http://www.activityreg.com). You can also check out our website at [www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks](http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks) or call Channon Ames at the Newton Parks and Recreation Department at (617) 796-1529 for more information.

**DECEMBER SCHOOL VACATION PROGRAM** - It's like summer camp in the winter for children in grades K – 6. Located at the Lower Falls Community Center, children can participate in sports, arts and crafts, cooking, inside games, outside games, gym activities, and more. Daily special events are also offered. December 27 – December 31, 2010 from 8:15 AM – 3:30 PM (extended day available to 5:30 PM). Go to the Newton Parks and Recreation website at [www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks](http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks) and click on School Vacation for more information or call Channon Ames at 617-796-1529. Register online at [www.activityreg.com](http://www.activityreg.com)

**FAMILY MOVIE DAY AND NIGHT** - Join Newton Parks and Recreation during the December school vacation week for family movie day and night at the West Newton Cinema. Watch a movie and get popcorn and soda all for one low price. Tickets will be sold at the West Newton Cinema on the day of the event. Go to the Newton Parks and Recreation website at [www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks](http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks) and click on Programs for more information.

**KESHER NEWTON HEBREW SCHOOL** - Keshet Newton is a nationally-recognized alternative to traditional Hebrew School, where children learn Jewish culture and Hebrew language in a spirited, camp-like environment. Keshet meets two afternoons a week, and follows the Newton public school calendar (including early release Tuesdays and Thursdays). Now enrolling for 2011-2012. Contact [dan@keshetnewton.org](mailto:dan@keshetnewton.org) or (617) 244-5390.

## Classifieds

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**SHORT TERM RENTAL HOUSE NEEDED** - Peirce Family is seeking house to rent for short term while current residence has work done. Prefer furnished accommodations, but are flexible. Contact Melissa 617-243-4198.

**UNUSED UGG BOOTS AVAILABLE** – Custom ordered directly from Australia. Not the “Made in China” versions sold locally. Size 4, color is “sand”; still in box. \$100. Call Lauren Rubin (former Peirce parent of two) @ 617-877-5433

**HOUSE CLEANER NEEDED** - Former Peirce family looking for referral for housecleaning person/service for a home on Ruane Road. We have had the same housecleaning service for 16 years; but they no longer service our area. Let us know if your trustworthy housecleaning person/service is looking to add a client in the Peirce School area. Thanks! Contact by email: [cdwcho@aol.com](mailto:cdwcho@aol.com) .

**CELLO LESSONS** - Cellist Guy Fishman will teach you cello! A limited number of spaces for available in private studio. Have taught over 65 cellists for the past 17 years, aged 6 to 60, novice to post-graduate. Doctor of Music. Complete bio, CV, and references are available upon request. Please contact me at [fish1750@aol.com](mailto:fish1750@aol.com) or 508-330-0188.

**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)

**ENERGIZE FITNESS STUDIO, WEST NEWTON** - A fusion of personalized fitness services offered in a comfortable, nurturing environment, encouraging you and your family to be fitter, healthier people. (617) 965-9650 [uEnergizeStudio.com](http://uEnergizeStudio.com)

**THE HOMEFIXER** - [TheHomefixer.com](http://TheHomefixer.com) - Serving Newton Vicinity for over 25 years. Gutter, appliances, plumbing, electrical, carpentry....Handyman Services & more.Call (617) 909- 1668 cell Bob Swerling Excellent local references.

**SCHOOL OF ROCK BOSTON** - Will be hosting our first-ever "Winter Break Music Camp" from 12/27 through 12/30. This 4-day camp runs 9AM – 3PM and is open to elementary, middle school, and high school students who play sing or play a rock 'n roll instrument (guitar, bass, piano, drums). Artists studied will include Green Day, AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, and more. Students will take private lessons and get to play in a real rock band, culminating in a final performance at a local club that is free and open to the public. To find out more, call 617-923-3434 or visit [http://www.schoolofrock.com/boston/summer\\_school.php](http://www.schoolofrock.com/boston/summer_school.php)

**PEIRCE FAMILY DOES PET SITTING** - Will fed, walk, pamper and play with your pet. We're a family with two kids; 17 and 11 years old. We will only take one or two at a time. Please schedule your time ASAP. Reasonable rates. Contact [EMagids@aol.com](mailto:EMagids@aol.com) or 617-527-6654.

**TUTORING** - Peirce parent and a former college professor who has taught all age groups and skill levels. Tutor language arts, study skills, reading, essay writing, creative writing, poetry, MCAS prep, private school entrance personal essays, SSAT, high school requirement exams, college entrance personal essays, SAT prep, etc. Available to help with writing cover letters and resumes, coach with career choices, and tutor English As A Second Language. Doctorate in Education, Master's in Reading, undergraduate degree in elementary education, with minor in

English. English as a Second Language certification. Have done family and career counseling. Contact [EMagids@aol.com](mailto:EMagids@aol.com) or at 617-527-6654.

**NEXT LEVEL UP HOME TUTORING**- offers professional and individualized academic coaching and subject tutoring in the comfort of each student's own surroundings. Please call for more information: **(781) 540-1123** Or email us for a quick response: [info@nextleveluptutoring.com](mailto:info@nextleveluptutoring.com)

**ACTIVEMINDS TUTORING, LLC** -Personalized and Convenient. All grades/all subjects, including test preparation (MCAS, SSAT, ISEE, SAT...). Sign your child up for academic success by November 15 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).

**READING AND MATH TUTOR** - Certified Reading Specialist with M. Ed in Reading Education, trained in Lindamood, Phono-Graphix, & O.G. Specialize in remediating students who read at or below a 2nd grade level. Ages 4 to 9. \$35.00 per hour. Formerly employed by "The Learning Lab @ Lesley." Also tutor math to kindergartners and 1st graders, using SRA Number Worlds method. \$30.00 per 45-minute lesson. First two lessons free for both reading and math (includes assessment). Excellent references. Contact Christine Mandell at [ChrisMandell@yahoo.com](mailto:ChrisMandell@yahoo.com) or 617-323-4709.

**LICE REMOVAL** - Lice Aunties, Newton's very own lice removal business is now using the LouseBuster™) device to remove lice and nits in just one treatment, using carefully controlled heated air. No chemicals. [www.liceaunties.com](http://www.liceaunties.com).

**CHILDPROOF SEAT COVERS** - SmartSeats, started by a Newton mother, sells waterproof, stain resistant, and machine washable fabric covers for dining room and kitchen chairs. The covers are called the SmartSeat Chair Protector and are sold online at <http://www.smartseatdiningchaircovers.com/>.

**BABYSITTER**- Newton North Freshman, former F.A. Day student, former Peirce student and EDP volunteer is available to babysit nights and weekends. Please call Kathryn at 857-636-2718 or email [k.adelson@verizon.net](mailto:k.adelson@verizon.net).

**CHILDCARE** - Online Early Childhood Education college student looking to nanny/babysit; flexible schedule; own transportation; non-smoker, great with pets and kids of all ages. Contact if interested at 781-354-3306 or [Emilyk0201@yahoo.com](mailto:Emilyk0201@yahoo.com)

*Submissions may be made by email only to [newtonpeirce@yahoo.com](mailto:newtonpeirce@yahoo.com)*

***Submission deadlines are Tuesdays, by 5:30PM.***

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

Coordinating Editor: Roberta Martone Pavia.

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



# Bullying in Elementary Schools

*An Event for Parents*

*December 13, 2010*

Join parents from Peirce, Mason-Rice, Angier, Zervas, and Ward to learn about the psycho-social and legal dimensions of bullying in the elementary grades. The speakers, a renowned child psychologist and a leading civil rights attorney, will discuss:

- Children's Relationships in Elementary School
- The Role of the Victim
- The Role of the Bully
- The New Massachusetts Anti-Bullying Statute
- The Role of the Parents
- The Role of the School

## Featured Speakers

### **Dr. Michael Thompson**

Dr. Thompson, a PhD psychologist, consultant, and author of *Raising Cain, Best Friends/Worst Enemies, and Mom, They're Teasing Me* is also the clinical consultant to The Belmont Hill School and has worked in more than 500 schools throughout the United States.

### **Maura Healey, J.D.**

Ms. Healey is the Chief of the Civil Rights Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. In this role, she oversees the investigation and prosecution of civil rights cases in areas such as hate crimes, housing, education, public accommodation, disability and health care.

**Join Us on December 13th for this important discussion!**

**Location: Mason-Rice Elementary School Auditorium**  
149 Pleasant Street, Newton Centre

**Date: Monday, December 13**  
**Time: 7:30 - 9:00 PM**

Sponsored by the PTO's of Peirce, Mason-Rice, Ward, Zervas and Angier Schools

# Press Release

## Whitsons School Nutrition Joins Newton Public Schools



November 2010

Dear Newton Public Schools Community:



**Your children's health is our number one priority!**

That is why Whitsons School Nutrition is pleased to announce our partnership with Newton Public Schools. Together, we will be creating some exciting new nutrition initiatives that promise to be a tremendous benefit to the entire Newton Public Schools community.



### Elementary Schools

At the elementary schools, we will offer a hot entree, weekly cold alternatives and Healthy Choice Salad Entrée lunches every day, plus complete salad, bagel, grilled cheese and yogurt lunches every day. A la carte offerings will be limited to wholesome choices such as fresh fruits and vegetables, yogurt, and carefully approved snacks. It is our mission to help your children learn to eat and enjoy foods with the highest nutritional value. Our entrees include whole wheat and whole grain bread/buns/ bagels/pizza crust. Whole grain pasta and brown rice are also primary offerings. It is our commitment to reduce or eliminate all Trans fats and unnecessary food additives from your children's lunch.



At this level, our award-winning Nutrition Safari™ program will introduce your children to lovable safari animal characters to teach them about selecting healthy choices from each different food group for a well-balanced diet. The program's mission is to increase participation in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and encourage students to develop lifelong healthy eating habits.

Nutrition Safari includes the following program components:

- **Spokesanimal Visit.** At least once per year, one of the safari characters will come in full costume, along with a "Safari Ranger" to speak to the children about nutrition during lunch.
- **Nutritional Menus.** Each spokesanimal takes turns throughout the year sponsoring the monthly menu with a special message about their respective food group.
- **Monthly Nutrition Theme Day.** Each month, we host a Nutrition Safari theme day, with a special menu for the day.
- **Posters with Nutritional Messages.** Throughout the servery, we post nutritional messages. Some of our nutrition posters feature the Nutrition Safari characters and their messages, while others promote healthy eating while depicting active children.



For the coming school year, we are also excited to offer the following program enhancements:

- **Revamped Menu.** Our menu will feature a wide variety of nutritious choices that are prepared with children's tastebuds in mind:
  - Whole wheat bread/buns/bagels/pizza crust and whole grain pasta and brown rice.
  - Available daily: fresh veggies with low-fat dip, fresh fruit, fruit cups, fresh entree salad, low-fat milk.
  - Snack program meeting new Massachusetts wellness guidelines for approved beverages and snacks.
- **Apple Window Clings.** Apple window clings will be placed on the servery glass in front of healthy menu items, to make it easier for the children to make the most nutritious selections.
- **Monthly Activity Sheets.** We will be distributing monthly activity sheets with nutrition information and puzzles, word searches and recipes. This information will reinforce the monthly message and the Nutrition Safari character of the month.