



The Wellington News

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Important Dates:

- **March 30: Kindergarten Information Night; 5:30PM, for families with incoming kindergarteners. Parents/guardians ONLY!**
- **March 30: Deadline for BOX TOPS!**
- **March 31: Outstanding Teacher Award Nomination DEADLINE**
- **April 1 (Saturday): Bandorama, BHS Field House, 4-5PM (Fourth graders set-up at 3:30PM)**
- **April 1 (Saturday): Stringorama, BHS Field House, 12:30PM set-up time for 3rd/4th graders**
- **April 3: Raising Resilient Kids, Parent Workshop, see below**
- **April 4-May 17: Fourth Grade MCAS Testing Window**
- **April 5: Third Grade MCAS, English Language Arts #1**
- **April 10: Teacher Appreciation Breakfast**
- **April 12: Third Grade MCAS, English Language Arts #2**
- **April 13: Third Grade MCAS, English Language Arts #3**
- **April 13: Third and Fourth Graders' Science Night (See below for registration information)**
- **April 27: Belmont Shopping Night**
- **May 16: Third Grade MCAS, Math #1**
- **May 17: Third Grade MCAS, Math #2**

Dear Wellington Families,

Every year in the month of February Wellington students in grades 2-4 take part in an event called Jump Rope for Heart. This event is sponsored by the American Heart Association. During this unit, our students learn about how to keep their hearts healthy through cardiovascular endurance and proper nutrition. We work on a variety of jump rope skills in class, and raise money for the American Heart Association outside of class.

We offered a class prize this year to the classroom that had the most students participate in fundraising. The winning class is Ms. Ebdon's 2nd grade class, and they will be receiving an extra recess session as their prize. This year our school raised more money than we ever

have before for the American Heart Association! **Wellington raised \$10,090.00** this year to help toward heart health awareness, treatment, medications, and research! We doubled the goal that we had set for the school which is incredible. Since we were able to raise so much money, we will be receiving a gift certificate to purchase some new equipment for our Physical Education program. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped our students to help others.

Please join us in thanking our PE team, Ms. Doherty and Ms. Crow, for their exceptional leadership of Jump Rope for Heart!

And, how are the children? Well, very well!

Amy and Sarah

Incoming Kindergarteners:

Do you or someone you know have a kindergartener planning to come to Wellington next school year? If the answer is YES, we need your help in getting the word out about registration, Information Night, and Intake Screening Day.

- **Registration:** This year ALL registration must be completed, **prior** to April 3. Go to the Belmont Public Schools website to begin this process. Begin registration online. Once you have completed the online forms, bring required documents to the office (as outlined in the directions from the website). We will complete your registration at that point and also sign you up for the Intake Screening Day.
- **Information Night:** Parents and guardians are invited to attend the Wellington Information Night on **Thursday, March 30 at 5:30PM**. You will meet the kindergarten teachers and hear critical information about how to prepare of a successful kindergarten year. This is for parents/guardians only, and not for children. (Thank you!)
- **Intake Screening Day:** * You must have a completed file **and** you must make an hour-long appointment to participate in this event on **Thursday, April 27**. Creating this appointment happens on the day when you bring your documents to the school, as outlined above. * You MUST bring your incoming Kindergartener to this event!

3rd and 4th Grade MCAS Testing:

As noted in our calendar above, MCAS testing is upon us. We will be testing third graders using the paper-based test so there are no changes to our implementation processes. Third grade students will all be tested at the same time on the five days listed above, as they have been in the past. The State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education mandated that all fourth graders be tested using computers. This mandate protracts the testing window for fourth grade. Specifically, fourth graders have the same number of days of testing (5) but, because we can only test ONE class a day in our computer lab, each teacher has different days within the window for his/her tests. ***Each fourth grade teacher will be sending parents and guardians their unique testing schedules by the end of next week.***

Outstanding Teacher Awards (FBE):

As you may have seen, the announcement for the 2017 Outstanding Teacher Awards went out on the district list-serve last week. The nomination period for this event runs through **March 31st**. The Foundation for Belmont Education is excited to announce the 2017 Outstanding Teacher Awards. This program recognizes and celebrates the extraordinary contributions made by teachers in the Belmont Public Schools.

Nominations are currently being accepted for these awards. Belmont parents and community members, Belmont Public School colleagues, and high school or middle school students can submit nominations for teachers - of any grade, subject, or specialty - who they feel deserve this special recognition.

Teachers from Belmont's six schools are chosen for this award. Each award winner will be honored at a surprise celebration at their school and at a district-wide awards ceremony to be held on May 2nd at the Chenery Middle School.

Raising Resilient Kids (Parent Workshop):

Come to this year's social and emotional learning presentation to learn about resilience, how to foster it at home, and how we're fostering it in the schools. This presentation is part of the district's social and emotional learning initiative, generously funded by the Foundation for Belmont Education. Choose the presentation that best fits your kids and/or your schedule.

Elementary Presentation:

- Monday, April 3
- 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- Chenery Middle School Auditorium

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/0e3o095rv2hl8b4m561sjgmm7k%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ASE Update: The Winter Session is coming to a close! Thank you to all who have participated! ***Last days of Winter Session classes are as follows:***

- Monday, March 27th
- Tuesday, March 28th

- Thursday, March 30th
- Friday, March 24th

Registration for Spring ASE opened on Monday, March 20th at 12am. Check out some great Spring classes including After School Sports (K-4), Yoga (K-2), Spanish (K-2), Gardening Magic (3-4) and more! **Classes begin on Monday April 3rd.**

Register online at:

<https://wellington.recdesk.com/recdeskportal/>

It's March- That Means Box Tops Time! Collecting Box Tops For Education 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. Whose class will collect the MOST BoxTops?! Our top collecting classes will be rewarded in April so send in your Box Tops today! **All Box Tops must be returned to school by this Thursday, March 30th!**

THANK YOU:

A HUGE Thank You to the many wonderful sponsors of this year's Winter Carnival!

Our event was so successful due to the generous support of so many local businesses that provided not only financial support, but also: baked goods, coffee, raffle prizes, and more! Please remember to thank them the next time you're stopping in to support one of these local businesses:

Coffee donations:

- Star Market
- Bj's
- Whole Foods
- Linda's Donuts
- Starbucks of Belmont Center
- Quebrada
- Dunkin' Donuts
- Iggy's Bread

Raffle donations:

- Babcock family- 4 Red Sox tickets
- Jerry Dickhaut- \$100 champions gift card
- Central rock gym
- Launch trampoline park
- Mathnasium of Fresh Pond
- Becca Pizzi -Moozy's Ice Cream

Sponsor donations:

- Belmont Orthodontics
- Belmont Pediatric Dentistry
- Belmont Smiles
- Belmont Savings Bank
- Century 21 Adams Lawndale

- Cityside Subaru
- Cronin Signs
- Cambridge Trust Company Bank
- East Boston Savings Bank
- F.E. French Construction, Inc.
- James W. Flett co. inc.
- Little Kids Academy
- Lynn Findlay Homes
- Mathnasium of Fresh Pond
- Mobil/Jamieson's Service inc dba concord ave services
- Pediatric Dental Arts
- Watertown Savings Bank
- WT Phelan Insurance

ENRICHMENT:

Second Grade Visit from a Musher and his Sled Dog! As the Wellington second graders were in the midst of their Alaska unit, it was such a treat for a real life musher to come to Wellington! The second graders were delighted to visit with John Kenney, his dog sled, and his lead dog, Teddy. The students learned a lot about John's experience from his many years of racing dogs. The highlight was getting to pet Teddy!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Third Annual Wellington Science Night -Thursday, April 13! Join us for 3rd and 4th grade Science Night on Thursday, April 13, 2016 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., in the Cafeteria. Nearly 70 students are participating in this year's Science Night. Come and check out their hard work and find out what they learned from their experiments. The purpose of the Science Night is

to: encourage students' interest in science; develop their inquiry and investigation skills; learn to work as a team; and give them a sense of pride in completing a research project.

Spirit Wear Sale is Now Open! Last week order forms went out in your student's backpacks for this year's Wellington Spirit Wear! Just in time for Spring, we have new designs in flannel pants, hoodies, t-shirts and shorts! We've partnered with Champion Sporting Goods to bring you some exciting new gear- samples will be available at Wellington! **All orders must be paid by check, returned to school in your child's backpack, no later than April 7th!** See digital copy of order form below.

GREEN TEAM NEWS!

The Wellington PTO Green Committee is committed to helping our school reduce waste in the cafeteria. You'll be hearing more from us about that. For now, here are some 'Astonishing Facts' about food waste:

1. In the US, wasted food contributes 33 million tons of trash to landfills, where it proceeds to decompose, producing 25 percent of U.S. methane emissions. This contributes to global warming.
2. Only the best-looking produce makes it to the supermarket, meaning entire crops of perfectly edible fruit and vegetables are discarded because they do not meet exacting marketing standards for their physical characteristics.
3. In the U.S., wasted food costs \$165 billion per year (more than \$40 billion from household waste). Of that, \$750 million per year is spent just to dispose of the food we carelessly toss in the trash.

To read the full article, check out this link: <http://www.takepart.com/photos/food-waste-facts/food-waste-facts>

For more information about the Wellington PTO Green Committee, contact Priya Narasimhan, lpriyas@hotmail.com

2017 Fourth-Grade Send-Off Information for Fourth-Grade Parents:

What is the "Fourth-Grade Send-Off"? The Fourth-Grade Send-Off (4GSO) is an annual tradition at Wellington. It is a party held just for the fourth graders and their parents/guardians to celebrate the end of the students' time in elementary school and the transition to middle school. The event includes a dinner for the fourth graders (and light fare for the grown-ups), music, a slideshow, and special presentations by Principal Spangler and others. In addition, the fourth graders receive a special memory book, t-shirt, and other mementos from their time at Wellington. Due to space constraints, each student may be accompanied by up to two adults- no younger siblings please!

When is it? Thursday, June 15 from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Wellington cafeteria and gymnasium. Look for an Evite to come soon!

Who puts the Fourth-Grade Send-Off together? A committee of fourth-grade parents is already hard at work planning and fundraising for this special event, but third-grade parents traditionally volunteer at the party itself so we can enjoy the time with our children. Note that the event and mementos for the students are entirely self-funded

through parent donations and fundraising activities – we do not receive any funding from the school or the Wellington PTO for the Fourth-Grade Send-Off.

How can you help? There are three main ways that every fourth grade parent can help contribute to the 4GSO:

1. **Volunteer!** Please contact Allison Goodwin, Nomita Ganguly, or Lauren Capitani at farewellington@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved in planning the event, compiling pictures for the memory book and slide show, decorating, assembling gift bags or have any other great ideas or talents that you would like to contribute.
2. **Provide photos!** Look for emails and a flyer this week about how you can contribute photos of your child and his or her classmates to the party slideshow and memory book. There will be two separate requests for photos, one specifically for the slideshow and the other for additional photos to be used in the memory book.
3. **Contribute!** To help bring this party and gifts to your child, we are asking each family who can for a **donation of \$40**. If this amount is not feasible at this time, please feel free to make any donation you can. Also, any additional donations would be greatly appreciated. Please note that all fourth graders and parents are permitted to fully participate in all of these events regardless of whether or not a contribution is made.

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>

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

Melissa & Lynne