



## *The Wellington News*

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**October 17, 2016**

### *Important Dates:*

- **October 17-21: P.A.C.K. Week; see below!**
- **October 20: PICTURE DAY!**
- **October 26: 11:40AM; Early Release WEDNESDAY**
- **October 31: Wellington Gift Card and Food Drive Begins**
- **November 2: 11:40AM; Early Release WEDNESDAY**
- **November 7: 8:45AM General PTO Meeting, Community Room: Mr. Tenhor and Ms. Mailloux will teach us about Playworks!**
- **November 8: NO SCHOOL, Election Day**
- **November 9: 11:40AM; Early Release WEDNESDAY**
- **November 11: NO SCHOOL, Veterans Day**
- **November 14: Wellington PTO Gift Card and Food Drive (see below for details)**
- **November 16: 11:40AM; Early Release**
- **November 7-11: Wellington PTO Book Fair Previews**
- **November 14-16: Wellington PTO Book Fair**
- **November 23: 11:40AM; Early Release WEDNESDAY**

### *Dear Wellington Families,*

Coming to school *on time* is an important routine to establish, now. This process helps students feel confident and fully ready for a successful school day. This is also true for most adults! I know that when I am just a few minutes late for a meeting; I feel behind and less effective for the duration of the meeting. When students arrive even a few minutes late to school the disruption impacts all students' learning, and late arriving students do not feel as set-up for success. Late students feel behind and are often less confident about accessing the learning. Please help us to maximize all of our instructional minutes and in setting-up ALL students for success by ensuring that your student is on time for school, everyday.

***Instruction begins at 8:40AM; students should be on campus between 8:25-8:35AM.***

Our faculty has been studying and applying growth mindset principles at Wellington Elementary School for the past school year. Perhaps you have noticed our bulletin board in

the main hallway or heard about these concepts from your child's teacher? Or, maybe you have read the book Grit, by Angela Duckworth? This YouTube video might also be a great introduction to these concepts! Enjoy! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xv2ar6AKvGc>

October and November are both truly tricky months. Please be sure that you carefully review all of the 11:40AM early release days as well as the days when we do not have school.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Amy (and Sarah)

### *Preparing for Conferences:*

With parent/teacher conferences on the horizon, we thought it might be helpful to share a few thoughts so this conference time is maximized.

*What to expect during conferences:*

**Two-way Conversation:** Parents/Guardians should expect a two-way conversation where both the family members and the teachers talk and listen. The conference is a good time for families to learn about how the student is progressing in school thus far; focusing on all aspects of the educational process, not just academically. It is also a great time for the family to share information about the student the teacher might find helpful. Sometimes it is the little pieces of information about a student that can help the teacher maximize learning. For example, a parent shares with the teacher that her child loves turtles during the conference. Later, the teacher might use this information to help motivate the student to persevere during learning or as a way to make an authentic connection with that student. We know from research that the relationship between the teacher and the student is key to the learning process, so details about students, helps teachers build relationships!

**Opportunities and Challenges:** Families should be prepared to discuss areas of strength as well as areas that are challenging for the student. Both of these categories are ***equally important***; and we caution parents and guardians not to focus more on the negative than they do the positive. When working with young children it is especially important for all the adults supporting the educational process to mindfully leverage a student's strengths while the student works on his/her challenges. This helps students to maintain confidence throughout the learning process.

*Conference Checklist:*

- ✓ Make a list of questions you have.
- ✓ Think of things the teacher may not know about your student that will help the relationship to continue to grow.
- ✓ Think about how you will support your student with his/her challenges at school while you simultaneously leverage his/her learning strengths.

***Nurse's Notes:*** (P.A.C.K. Week: October 17-21)

We will join the other schools in Belmont when we “Pack Assorted Colors for Kids” during the week of October 17-21. This is a fun and educational program that encourages kids to eat a wide variety of colorful fruits and vegetables, as each has its own nutritional benefits. To get the broadest range of nutrients, all colors are important – Purple, white, red, yellow, orange and green. And kids love eating the rainbow! Each day of P.A.C.K. Week has been assigned a different color and we’re asking you to pack a fruit or vegetable for your child’s snack/lunch based on the color of the day.

(Monday=Purple, Tuesday=White, Wednesday=Red, Thursday=Yellow/Orange, Friday=Green)

For more fun, encourage your child to wear something to match the color of the day! The school lunch will be offering a “color of the day” item as well. Feel free to call me with questions at 617-993-5606. Terry Grimm RN

### *All Town Chorus:*

All-Town Chorus sign ups are still open for singers grades 3-5. We meet on Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30pm in the Burbank Music Room to enjoy making music together. You can register at:

[https://docs.google.com/a/belmontschools.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdo4CMrz9Zcw20lyy\\_zHQnnj2SIdBPAVvnjbzOIIn5ouGHdCfg/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/a/belmontschools.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdo4CMrz9Zcw20lyy_zHQnnj2SIdBPAVvnjbzOIIn5ouGHdCfg/viewform?c=0&w=1)

### *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>

### **THANK YOU:**

***Thank you to our ASE Volunteer Team of Allison Goodwin, Meryl Junik and Kristen Becker for an exciting slate of Fall enrichment courses!***

Thank you Allison, Meryl and Kristen for lining up an incredible line-up of courses for the Fall ASE session! Classes started on Thursday, and will continue this week! Please remind your child of his/her scheduled classes and refer to the RecDesk portal for scheduling questions. Special thanks to Bev Harper and Ellen Analetto for supervising our program each day!

### **IMPORTANT NEWS/REMINDERS:**

- School Picture Day is October 20!*** Hayward Photography will be at Wellington on Thursday, October 20th to take your child's school picture. Envelopes with the photo packages offered went home with students last week. Please send in the envelope & payment with your child on Picture Day. If you do not have a picture envelope, please contact your child's teacher.

Every child's photo will be taken, even if you choose not to purchase pictures through Hayward Photography. In addition, each child will receive a class photo. If your child **is absent** on Picture Day or you are not happy with the photo that was taken, there will be a picture re-take day announced at a later date. Questions? Email the School Picture Day Coordinators: Meryl Junik ([meryljunik@gmail.com](mailto:meryljunik@gmail.com)) or Angela Holmes ([acoveny@gmail.com](mailto:acoveny@gmail.com))
- Wellington Directory is Under Construction!*** We've received the information collected by the BPS District Office and are beginning the process of compiling and printing the Wellington Directory. If you did not already complete the district email update, please be on the look-out for a Directory Information Form in your child's student folder. If you wish to be included in the directory and did not complete the email form before Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, you MUST complete the paper form and return it to the Main Office. Be sure to check the box authorizing inclusion in the Wellington Directory. More information about the directory and expected distribution coming soon. If you have a business that would like to advertise in the Wellington School Directory, please submit your business card size ad content and payment of \$25.00 in an envelope marked "Directory Ad" in your child's folder, or send your information as a PDF to [wellingtonptodirectory2@gmail.com](mailto:wellingtonptodirectory2@gmail.com) and coordinate payment with our Directory Ad Sales volunteer, Kate Sacca.
- October is Principal's Month in Massachusetts!*** October is "Principal's Month" in Massachusetts. Please join the Wellington PTO in recognizing the achievements of our amazing principal team:

  - Principal Spangler and Assistant Principal Forrey-Pettit! Some ideas for parents interested in celebrating Principal's Month are below, courtesy of [PrincipalsMonth.org](http://PrincipalsMonth.org) (please visit the site for more ideas, or come up with some of your own!):
  - Write a letter to Superintendent Phelan showing your support.
  - Send flowers as a festive way to promote a sense of celebration.
  - Ask local restaurant(s) to donate a gift certificate in honor of National Principal's Month.
  - Have your child create a picture or card with thanks or a card depicting what it means to be a Principal.

#### **EVERYDAY WAYS TO SUPPORT 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!

- ***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 information or to sign up, go to: <http://schools.mightynest.com/schools/ma/belmont/roger-e-wellington>.
- ***Reminder: No Idling At Wellington.*** For the health of our children, the faculty/staff and Wellington's neighbors, please don't idle your car engine around the school while waiting to pick up a student. It is against the law to idle your engine for more than five minutes. The Massachusetts Anti-Idling law aims to improve air quality by reducing unnecessary air pollution from idling vehicles. Please consider others while you wait. For more information please see: <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/sites/default/files/ehs/docs/massidlinglaw.pdf>.

**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:*

### *Belmont High School Ski Team's Annual Ski & Snowboard Sale:*

**Saturday November 5<sup>h</sup> 10am-2:00pm at the Belmont High School cafeteria.**

Discounted new and used ski and snowboard equipment, ice skates and some ski outerwear are sold on a consignment basis and by Newton's Centre Ski and Bike. For consignment sales, drop off sale items between 8-10am and we will sell them for you and split profits to support the team. Come to gear-up and get ready for the upcoming winter season! For more info, visit [www.belmontskiteam.com](http://www.belmontskiteam.com)

### ***FBE SPELLING BEE:***

I'm sure you've heard the BUZZ -- it's Spelling Bee time again!

The Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) will hold its annual Spelling Bee at the **Chenery Middle School – New Location for 2016 - on Saturday, November 5th.**

The Bee is open to all students in grades K-6 and is an exciting event for students, family, and friends. Kindergarten through fourth grade swarms are non-competitive. Spellers are asked to write a word on a white board -- as a team -- and are simply told if they are correct or not. Online registration is available at [www.fbe-belmont.org/bee](http://www.fbe-belmont.org/bee) through **Oct. 21st.** For more information, to register, and to view the 2016 word lists, please visit the FBE website at: [www.fbe-belmont.org/bee](http://www.fbe-belmont.org/bee). If you need assistance, please contact Spelling Bee Co-Chairs Laurie Bufano or Barbara Bulfoni at [beemaster@fbe-belmont.org](mailto:beemaster@fbe-belmont.org).