

The Wellington News

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Annemarie Stewart
Interim
Principal

January 2, 2018

Important Dates:

- **January 2:** School Resumes!
- **January 2-31:** Wellington PTO Helping Hands Gift Card & Coat Drive
- **January 3:** 1:40 p.m. dismissal
- **January 3-10:** Winter ASE Registration Window
- **January 5:** PTO Tudisco Skate Night
- **January 8:** ACCESS testing begins
- **January 16:** Executive Functioning expert, Sarah Ward, parent presentation, Wellington School from 7-9PM (Please do NOT bring children to this event)
- **January 19:** PTO Moira Gavin Bingo Night
- **January 22:** Winter ASE classes begin
- **January 26:** Report cards posted for parents

Dear Wellington Families,

Welcome back and happy new year! I hope you all had a safe and fun winter break. My husband and I celebrated Christmas locally with family and my daughter loved the play kitchen that Santa brought her. Over the vacation, I was able to spend some time at Wellington to settle into my interim principal role and get organized.

Since I began at Wellington, I have been impressed by the professional and collaborative staff, the kind and thoughtful students and the generous and supportive community. I have already learned so much about Wellington as a school and about Belmont as a district, and I am eager to learn more in this new year. I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to be Wellington's interim principal.

A great deal of thoughtful work has already gone into this 2017-2018 school year and I want to acknowledge all that Mrs. Spangler has done. Beginning in early November, Mrs. Spangler began to mentor me in this interim principal role and we discussed in detail Wellington's curriculum, school procedures and policies and school traditions. My goals, as the interim principal, for the next six months include: increasing my knowledge base about the academic, social-emotional and cultural aspects of this community, connecting with staff, students and families, and closely supporting Wellington's teachers so they are able to do the best work possible for all of our students to learn. It is my plan to continue to successfully guide Wellington to the end of the school year with compassion and care. I also

want to say thank you to Ms. Sheila Walsh (our Lead Teacher) and Ms. Kaitlyn Kennedy (our full time guidance counselor) for their willingness to step into their new roles, in order to support Wellington.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help your child at Wellington. I feel fortunate to be leading Wellington at this time and I know I am part of a special community!

And, how are the children? Well, very well indeed.

Annemarie

Nurse's Notes: (Winter Reminders)

Welcome back after vacation! This is a good time to review school policies for helping children stay safe and comfortable here at school.

- Remember that if you child's class has students with food allergies please send alternative SNACK foods for YOUR child so that everyone can be safe when eating snack in class.
- Make sure students **dress in layers** and come to school with a **warm jacket, plus a hat and mittens**, since the temperature can be so variable this time of year.
- Please keep your child home with new-onset illness and especially with vomiting, diarrhea, and/or untreated fever of 100 or greater in the previous 24 hours.
- Please review medication policies for administration during school hours including providing: completed parent/physician consent forms as well as medications in manufacturer/pharmacy-labeled containers transported to school by parents. Please see the complete policy information regarding medication on the Belmont Public Schools website, under the Health Services section.
- Also, after a vacation is a great time to check your children for head lice.

Other health tips are located on the Health Services section of the Belmont Public Schools website homepage. Feel free to call me with questions. -Terry Grimm RN

PTO News:

PTO News:

Welcome back! Please follow [this link](#) to read the latest PTO Newsletter. Make sure to catch all the fun, upcoming programs on page 2!

~ Lynne and Meryl

• **Mark your calendars for BOKS/ASE Registration - Jan 3!** Registration will begin Jan 3 at midnight (when Tuesday turns into Wednesday). Course previews will be available on RecDesk over the winter break: <https://wellington.recdesk.com/Community/Program>. Save time and create your RecDesk account now! Remember, the account should be created in the parent/caregiver name and then add each student as a household member.

Annemarie Stewart
Interim Principal
Wellington Elementary

Wellington

PTO

January 2018 Newsletter

PTO Co-Presidents: Lynne Standish & Meryl Junik

Interim Principal: Annemarie Stewart

Important Dates

January 2018

- 2-31 "Helping Hands" Gift Card / Coat Drive
- 3-10 Winter BOKS/ASE Clubs Registration
- 5 Sue Tudisco Skate Night
- 16 Sarah Ward Parent Program
- 19 Moira Gavin Bingo Night
- 22 Winter BOKS/ASE Clubs Begin

February 2018

- 2 Gwen Irish Comfy Cozy Day
- 5 General PTO Meeting
- 9 Multicultural Night

Full PTO Calendar:

belmont.k12.ma.us/wellington/pto

Presidents' Corner

Welcome! We warmly welcome Ms. Stewart and Ms. Walsh into their new roles as Interim Principal and Lead Teacher, respectively. We're so lucky to have such a fantastic leadership team, and we look forward to working with them as they guide Wellington through the remainder of the school year!



As we start this new year, please read the Green Team [newsletter here](#).

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

~ Lynne & Meryl

Farewell to Mrs. Spangler

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the PTO collaborated with the teachers and staff to help show Principal Spangler how much we appreciate her many contributions to Wellington. The following gifts were presented to Mrs. Spangler at a brief school-wide assembly before winter break:

- **Thumbprint Quilt** – Each current student and staff member was given an opportunity to add their thumbprint to a blanket created out of Wellington 4GSO t-shirts from each year that Mrs. Spangler was principal at the Wellington! Inspiration for this project was taken from Mrs. Spangler's original idea to have each fourth grader add their thumbprint in Wellington's main corridor. A huge thank you to Melissa McKenna who sewed together all of the t-shirt squares to create this beautiful blanket! We hope this blanket brings Mrs. Spangler much warmth!
- **Amy & Weldon's Garden** – Mrs. Spangler's husband Weldon also spent quite a bit of time at school. He lovingly planted and tended the garden near the picnic tables on the turf side of the building. The PTO purchased a hand-made sign that reads "Amy & Weldon's Garden" as well as three painted butterfly houses that will be placed in this garden in the spring to commemorate Weldon's hard work and Amy's vision for an outdoor education space at Wellington.
- **Mrs. Spangler Make a Difference Day** – For many staff members who retire from Wellington, Mrs. Spangler instituted a day in their name, which reflected something the retiree loved to do. The PTO created a banner for the day the Wellington staff have dedicated in Mrs. Spangler's honor, which reads "Mrs. Spangler Make a Difference Day" and also reflects her love of the "Starfish Story". Mrs. Spangler's day will be celebrated each Spring.



Upcoming Events & Programs

Winter BOKS/ASE Registration – January 3-10



Registration for the winter session opens at midnight January 3rd and will continue through January 10th. Along with returning favorites like Yoga and Jedi Training, the team has lined up an amazing selection of new, exciting clubs such as Laugh Out Loud (an improv class for grades 3-4) and Hairstyling with Miss Ebdon. Plus, Story Art will feature new stories! [Preview winter clubs now](#), and save time by creating an account at any time. Please remember to create your account in the parent/caregiver's name, then add each student as a family member. The winter BOKS/ASE clubs are always in high demand and many classes fill up within a few hours of registration opening, so kindly plan accordingly. Please contact the [ASE Club Coordinators](#) at with any questions.

Sue Tudisco Skate Night – January 5, 7-9pm

Join Wellington friends and families for a fun and free evening of ice skating on January 5th. Lace up your skates or come for some hot chocolate and spend time with our great community. The event runs from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. at the Skip Viglirolo Rink (297 Concord Ave). Please make sure to bring your own skates as there are no rentals. Please contact [Cassandra Page](#) with any questions. We look forward to skating together!



Sarah Ward Parent Program – January 16, 7-9pm



Sarah Ward, M.S., CCC/SLP and Co-Director of Cognitive Connections in Concord, MA, has over 20 years of experience treating a wide range of brain-based learning difficulties and behavioral issues. A popular speaker, Ms. Ward regularly presents on the topic of executive functions to a variety of professional and parent organizations. This program is co-sponsored by the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) and Wellington PTO.

Moira Gavin BINGO Night – January 19, 5:45-7:30pm

Save the date for Moira Gavin BINGO Night - Friday, January 19th! BINGO Night promises to be an action-packed, fun-filled evening, and every child goes home a winner! Plus, all proceeds benefit Wellington's music and arts programming. Details to follow shortly... Contact [Miike Reavey](#) with any questions.



Thank you to...

Carol Berberian, Amanda Mittel, & Denise Steiner for their thankless hours of work putting together and distributing this year's Wellington Directory. We'd also like to thank the generous sponsors who purchased ad space, which helped to fund the printing of the Directory.

Emily Ferris, Jona Marashi, & Sharon Sullivan for organizing last month's quarterly Teacher Appreciation Breakfast and to the many parents who baked, bought, and delivered refreshments! The staff truly appreciated the assortment of treats!

Alexis Demirjian for organizing and distributing Spirit Wear orders last month! Can't wait to see everyone showing off their Wellington and Belmont pride! Stay tuned for more details about our next Spirit Wear sale!

"Helping Hands" Drive

Share the warmth! Through the end of this month, we are collecting coats for Children's Services of Roxbury through the organization One Warm Coat. **Clean, gently used coats for children and adults** can be deposited into the collection bin near Welly in the main core. Thanks to Wellington alum Shanta Gardner for coordinating our coat drive.

In addition, families can also contribute **gift cards**, which will be shared with families in need in our school community. Gift cards to stores such as Star Market and Target are most helpful for meeting basic needs. Please send in any gift cards in an envelope labelled "PTO Gift Card Drive" in your student's communication folder.

**Thank you in advance
for your contributions
and support!**

