



# NECP News

October 2010

## One Step at a Time

Dear NECP Families,

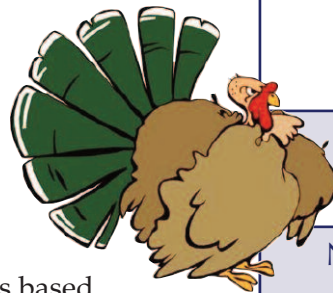


It is my hope that this begins a series of correspondence from me to you so that I can highlight some of the great things happening in the program, provide a glimpse of things to come, and share some of my thoughts on the program as a whole. I am so pleased with the

way NECP began the 2010-2011 school year. We certainly had some obstacles to overcome, some that are inherent with a change in administrative personnel, and others that are simply attributed to starting a new year with new faces, new families, new schedules, etc. I am so proud of the NECP faculty and staff for their dedication to providing such an enthusiastic beginning, just as I am so thankful to all of you in the community for your support and feedback.

Communication between the school and home is something I value tremendously, and it is clear that you are thirsty for more. I am eager to help provide this communication and I am extremely optimistic that the launch of our brand new PTO website will help provide the vehicle for this communication. I look forward to providing weekly e-newsletters to the community, posting upcoming events, sharing resources, and most of all establishing an opportunity for the NECP families to truly become a community. More information will be coming as we get closer to November 1st, our scheduled launch date for the website.

I wanted to take this moment to highlight some of the activities in which our staff has been engaged over the past month, and which will continue throughout the year. We are in the initial phases of establishing a collection of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in which professionals work with one another to develop results-oriented goals in areas pertinent to early childhood education. Current examples include Curriculum based PLCs, Assessment based PLCs, Language based PLCs, Social Pragmatics based PLCs, and more. We have also established the schedule



### Preschool Contact Information

Michael Thurm, Coordinator Michael\_Thurm@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  
Elissa Matloff:.....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 call .....617-559-9550

Contact the NECP PTO at necppto@gmail.com  
Co-President: .....Nancy Ferrari  
Co-President and Treasurer: .....Deb Rooney  
Newsletter Editors: .....Karen Walsh  
Michelle Fawcett

## NECP 2010-2011 School Calendar

NECP follows the Newton Public Schools calendar with two minor exceptions. On Wednesday November 24th we will dismiss at 10:30am, as opposed to other NPS half-day release times. We also follow different procedures for snow days in June. Once we make it through the winter we will set a date for the last day of school. If there are no snow days the last day for the district will June 17th, which would be a half-day. Instead of dismissing at 10:30am on June 17th we will instead finish our year with a full day on June 16th, with no school on June 17th. Again, this is subject to change given the possibility of snow days and/or other school closings.

## Event Calendar

October 23	NECP Halloween Party Lincoln-Eliot Gym 11am-1pm
November 3	Social Stories for Preschool Parents, Ed Center. Contact Laura Perkins to register. 617-559-9069
November 11	No School-Columbus Day
November 24	Early Dismissal at 10:30am
November 25-26	No School-Happy Thanksgiving!
December 7	PTO meeting, Ed Center 7:30pm



for the NECP Professional Development series in which NECP staff members with particular skill sets lead workshops for our staff in areas such as integrating music into the curriculum, language development, and the use of visual supports. Through the Newton Partnership we are able to invite community preschool staff members to help spread our workshops to the Newton community. While staff members remain the intended audience for these workshops, we intend on working towards embedding the resources into parent training opportunities. And though there are many more highlights I would love to share, one final note is the establishment of the long-term goal of creating a classroom website for each room that can be used to post classroom-specific announcements.

Again, I am thrilled to be a part of the NECP community, I am excited for all that is to come, and I am eager to begin scheduling a Director's Coffee gathering so that we can meet casually as a community. Please know I have an open-door policy and that I'd be happy to schedule a meeting, be it in person or over the phone, if there is anything at all you would like to discuss.

Very Truly Yours,  
Mike Thurm  
Director, NECP



## NECP HALLOWEEN EVENT!!!

On Saturday, October 23, the PTO is having a fundraising event for the entire family. It will be held from 11-1:00pm at the Lincoln-Eliot Gymnasium. \$10 per family.

- Bring costumes! Safe fun for the family!
- Roll up your sleeves and get creative with some arts and crafts!
- Enjoy a bite to eat! The PTO will provide drinks and snacks.

The NECP Halloween Event is a great way to meet and spend time with other preschool families and provides a safe environment for the children to enjoy sharing their costumes. We hope you will join us! Please contact the NECP PTO at [necppto@gmail.com](mailto:necppto@gmail.com) to help with set up, serving, and clean up.



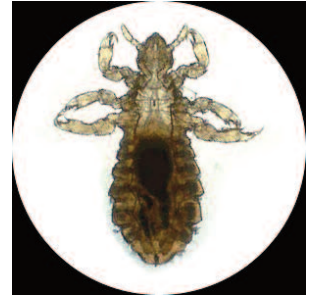
## Nurse's Notes

Can you name this creature?

They can't fly or jump.

They have been recovered from prehistoric mummies.

They're familiar today to many school-age children and their families.



Did you guess head lice?

Otherwise known as pediculosis capitis, head lice infestation is common in the United States among children 3-12 years of age. Head lice are not a health hazard, a sign of poor hygiene or responsible for the spread of any disease. However, because young children come into head-to-head contact with each other frequently, it is possible for head lice to be transmitted from one person to another. Routine head screening should be done in the home where privacy can be maintained and adequate lighting is available. The most common symptom of head lice is itching

In the Newton Public Schools, if a child is found to have head lice, the parents will be notified and treatment options will be discussed. Re-entry to school will be allowed once the student receives treatment and is seen by the school nurse.

The school nurse will notify parents if a student in their child's classroom has head lice. This is an important reminder to check your child's head regularly and teach your children not to share hats, scarves or personal hair care items.

Parents should report cases of head lice to the school nurse.

The Head Lice Policy, with instructions for treatment, is available on the School Health website at [http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Health/school\\_health.htm](http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Health/school_health.htm)

For more information, contact the school nurse or visit these websites:

National Pediculosis Association at [www.headlice.org](http://www.headlice.org) and the

Harvard School of Public Health at [www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html)



# Welcome from the NECP PTO!

The NECP PTO is the Parent-Teacher Organization for the Newton Early Childhood Preschool. The PTO's primary mission is to enhance our children's preschool experience. We accomplish this by arranging programs and activities throughout the school year, which are funded through your donations and your support of fundraising programs.

The PTO works with teachers to provide enrichment programs in class; we sponsor Family Fun events which give families a chance to socialize and interact outside of the school setting. We also give teachers, specialists, and staff an annual stipend that is used to purchase additional classroom materials and equipment. In other words, all of the many that comes into the PTO goes back to your children in one form or another.

We can't function without parent assistance and hope that you'll consider volunteering for an event or program. We hold meetings where you can share your ideas and find out how you can get involved. We encourage you to share your time and talents to help the PTO. It is very rewarding and will help make this year a memorable one.

The next meeting is December 7th; we hope to see you there!

Best,

Nancy Ferrari

NECP PTO Co-President

Deb Rooney

NECP PTO Co-President

The first NECP PTO meeting of the 2010-2011 year was held on Tuesday October 5 at 9:15. It was well attended and had a full agenda.

**1. NECP website:** The PTO is thrilled to announce the launch of a NECP Website on November 1st. This will be a great resource for programming information, event listings, and dialogue between families, staff, and administration. Special thanks to parent volunteer Erik Dubovik (Beckett's dad) for his guidance and expertise.

Stay informed and involved!  
Newsletters are sent electronically and posted to the NECP website.  
We need email addresses!  
Send to: [necppto@gmail.com](mailto:necppto@gmail.com)

**2. Ed Center traffic safety and parking concerns:** Many parents have expressed concern for motorists' consistent disregard for the crosswalk and speed limit on Walnut Street outside the Ed Center. The PTO is working with Newton Police and traffic council on increasing the safety of parents and children going into and out of the school. Options are somewhat limited by the fact that the Ed Center is not designated as a school zone; a petition has been circulated to change the building status. There has been an increased police presence near the crosswalk in the morning and afternoon and a number of violators have been ticketed; a speed trailer was placed at the corner of Linwood and Walnut Streets.

A police crossing guard is not likely. The assignment of crossing guards is intended to ensure the safety of kids who walk to school independently (and encourage more families to have their kids walk). Since preschool kids can not walk independently, NECP does not meet the criteria. It is possible that parent volunteers can wear fluorescent vests and escort people through the crosswalk. If you are interested in volunteering, please email [necppto@gmail.com](mailto:necppto@gmail.com)

Another concern is the lack of parking. The PTO is looking into petitioning for a parking limit on that section of Walnut Street to prevent spaces being used by people parking and walking to the commuter rail. The issue of inadequate handicapped parking spaces was also discussed and will be investigated by both the PTO and Director Mike Thurm.

**3. PTO budget:** members at the meeting voted on the proposed PTO budget, which was approved. New fundraising opportunities, including a Barefoot Books Ambassador, Original Creations, Wilson Farm product sales (pies, holiday greens, Mother's day flowers), were discussed. A fundraiser Halloween party also generated a lot of enthusiasm. If you're interested in helping with any one of these, please contact Nancy Ferrari-Gallagher at [naf@comcast.net](mailto:naf@comcast.net).



# Please join NewtonPAC at our Kick-off to Planning for Inclusive Schools Week (ISW) 2010 Meeting!

**Wednesday, October 20th, 2010**  
**from 7:30pm to 9:00pm**  
**Room 210, Education Center,**  
**100 Walnut St, Newtonville**

Join parents, administrators and staff members from across NPS to brainstorm and plan for the annual celebration of Newton's ongoing commitment to an inclusive community.

Inclusive Schools Week (ISW) is a nationally recognized annual event that highlights the ongoing efforts and accomplishments of families, schools, and communities that have dedicated time, labor, and resources to promoting inclusive education for their children. This year's celebration will take place from December 6th-10th and will focus on this year's national theme, Awareness to Action: Celebrating Ten Years of Inclusive Schools.

This event is sponsored by the Newton Parent Advisory Council for Special Education. NewtonPAC's monthly meetings are free and open to all people interested in learning more about special education in Newton. For more information or to join our online discussion group, please email [info@newtonpac.org](mailto:info@newtonpac.org) or visit our website at [www.newtonpac.org](http://www.newtonpac.org).

To learn more about Newton's planned celebration, email our ISW co-chairs, Jess Wilson and Jo-Louise Allen at [isw@newtonpac.org](mailto:isw@newtonpac.org). For more information on ISW go to [www.inclusiveschools.org](http://www.inclusiveschools.org)

Jess Wilson and Jo-Louise Allen

Co-chairs, ISW Committee, NewtonPAC for Special Education

# Halloween Health and Safety Tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

For many people, autumn events like Halloween and Harvest Day are fun times to dress up in costumes, go trick-or-treating, attend parties, and eat yummy treats. These events are also opportunities to provide nutritious snacks, get physical activity, and focus on safety. Below are tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for trick-or-treaters and party guests.

Going trick-or-treating?

**S**

**Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.**

**A**

**Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.**

**F**

**Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.**

**E**

**Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.**

**H**

**Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you.**

**A**

**Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent skin and eye irritation.**

**L**

**Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.**

**L**

**Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.**

**O**

**Only walk on sidewalks or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.**

**W**

**Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.**

**E**

**Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats unless you know the cook well.**

**E**

**Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Otherwise, stay outside.**

**N**

**Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.**



## Flu Vaccine Available

The Health and Human Services Department is pleased to offer the influenza vaccine to all Newton students in Kindergarten through grade 12.

Both the flu shot and the flu nasal spray vaccine will be administered during the school day at no charge to families. The flu vaccination program is free this year because the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is providing the flu vaccine for students. Insurance information will be requested but not required.

Clinics will be held in each Newton public school from late October through early December. Specific clinic dates will be announced thru the school and posted online at [www.newtonma.gov/flu](http://www.newtonma.gov/flu)

To sign your child up, you should return two forms to the school nurse at least 2 days prior to the clinic:

1. Consent/Screening Form
2. Vaccine Administration Record and Insurance Information Form

Forms are available online at [www.newtonma.gov/flu](http://www.newtonma.gov/flu) or in the school nurse's office.

Students who are not signed up will not receive the vaccine.

The Consent/Screening form requires parents to choose either the flu shot or the nasal spray flu vaccine. Information about each type of vaccine, including its risks and benefits, is described on the Vaccine Information Statement posted at [www.newtonma.gov/flu](http://www.newtonma.gov/flu) School nurses also have information and can answer any questions.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the flu vaccine for all people age 6 months and older. Every year children are at risk of developing serious complications from influenza. Flu vaccination is one of the best ways to protect children from getting the flu.

We hope you take advantage of this important prevention program.

Sincerely,

Ruth Hoshino  
School Nurse Supervisor

David Fleishman  
Superintendent

# Community Calendar & Events

Tuesday, Oct. 12

### **"Working with Your School Nurse to Help Your Child Manage Food Allergies and Asthma"**

Speaker: Mimi Stamer, RN, Director of School Health Services, Needham Public Schools

7:00 p.m. at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. Free.

For info, call the Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America - New England Chapter at (781)444-7778.

Saturday, October 16-Sunday October 17

**Newton Harvest Fair**, Newton Center, includes the following:

Spooktacular Scarecrows will be invading the neighborhoods of Newton this Halloween!

Saturday October 16. It's fun and easy to participate. Pick a time slot: 10am, 11:30am, 1:00pm or 2:30pm. Pre-register at [www.newtoncommunitypride.org](http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org). \$10 per scarecrow. We will provide you with a wooden 'frame' and assorted recycled items for decorating. Students from Mount Ida College will be there to help you. You bring newspapers for 'stuffing' and old clothing to dress him/her. Gift cards from local merchants are awarded in each time slot for categories: funniest, most original, most likely to scare a crow! Take your scarecrow home to decorate for Halloween!

The Children's Cooperative Nursery School in Newton Centre will host a silent auction, along with free balloons and hand stamping for the kids! Among the items being auctioned: One night's stay at The Charles Hotel; a bowling party; passes to many restaurants including 51 Lincoln, Aquitane and Baker's Best; membership passes to Beacon Hill Athletic Club and Healthworks, museum passes, and much more. We are also raffling off a basket of kids' train-themed items, a large Victorian dollhouse and more! All proceeds go to the preschool's scholarship fund

Be sure and come back to Newton Center on Sunday, October 17th for more Fall Fun! There are 100 craft booths featuring splendid international and hand-made crafts, amusement rides, pumpkin decorating, face painting, The Circle of Caring at Hospice of the Good



Shepherd's "Big Feat" Memorial Walk and live entertainment on the main stage all afternoon. Don't miss the 'Green Solutions Expo' sponsored by the Green Decade Coalition and the Newton Needham Chamber of Commerce, featuring over 60 environmentally friendly exhibitors and displays. The Harvest Fair is sponsored by First Commons Bank, Newton Community Pride and the Mayor's Office for Cultural Affairs. Visit [www.newtoncommunitypride.org](http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org) or call 617- 527-8283 for more information.

Sunday, October 17

**Paddy's Road Race**

The Newton Parks & Recreation Department is pleased to announce Paddy's Youth Races on Sunday October 17, 2010 at West Newton Common. The races promote family, fun and fitness and will take place prior to the 3 mile run and walk to benefit Newton Special Athletes. Ribbons for all finishers, inflatables, face painting and more. For additional information and to register go to [paddysroadrace.com](http://paddysroadrace.com).

Mark Kelly, M.Ed., CTRS

Director of Special Needs

Newton Parks & Recreation

70 Crescent Street Newton, MA 02466

Phone (617) 796-1527

[mkelly@newtonma.gov](mailto:mkelly@newtonma.gov)

Tuesday, Oct. 19

**"Traditional Chinese Medicine and New Ideas for Food Allergy, Asthma, and Eczema,"** Speaker: Allergist Xiu-Min Li, MD, Center for Integrative Medicine for Allergy and Immunology, Mt. Sinai Medical Center, NY; 7:00 p.m. at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. Free for members of AAFA New England; others \$10.00. For info, call the Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America - New England Chapter at (781)444-7778 or visit [www.asthmaandallergies.org](http://www.asthmaandallergies.org).

Monday, Oct 25

**Green Parenting for Healthy Kids Talk.** As parents, we do everything we can to keep our kids safe and to make sure they grow up healthy. Going green may not seem relevant to these concerns, but studies are finding that what is good for the earth IS good for our children. Green Home and Lifestyle Consultant Rachel White will speak on Green Parenting for Healthy Kids--the information, tools and resources needed to help you

protect your children from environmental hazards today and to leave them a greener, cleaner, safer world tomorrow. Please join us for this informative evening at 7:30pm on Monday, October 25 in the Mason-Rice Elementary School auditorium (149 Pleasant St., Newton Centre). The program is sponsored by the Mason-Rice PTO and is free and open to the general public. Please contact [greenteam@masonrice.org](mailto:greenteam@masonrice.org) more information.

Wednesday, October 27

**"Safety First!"**

Mayor Warren invites you to participate in a Community Meeting on Safety on Wednesday, October 27th at 7 p.m. at Newton North High School. We will explore ways to make Newton a safer City for travelers of all ages. Bring your neighbors, family, friends and colleagues.

There will be break-out groups moderated by subcommittee chairs of the Newton Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

You will also have an opportunity to sign up to participate in the subcommittee meetings. Any Newton resident or employee may

participate in any of these subcommittees. Co-sponsored by Newton Villages, League of Women Voter's, Bike

Newton, Bike and Pedestrian Task Force. Contact David Koses at 617.796.1133 or [dkoses@newtonma.gov](mailto:dkoses@newtonma.gov)

Friday October 29

**John M. Barry Boys & Girls Club of Newton's 15th Annual Auction** on Friday, October 29th at the newly renovated Boston Marriott Newton! We will honor State Auditor A. Joseph DeNucci and celebrate our commitment to community. All proceeds from this event will help provide the life-changing programs and guidance that make the Boys & Girls Club successful. For more information, visit <http://www.newtonbgc.com/auction.html> or contact [njacob@newtonbgc.com](mailto:njacob@newtonbgc.com)

November 4, 5, 6,

**The Skin of our Teeth** will be Theatre Ink's inaugural performance at the new Lasker Auditorium at Newton North. Directed by Aviva Galpert and Edan Laniado,



The Skin of our Teeth follows the Antrobus family – an average American family in all respects, except that Mr. and Mrs. Antrobus are the biblical Adam and Eve, neither they nor their children age, and the triumph of good and evil hinges on the outcome of their familial disagreements – as they face everything from everyday hardships to impending apocalypse. Filled with absurdity, hilarity and pointed, insightful social commentary about progress, social Darwinism, and what we value, this show will undoubtedly be one to remember.

November 4th, 5th and 6th at 7:30pm. Lasker Theatre at NNHS, 360 Lowell Avenue, Newtonville. Tickets \$7 at [www.theatreink.net](http://www.theatreink.net) or 617-559-6406.

## Community Notes

**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, 2011. 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.

### Earn \$\$\$ Shoveling Snow!

Students & Interested Adults:

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?

Students/participants should be aware

- When you sign to be on this list, your name, village and phone # will be made available to those residents, often the elderly, needing assistance w/snow shoveling.
- If you are under the age of 18 you should check with parent(s) before signing up to be on this list.
- When you receive a phone call for a possible job, you will be responsible for negotiating a price and establishing parameters for the job.
- This is a private negotiation with no City involvement.

### Peirce School Family Does Pet Sitting!

While you are on business trips, vacations, day outings, etc., give your dog a fun time, too! Your puppy/dog will be well cared for while you're away. Your pet will be fed, walked, pampered, played with~ in short, will be having fun! We're a family with two kids; 17 and 11 years old. We've had our own dogs before and now we are opening our

hearts and home to pet sitting while folks are away. We have been doing this service for several years and it works very well for the animals and for our kids, too! We will only take one or two at a time, if you wish for your pet to vacation with a friend (!), so please schedule your time ASAP. Reasonable rates.

[EMagids@aol.com](mailto:EMagids@aol.com) or 617-527-6654/617-081-0400

### SmartSeat Chair Protectors

Looking for waterproof, stain resistant, and machine washable fabric covers for dining room and kitchen chairs? SmartSeat Chair Protectors are available online at <http://www.smartseatingchaircovers.com/>. The covers are really soft and comfortable, easy to use, and fit most styles and sizes of chairs. They are perfect for anyone who would like to "kiddie proof" their chairs.

### 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).



Stay informed and involved!  
Newsletters are sent electronically and  
posted to the NECP website.  
We need email addresses!  
Send to: [necppto@gmail.com](mailto:necppto@gmail.com)

