



The Wellington News

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Important Dates:

- **January 23:** PTO Winter ASE Courses Began
- **January 31:** Informances for Third and Fourth Graders; **9-9:30AM Fourth Grade** and **10-10:30AM Third Grade**
- **February 1:** PTO Winter Walk to School Day
- **Feb 3:** Gwen Irish Cradles to Crayons Comfy Cozy Day
- **Feb 6:** PTO General Meeting, Community Room, 8:45AM
- **Feb 10:** PTO Multicultural Night (See below for details!)

Dear Wellington Families,

This is the time of year when **absences** begin to accumulate. Please remember that compulsory daily attendance at school is applicable to children in Massachusetts starting at age 6. This includes being on time for school. At Wellington, attendance letters are sent home once a student reaches 5 or more absences.

If you have questions or concerns about an attendance letter please contact your child's teacher. Below are our attendance reporting procedures:

- **Attendance Reporting Process:** All absent and tardy students need to be reported to the office so we do not worry about the whereabouts of our students. To report an absence or tardy, please call the school as soon as you become aware that there will be an absence or tardy by **calling our 24 hour automated system at 617-993-5602**. Tardy students arriving **after 8:45 AM** must be checked-in at the main office by an adult. **Note: Instruction at Wellington Elementary School begins at 8:40AM each day**
- **Additional Attendance Information:** Please see below for helpful information regarding attendance from the Belmont Public Schools website.
- <http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/Administration/Publications/Student-Attendance-and-Truancy>

Abandoned Bicycle: There is an abandoned bicycle off of Orchard Street in the bike racks. It has been there since before winter break. If you know who this bicycle belongs to, please let them know that it must be removed by February 1, or it will be removed by the town. Thanks for your help!

Parking at St. Joseph's Church: Please do not use St. Joseph's Church parking! This facility runs a program which employs staff and parishioners who need these parking spaces. Thank you in advance for your help in being a great neighbor.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Have a great week!

Amy and Sarah

PTO News:

A full calendar of PTO events can be found online

<http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/wellington/pto/index.asp?pageID=1>.

Please use the following address to access the Wellington and Belmont School Events calendar from other applications. You can copy and paste this into any calendar product that supports the iCal format. Notifications can be individually tailored from your calendar or device.

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/0e3o095rv2hl8b4m561sigmm7k%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

ASE Winter Courses Begin This Week! Thank you to Allison Goodwin, Meryl Junik, and Kristen Becker, our amazing ASE Volunteer Team, for an exciting array of Winter Courses! Many thanks to our Monitors, Instructors, and the Wellington Teachers who open up their classrooms for our ASE Program! We could not provide our enrichment program without you! Winter classes start this week! Please check the RecDesk site for the specific details, and remind your children of their classes! <https://wellington.recdesk.com/recdeskportal/>

Wellington Directories Are Here! Thank you for your patience- the 2016-2017 Wellington School Directory has arrived! Directories will be distributed this week in student back-packs (one per family, unless additional copies were requested) to all families who contributed to the Wellington PTO this school year. If you have not already made your annual donation to the PTO, you can still do so by clicking on the "Donate" button on the Wellington PTO website: <http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/wellington/pto/>, or by check payable to Wellington PTO. Additional copies of the Directory will be available for purchase for \$5.00 each.

MULTICULTURAL NIGHT is Friday, February 10th from 6-8pm! Multicultural Night brings the community together to learn about and celebrate the many international

cultures we have at Wellington. The event features themed country tables where students and families can discover different cultures, a dessert potluck and a live performance. This year, Multicultural Night is on February 10 from 6-8pm. Pizza will be served!

This year's country table theme is ***Fairy Tales & Legends***. Students will be given a blank book when they arrive. At each table they will learn about a fairy tale or legend from that country, and they will be given a copy of one of the characters or scenes to paste into their book. They will be able to color around the characters and even create their own characters on blank pages! At the end of the evening they will have a complete book to take home with them.

Get involved!

We need a lot of help to make this fairy tale event a reality! Have you lived abroad or are you from a different country? Share your culture by volunteering to run a country table!

Interested in helping out another way or before the event? **Check out all of the volunteer opportunities and Sign up here: <http://signup.com/go/EBe2ia> Questions? Email April Julich Perez at aprilpomme@gmail.com**

Bundle Up and Walk to School February 1st! Brave the cold or enjoy the unseasonable warmth! Whatever the weather, join us for the Second Annual Winter Walk to School Day, supported by MassDot. Safe Route to School! Stay tuned for more information about our Walk to School Golden Sneaker competition that will kick off in the Spring!

THANK YOU:

The Moira Gavin Bingo Night was a Huge Success! Thank you to Mr. McMahon, Mary Gavin, Moozy's and the amazing volunteer team put together by our Bingo Organizers Stella Loven and Jill Babcock! Thank you to Jill, Stella and all of the parents, BHS students, and Chenery students for an exciting night of Bingo, fun and Moozy's ice cream! Thank you also, to those of you who donated the many amazing Bingo prizes for our lucky Wellington winners! There were smiles all around with all proceeds to benefit the Wellington Music & Fine Arts programs. Thank you for honoring the memory of Moira Gavin.





ENRICHMENT:

Last week the 1st graders were visited by Storyteller Diane Edgecomb of Living Myth Productions. She shared many entertaining legends of the rainforest with our students.

They sang songs and chanted together as Diane shared folk tales about how the Amazon birds got their colored feathers and the mysteries of the Nicaraguan tropics. Hearing about how a tortoise spared the lives of a jaguar was a favorite tale for many of the 1st graders!



OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT WELLINGTON

- ***Amazon Smile*** - *Are you an Amazon shopper?* If so, **sign up to use Amazon Smile and designate 0.5% of your purchase price to support your favorite charitable organization, like the Wellington PTO, Inc.** You use your existing amazon account, so it's simple! Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about> for more details.
- ***Mighty Nest*** - **Want to be green AND help Wellington while you shop?** Join Mighty Nest to shop for healthy, everyday items - and they will donate **15% of your purchases back to Wellington.** Mighty Nest carries products for active, healthy families including kitchen items, lunch gear, toys, baby products, cleaning supplies and personal care products. For more info or to sign up, go to: <http://schools.mightynest.com/schools/ma/belmont/roger-e-wellington>
- ***It's not too early to start collecting those BoxTops!*** Collecting box tops is a fun and easy way to earn cash for our school! *Last year, we raised over \$850 for the Wellington PTO, with items you already buy – let's try for even more this year!!* The money raised is used for field trips, in-school enrichment, classroom supplies, equipment and more. We'll hold a contest in the Spring for which class can bring in the MOST BoxTops, so start collecting now!!

As always, our thanks to all Wellington families for your continued support of the PTO - we couldn't do it without you!

Melissa & Lynne

Community News & Events:

The FBE's Online Camp Auction opens for bidding on Thursday, January 26th!

- From preschool programs to overnight camps, the FBE Online Camp Auction has something for every child. There are local offerings for a variety of age ranges and overnight options perfect for those children who wish to venture out of the area for camp.
- Please visit the FBE's [Online Camp Auction](#) website for detailed descriptions of each camp offering including dates and restrictions, and start bidding!
- **The FBE Online Camp Auction will close on Monday, February 6th at 8pm**
- Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to solidify your child's summer plans; and thank you for your support of the FBE!
- **Questions:** Contact Barb Chinoporos, campauction@fbe-belmont.org

Belmont Public Library News and Programs:

336 Concord Avenue Belmont, MA 02478

All afterschool programs are free. No registration required except where indicated. Call 617-993-2880 for more information.

LIBRARY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

- **FENCING DEMONSTRATION** -- Wednesday, January 25 at 2:30pm In this brief demo by the Olympia Fencing Center, students will show you real fencing in action. You'll learn about the rules of the game, have your questions answered, and can try on fencing play suits and masks.
- **EVENING PROGRAMS AT THE BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Need some library materials late? Looking for something fun to do as a family after work and school? The Children's Room of the Belmont Public Library is now open until 8:00pm Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays and offers the following evening programs:
- **NIGHT OWLS STORYTIME** – Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30pm Join us for this new monthly storytime featuring stories, songs, and a craft. Ideal for kids ages 4-7.

- EVENING EXPLORERS: OPTICAL ILLUSIONS – Monday, January 30 from 6:30 - 7:30pm Stop by the Children’s Room to see some cool optical illusions—you won’t believe your eyes! You can also make your own optical illusion to take home. Ideal for kids in grades 1-4.

Safe Routes to School Informational Meeting:

[Thursday, January 19](#) from [7-8pm](#), Burbank Cafeteria

The Burbank PTA invites parents and local residents to an informational meeting about pedestrian safety on School Street and all routes to Burbank. Come hear about collaborative efforts to address safety concerns around Burbank, progress to date, and proposed plans for future improvements. Discuss how you can help and effective next steps.

All are welcome; please spread the word. Questions? Please contact Katherine Poulin-Kerstien (kpoulinkerstien@gmail.com) or Harriet Wong (h_i_wong@yahoo.com).

Green Corner:

Did your family receive new clothes or stuffed animals for the holidays and now you want to get rid of your old ones? Please do not throw them in the trash! As long as textiles are clean and dry they can be donated and/or recycled. For recycling purposes don’t worry if they are worn, torn, permanently stained or missing a button or zipper. Some examples of textiles are: clothing, shoes, handbags, sheets, towels and draperies.

Here is a list of textiles that can be recycled:

[http://www.smartasn.org/consumers/SMARTList textiles that can be recycled.pdf](http://www.smartasn.org/consumers/SMARTList%20textiles%20that%20can%20be%20recycled.pdf)

Below are some ways to recycle textiles:

- Drop off at DPW Recycle Days, held in May and October.
- Call for a pick-up at your home from your favorite local charity.

Use textiles boxes located around town:

- St. Vincent de Paul boxes behind St. Joseph’s Church via Orchard St.
- Planet Aid boxes are located on Lexington St. at Thayer Rd. or Mill St. at Concord Ave.

Any questions or suggestions, please contact Mary Beth Calnan/Belmont Recycling Coordinator at mcalnan@belmont-ma.gov or 617-993-2689.



Winter BASH

Come have some frosty fun!

Sunday, January 29
1 - 2:30 PM

Camp Cedar Hill
265 Beaver Street
Waltham, MA

RSVP to Angela Scott at
617-352-0158 by January 23.

Learn more about Girl Scouts
at hergirlscouts.org.

Don't miss out!

- take a winter hike
- sip on hot cocoa
- play outdoor games
- learn about Girl Scouts
- enter to win a free week of camp*

***...fun for the
whole family!***

*Must attend event to enter, but don't need to be present to win. Free week is for one new week of day camp for 2016 season valued at \$305. Any amount over is responsibility of the family.