



NECP News

June 2010

One Step at a Time

Preschool Contact Information

Lisa Robinson, Coordinator Lisa_Robinson@newton.k12.ma.us

Phyllis Lewis, Administrative Assistant

Newton Early Childhood Office:617-559-6050

Lincoln-Eliot Classrooms:.....617-559-9550

Education Center School Nurse

Jennifer Civin:617-559-6070

Lincoln-Eliot Nurse's Office

Sue Schy:617-559-9554

*Please contact the Education Center School Nurse if your child is absent from school at either the Education Center or Lincoln-Eliot. If your child attends Lincoln-Eliot, also call617-559-9550

Contact the NECP PTO at necppto@gmail.com

President and Treasurer:Deb Rooney

Sally Foster contact:Susan Cable

Newsletter Editors:Urmila Parlikar

Michelle Fawcett

Dear NECP Families,



The last five years have been an amazing journey with you, your children, faculty and the early childhood community of Newton. Thank you for your support and ideas for improving the program. And most of all, thank you for enrolling your wonderful children in the program. I will always have

the fondest memories of NECP.

On another note, happy spring! I hope you have been enjoying plenty of outdoor activities with your family. The warmer weather offers a wonderful opportunity to experience different playgrounds in the city to facilitate gross motor skills, strength, and social experiences with old and new friends.

There is still time to enroll your child in our NECP summer program. It begins on July 6th and concludes on August 12th. Week one runs Tuesday to Friday and the remaining weeks are Monday through Thursday. It is a very fun time! The children spend time exploring new themes in the classroom and engaging in outdoor games and water play. You are welcome to sign up for one week or as many as six weeks. Stop by the Education Center Office or email/call Phyllis for an application.

Now this is very important for returning families...next year's schedule will be different. NECP early release day will be on Tuesdays and not on Fridays. This affects children enrolled in extended day programs:

8:30-1:30 Classes will dismiss at 12:00 on Tuesdays

8:30-2:30 Classes will dismiss at 11:30 on Tuesdays

Lunch Bunch Groups will meet on Monday and Thursday or Wednesday and Friday.

This change in scheduling will allow the preschool faculty to access the district-wide professional development offerings, collaborate with kindergarten colleagues, and become a wider known aspect of the Newton Public Schools at large.

Most of all, thank you for a very special Staff Appreciation Luncheon. This day is such an honor for us and we look forward to appreciate it very much. Thank you for such a generous departure gift.

Fondly,

Lisa Robinson

Event Calendar

June 16	Year-End Picnic, Raffle and Silent Auction Ed Center Playground 5:30-7:00pm
June 18	Last Day of School
July 6	NECP Summer Program Begins
August 12	NECP Summer Program Ends





**Year-End Picnic
Raffle and Auction
Wednesday, June 16th
Ed Center Playground
5:30-7:00pm**

Dear NECP Parents and Staff,

It's hard to believe that the school year is almost over. I'd like to thank the NECP staff for all of the time and effort that you put in to make NECP a positive experience for our children. We are so appreciative! Also, thank you parents for your commitment and support of NECP.

The PTO's mission is to spend our hard-earned budget wisely, bring in great programs that enrich our children's lives, and continue to build a community. So far this year we raised \$4,195.50 from PTO dues and our wrapping paper fundraiser. We are hoping to raise more money from the raffle and silent auction at our end of year picnic.

This year we brought in some wonderful enrichment programs, including Pumpernickle Puppets, Big Joe the Storyteller, and Curious Creatures (twice!). We provided stipends to teachers and specialists to purchase some much-needed classroom materials and supplies, and we purchased PT equipment that can be used by all NECP students. In addition, we hosted two free Family Fun events to bring the community together, and hosted a Staff Appreciation Luncheon to thank the NECP staff.

I will back next fall for one more year at NECP. I am delighted that Nancy Ferrari will be joining me as Co-President of the PTO. Nancy and I would love some additional support on the board. If you are interested in coordinating fundraising for NECP, organizing Family Fun events, editing our newsletter, or scheduling enrichment programs, please contact us at necppto@gmail.com. Please support the school next year by getting involved.

I hope the graduating children and their families have a great year in kindergarten. They are all ready and well prepared for their next adventure, thanks to all the fantastic NECP staff.

I am truly sad that Lisa Robinson is leaving NECP. She has been warm and welcoming to NECP parents and has fostered a very inclusive community for our children. She will be missed next year!

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Deb Rooney
NECP PTO President



Thanks to the teachers and staff for their dedication and love for our children!

NECP Summer Program Now Enrolling

This summer, the NECP will be offering an integrated preschool summer program for preschool-aged children with and without disabilities. Classrooms will include an average of 16 children with a variety of learning styles.

Theme-based explorations will provide children with experiences in art, music, physical education, literacy, math, and science.

The goals of the NECP summer program are:

- To include all children in an inclusive, supportive, and engaging learning experience
 - To promote a love of play, friendship and learning
 - To meet the individual and unique needs of all children
- The preschool summer program will be held at the Education Center, 100 Walnut Street, in Newtonville. This location offers a variety of playground equipment in an enclosed safe area. The Gath Wading pool is a short walk and a fun place to cool off.

The summer program will run for six weeks, from July 6th through August 12th (Tues–Fri during week 1, Mon–Thurs weeks 2 to 6). You may sign your child up for one or more weeks. You may also indicate a schedule preference: 9:00–12:00 (\$120/week) or 8:30–1:30 (\$200/week). Scholarship information is available upon request.

Spaces are limited so please call or email Phyllis Lewis (617-559-6050 or Phyllis_lewis@newton.k12.ma.us) or stop by the office to pick up a brochure.

If your child qualifies for summer services based on their IEP, he or she will be assigned to a summer program classroom. Please speak with your child's teacher for more information.

Parents and PTO Thank NECP Staff at Luncheon!

On Friday, May 7th, NECP teachers and staff enjoyed a much-deserved opportunity to kick back, relax, and enjoy one another's company at the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.

Approximately 60 staff came and enjoyed a fantastic meal prepared by NECP parents Jen and Todd Heberlein. Additional food was donated by Fresh City and Wilson Farms. The dessert tables were filled with sweet concoctions donated by parents.

Many more parents helped make the event a success by volunteering their time for set up, serving, clean up and/or babysitting. Other parents contributed paper goods and drinks.

NECP parents and the PTO expressed their thanks to the teachers and staff, who went home with small potted flowers as favors. Lisa Robinson was presented with flowers and a gift certificate to a day spa.



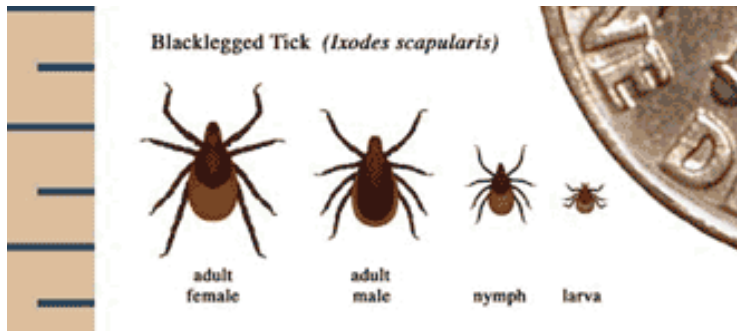
Nurse's Notes

Dear Families,

Nearly 40 Newton residents were diagnosed last year with Lyme disease. Lyme disease is an illness that can cause flu-like symptoms, sore joints, and chronic heart and nervous system problems. A person of any age can get Lyme disease if they are bitten by a deer tick.

Lyme disease is endemic throughout Massachusetts. This means you can get it anywhere — even in your own backyard.

You get Lyme disease by being bitten by a deer tick. Deer ticks range in size from a poppy seed to a sesame seed. Deer ticks are most active during the warmer months. But they can infect people at any time of year. They cling to vegetation, but cannot jump. Most are found in brushy, grassy or wooded habitats.



To prevent Lyme Disease:

Use a bug repellent with DEET or permethrin. Follow the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age. They should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, and camping gear. They should not be applied to skin.

Check your body for ticks after being outside. Remove ticks as soon as you find them. The tick usually has to be attached for at least 24 hours to cause Lyme Disease. Check carefully.

Avoid areas where ticks are often found.

Know the signs and symptoms of Lyme Disease. The most common early symptom is a rash where the tick was attached. It often, but not always, starts as a small

red area that spreads outward, clearing up in the center so it looks like a donut. This is commonly known as a “bull’s eye rash.” Flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headache, stiff neck, sore and aching muscles and joints, fatigue and swollen glands may also occur.

Most people are treated with antibiotics and recover. Treatment during the early stages often prevents more serious chronic health complications later. If you have been someplace likely to have ticks and you develop symptoms of Lyme disease, see your health care provider right away.

For more information about ticks, mosquitoes, and the diseases they cause, visit the Massachusetts Department of Public Health website at www.mass.gov/dph. Click on “Public Health Fact Sheets” on the right side of the page and choose the topic you are interested in learning more about.

Friendly Reminder: All medication orders expire at the end of the school year. If you are visiting your child’s health care provider during the summer, request a new medication order for the school nurse. All medication, prescription or over-the-counter, requires an order. The Medication Permission Form and the Medication Policy are both available online at



http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Health/school_health.htm

Have a happy and healthy summer!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Civin, RN BSN

617-559-6070





Curious Creatures for Curious Minds!

Curious Creatures stopped by for another visit in April. The children loved the alligator's scales, the soft fur of Penelope the skunk, and the courageous jumping feats of Mika the flying squirrel! Curious Creatures is one of the children's favorite programs. You can see it in their faces every time Dean brings one of his animal friends out of their carriers. Thank you Curious Creatures!

This in-school enrichment program was sponsored by the NECP PTO.



Community Notes

BosTix

Live theatre at competitive prices! Bostix Junior's same-day half-price tickets are a great deal. It's first-come first-served. And you have to pay CASH for the tickets on the day of performance at the Bostix Ticket booth kiosk. There are two kiosks: one on Copley Square and the other next to Faneuil Hall. Go to www.Bostix.org to peruse the offerings. If you're just interested in kids' events, visit www.BosTixJr.org.

Deadline Extended for March Flooding Disaster Assistance

The new deadline is Monday, June 28th. For homeowners, business owners, and renters in the counties of Middlesex (Newton is in Middlesex), Suffolk, Essex, Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth and Worcester. Apply online at www.fema.gov or by phone at 1-800-621-3362 (or TTY 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing or speech impaired).

Dog Owners

Have a dog? Would you like to know more about efforts to create off-leash possibilities in Newton? Need a map of the legal Cold Spring Park off-leash area? Be sure to read the off-leash regulations before heading out. And don't leave home without clean-up bags, up-to-date dog tags and more. Go to: www.ci.newton.ma.us/Parks/DogInformation/index.htm for a complete set of regulations.

Family Fun Festival

Wednesday, June 9th through Sunday, June 13th. Featuring amusement rides, food, games, and music. 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; noon to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday; and noon to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday in Chestnut Hill at 200 Boylston St (Route 9). To benefit

the John M. Barry Boys and Girls Club of Newton. Open to the public. Free Parking. Admission: \$1. Call 617-630-2066 or email dsellers@newtonbgc.com for details.

Honor Thy Teacher

As this school year draws to a close, we reflect on how much our children have grown with the help of so many outstanding educators. Exceptional teachers motivate, educate and inspire our children everyday. How to thank them? District-wide policy prohibits direct gifts to teachers. The Newton Schools Foundation offers an option that will allow your teacher to be thanked in a public way. By donating to the 13th annual 'Honor Thy Teacher' campaign, the teacher you wish to honor will receive a card of thanks in your name. And the teacher's name will be included in the 13th Annual "Honor Thy Teacher" spread in the Newton TAB in the fall. Principals and Superintendents will be notified of all honorees. And your donation will help support building 21st century classrooms in Newton. The Newton Schools Foundation raises funds for all of Newton's public schools. For more information or to Honor the teacher(s) of your choice, go to: www.newtonschoolsfoundation.org.

Newton Cultural Center Free Summer Events

Bring your families to enjoy the outstanding free performances for children this summer! Located at the Newton Center Playground, Tyler Terrace. These shows are sponsored by the Mayor's Office for Cultural Affairs. The performances are 1-2 p.m. on Tuesdays. The rain location is in the Mason Rice School, 149 Pleasant Street.

July 6: Double Vision "Pantomonium" - a hilarious mime theatre, circus illusion act.

July 13: David Polansky, a high energy, fun performance of children's songs, by our beloved Time for Partners teacher.

July 20: Wayne Potash, a master of kids' music with audience participation.



- July 27:** Bonaparte, captivating magic and fun from Boston's Hottest Magician!
- Equally excellent are the free performances on Thursdays from 1–2 p.m. at Ware's Cove, Auburndale. The rain location is the adjacent field house. These shows are generously sponsored by the Village Bank.
- July 8:** Gerwick Puppets perform Aesop's Fables.
- July 15:** Jaime Lewis, a delightful, engaging singer.
- July 22:** Marcus Gale, music and puppets for everyone.
- July 29:** Michael Zerphy, clowning and fun.

For more information, please contact 617-527-8283 or visit www.newtonculturalcenter.org.

Newton Farmer's Market

The Newton Farmer's Market gets underway on Tuesday, July 6th and runs through the end of October. Tuesdays 1:30–6:00 p.m. at Cold Spring Park, 1200 Beacon Street in Newton Four Corners. Fridays 1:30–6:00 p.m. at Post 440 Parking Lot, 295 California Street in Nonantum. Lots of fresh, locally-produced farm products.

Newton Teen Talent

Showcase of Teen Talent...new this summer. Thursdays on Newton Center Green, 6:00–8:45 p.m. Free. Featuring folk, indie, rock and experimental Newton-based bands, accompanied by installation artwork.

- July 15:** The Humming, Vitamin Seed, Magic Man
- July 22:** Alice Howe, Mia Friedman, Shai Erlichman
- July 29:** Milochondria, Ben Bernstein, The Craters, Truman Peyote
- Aug 5:** Gabe Goodman, The Novel Ideas, Vio/Mire

NewtonPAC Meeting

The Newton Parents Advisory Council for Special Education (NewtonPAC) Announces the First Annual NewtonPAC Award Ceremony:

Wednesday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m.
100 Walnut Street, Room 210

Jim Marini and a few of the many members of NPS staff who have gone above and beyond the call and have truly made a difference in the lives of children receiving special education services will be honored.

The ceremony begins at 7:30 p.m., to be followed by a casual reception.

Rove the Cove

The Auburndale Community Association is hosting the 4th annual Rove the Cove 5K road/trail race on Saturday, June 12th. The race starts and finishes in the picnic area of The Cove in Auburndale. Cotton t-shirt to the first 100 registrants. Prizes raffled at the end. All fitness levels welcome! You can walk or run. All finishers 14 and under receive an official finishers medal. Start location: "The Cove" Auburndale Park, West Pine St, Auburndale, MA. Start time is 9:30 a.m. Check in 8:45 a.m. Registration forms available at www.auburndalecommunity.org.

Strawberry Solstice Family Festival

Sunday, June 20th from 1–3 p.m. at Newton Community Farm, 303 Nahanton Street. Most enjoyable for youngsters up to 3rd grade (with adult). \$5 per family. Strawberry and sun-themed activities such as make-your-own sundial, planting sunflowers, bubble printing, make-your-own musical instruments and relay races. Enter to win a basket of strawberries or strawberry baked goods. Just-picked strawberries for sale. Info: www.newtoncommunityfarm.org.

Summer Reading Lists

The Children's Librarians of the Newton Free Library have put together a variety of booklists to aid patrons of all ages in finding books on various subjects and reading levels. In addition, the Children's Room maintains an extensive file of its booklists.

For elementary through middle school booklists, visit: <http://www.newtonfreelibrary.net/childrens/booklists/>. Click on "by level/grade" to view suggestions preschool through grade 8. Or, peruse 'great summer reads' or any of the other listed categories. If you need assistance finding any of the books or need further reading suggestions, please ask any of the librarians. More information is available at the Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street.

