



The Wellington News

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Important Dates:

- **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, Cafeteria: Mr. Tenhor and Ms. Mailloux will teach us about Playworks; Superintendent will also be a presenter!
- **November 7-11:** Wellington PTO Book Fair Previews
- **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 14-16:** Wellington PTO Book Fair
- **November 23:** 11:40AM; Early Release WEDNESDAY

Dear Wellington Families,

- **Please NOTE:** NOVEMBER 16 is NOT an 11:40AM early release day as stated in our last newsletter! Students will dismiss on November 16 at 1:40PM as usual. We are sorry for the confusion!
- Halloween is just around the corner! Just a friendly reminder that we do not celebrate Halloween at Wellington Elementary School, please see the note about Halloween from Nurse Grimm, below.
- Thank you for coming to school **on time!** 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 entire time. 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.***

- 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: (Healthy, Happy Halloween!)

With Halloween fast approaching, I encourage everyone to think of creative ways to keep your children healthy and happy.

- Please **do not send** candy in to school. We are trying to teach good nutrition and support children with obesity and food allergies.
- Please consider having your child donate a portion of their candy to those less fortunate.
- Inspect your child's treats carefully. Throw away anything that may have been tampered with and small pieces of hard candy that may be a choking hazard for young children.

Enjoy the fresh air and time with your neighbors and friends! 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>

PTO News:

A full list 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:

A huge Thank You to Meryl Junik and Angela Holmes for a picture perfect Picture Day!

Thank you to Meryl, Angela, and all of the amazing volunteers who managed to procure, pose, and photograph the over 600 students in our building in one day! We definitely could not have done it without you! We had a beautiful sunny day for outdoor photos, and our students all looked special for their close-ups! Thank you also to JoAnn Papalia and Aimee Doherty for helping everyone get where they needed to be!

IMPORTANT NEWS/REMINDERS:

Gift Cards and Food Donations – October 31st – November 14th, the Wellington PTO will be collecting donations of gift certificates of any monetary value and new, non-perishable food to help families in need in our neighborhoods. We are especially interested in gift cards for local grocery stores as well as for other services and shops that would be helpful to families with kids. These donations will directly benefit families in our Wellington Community. Gift Cards and checks made payable to the “Wellington PTO” and placed in an envelope labeled “gift card” may be sent in with children and will be collected by the teachers and forwarded to the office. Questions? Contact: Nomita Ganguly: nganguly@verizon.net or Jessica Leveroni: jleveroni@gmail.com

Wellington Book Fair Is Coming - a Swashbuckling Good Time! The Wellington PTO Book Fair is almost here! This year’s theme is “Pirates,” and we can’t wait for you to join us as we cozy up in the Treasure Trove with all the BOOKS! Book sales will take place November 14-16. All students, Pre-K – Fourth Grade will “preview” the sale with their classes during the school day the week prior.

We need your help to make this major event a success! From setting up and decorating (**Nov. 3-4**), to helping with preview days (**Nov. 7, 9, 10**), to operating the cash registers and packing up, we can't do it without you. No experience is necessary, great time is guaranteed!

Please sign-up to volunteer at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e4faeab2da2fd0-wellington1>

IT'S TIME TO FEED “CAPTAIN FUZZ” THE COIN PIRATE - All For Books Donation Campaign begins THIS WEEK! Please welcome “Captain Fuzz,” the Wellington All for Books Challenge Pirate! He is HUNGRY, and feeding him is an important part of our SWASHBUCKLING PTO Scholastic Book Fair! Through our annual All for Books Challenge, we raise money to buy and donate new books to children in our community. Scholastic matches our contribution dollar for dollar, and we will be donating books to the BELMONT FOOD PANTRY. **Our goal is to raise \$1,300 in donations.** If we reach it, there will be an all school PAJAMA DAY this winter! *Crack open that piggy bank and check for coins under the couch cushions!* You may send donations to school in your child’s folder, or feed **Captain Fuzz** yourself – he is visiting Welly in the Main Hallway!



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 an email from the Wellington Directory Volunteer Team. If you wish to be included in the directory and did not complete the district's email confirmation before Oct. 4th, you **MUST** reply to the directory email. Be sure to clearly state that you are authorizing inclusion in the Wellington Directory. If you have any questions about directory information, please contact Maureen Todaro at: wellingtonptodirectory2@gmail.com.

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 and coordinate payment with our Directory Ad Sales volunteer, Kate Sacca.

Green Team News:

The Wellington PTO Green Committee recently met on Wednesday, October 19th at 8:45am, in the Cafetorium. The Wellington PTO Green Committee is a subgroup in the PTO, made up of parents who are interested in raising environmental awareness and encouraging healthy habits at Wellington. All Wellington Parents are invited to attend and participate on the Green Committee. For more information, email Priya Narasimhan at lpriyas@hotmail.com.

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>.

Please take advantage of our new picnic tables at Wellington, *Spangler Flats*! You are encouraged to use this space to catch up with other parents after pick-up or before dismissal! Have a seat while you wait for your children, with the added benefit of being out of sight from classrooms finishing their school day!

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^h 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

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 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. If you need assistance, please contact Spelling Bee Co-Chairs Laurie Bufano or Barbara Bulfoni at beemaster@fbe-belmont.org.

GIFT CARDS & DONATION!!!

OCTOBER 31ST UNTIL NOVEMBER 14TH THE WELLINGTON PTO WILL BE COLLECTING DONATIONS OF GIFT CERTIFICATES OF ANY MONETARY VALUE AND NON-PERISHABLE FOOD TO HELP FAMILIES IN NEED IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

FOOD

WE HOPE
YOU CAN
HELP US!

OCT. 31ST - NOV. 14TH

HOW CAN I HELP?

GIFT CARDS

GIFT CARDS CAN BE SENT IN A SCHOOL IN THE PINK FOLDERS AND WILL BE COLLECTED BY TEACHERS. GIFT CARDS SHOULD BE PUT IN AN ENVELOPE LABELED "GIFT CARD".

FOOD DONATIONS

FOOD DONATIONS CAN BE SENT IN AND PLACED IN THE DONATION BOX OUTSIDE THE OFFICE.

CHECKS

WRITE A CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO THE WELLINGTON PTO AND PUT IN AN ENVELOPE LABELED "GIFT CARD" AND SEND WITH STUDENTS IN THE PINK FOLDERS.

WHAT TO DONATE?

GIFT CARDS OF ANY VALUE!

- LOCAL GROCERY STORE
--SPR MARKET
--STOP & SHOP
- TARGET

FOOD DONATIONS

- MACARONI AND CHEESE
- PASTA
- RICE
- PASTA SAUCE
- SOUP
- PEANUT BUTTER
- TUNA FISH
- CEREAL -- HOT AND COLD

OUR FOCUS?

Our focus for the drive is to collect gift cards for local grocery stores as well as for other services and shops that would be helpful to families with kids. We will also be collecting specific new and unused non-perishable food items, which are always welcome.

SUPPORT!

We hope you'll support the gift card drive in whatever way you can so we can support our families in Belmont!

QUESTIONS?

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JESSICA LEVERONE
jyleverone@gmail.com

WELLINGTON PTO 2018