

Wellington

MARCH 2009
PTO NEWSLETTER

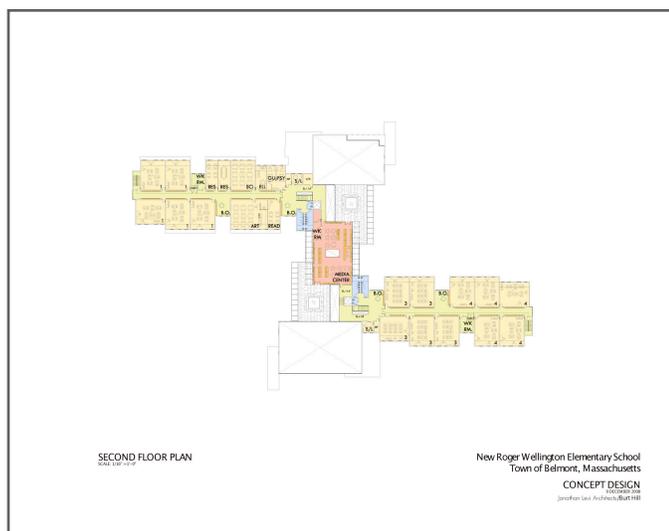
New Wellington Moves Forward

The Town of Belmont has identified the Wellington School as its #1 capital project priority. After a very long delay, the Wellington School project seems to be on track. On March 25th, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), the state agency responsible for deciding which school construction projects to support and how much of the costs the state will reimburse, gave Belmont its approval for partial state funding of a new Wellington School. Project costs could benefit from current economic conditions which have resulted in lower construction and energy costs, and from cyclically low financing costs for the town's AAA rated debt.

The new building is designed for 575 students, with 5 classrooms for each grade K-4, plus capacity for 75 students in Special Education settings (pre-school and LABBB Collaborative). The new school will be close to 5,000 square feet smaller than the current building but will accommodate almost 30% more students.

Now that MSBA has formally approved the project, the town must, within the next 120 days: (1) put the debt exclusion on the ballot (the Selectmen vote on whether or not to do so); (2) have an election; and (3) if the debt exclusion is passed by the voters, put the debt exclusion to a vote at Town Meeting.

Schematic designs for the new building are on display in the school hallway across from the Lower IMC, and on the Belmont Public Schools website (<http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/newschool/>).



Happenings

Did You Know?

Metco (Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity) was first established in 1966, and is the largest voluntary school desegregation program in the country. Approximately 3300 students from Boston and Springfield in grades K-12 take part in METCO. Families interested in participating in METCO sign up years in advance of the time when their child is old enough for school and there is currently a waiting list of 15,000 children.

The Wellington PTO is in the process of putting together a Family Friends Network made up of Boston and Wellington parents who share a commitment to educational opportunity and diversity. It's not easy for the Boston students to become full participants in the Wellington community, and having more connections with Wellington families helps. Here are some ways in which you can participate in this program: Provide local contacts for Boston students in the event of an emergency. Invite a Boston student to spend some time at your home. Assist with a METCO event, such as a fund-raiser or party.

If you're interested in being part of the network in a big way or small, contact Madeline Cronin, madelinecronin@hotmail.com or Grace Schmelzer (617) 932-1316.

Belmont Special Education Advisory Council

Belmont Special Education Advisory Council (BSEAC) News

If you have questions about special education, to whom can you turn for help? Clearly, the first person you should speak with is your child's teacher. Your school's principal and other school staff such as resource specialists, speech therapists, and psychologists can also be wonderful resources.

Another source of help for you is the Belmont Special Education Advisory Council (BSEAC).

For more than 10 years, the BSEAC has been a vital, active organization, run solely by Belmont parents of children with disabilities, and making a real difference for Belmont families by advocating collectively for the needs of all children who receive special education services and by providing information and resources for families.

Did you know that:

The BSEAC hosts 9 informational workshops this year on topics such as anxiety, inclusion, social skills, special education law, and positive behavioral intervention.

- The BSEAC listserv, which you can join at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BSEAC>, provides regular news and resources regarding special education, as well as a forum for your questions.

- The BSEAC maintains a resource library housed at the Chenery Middle School, as well as a website, www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bseac.

- The BSEAC leadership meets regularly with school administrators to bring to the table issues important to you and your children.

- BSEAC Co-Chairs Amanda Green (617-484-2218 or amanda.green63@verizon.net) and Stephanie Woerner (617-484-5833 or woerner@chasewoerner.org) are always available via phone or email to answer your special education questions. Jane Slavin is Wellington's liaison.

Recent BSEAC Events:

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 - "Including Samuel - A Film Documentary About Inclusion"

The audience enjoyed this internationally acclaimed film weaves together the stories of five families' efforts to include their children with disabilities in every facet of their lives. The film included interviews with teachers, young people, parents and disability rights experts, and celebrates the benefits of inclusion, and struggles with its challenges. The BSEAC was honored to welcome Dr. Joseph Petner, retired Principal of the Haggerty School in Cambridge, who is featured in the film and spoke and took questions after the screening.

March 11, 2009 - "Bright Kids with Social Difficulties: Helping Your Child at School and in the Neighborhood" - Don Sugai

For children with disabilities, negotiating the social scene can be one of the biggest challenges of growing up. Dr. Don Sugai, a gifted speaker from the Lahey Clinic Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine, shared effective strategies for parents and teachers to use to help children make and keep friends. Dr. Sugai has over 20 years' experience assisting children with disabilities such as ADHD, OCD, and Aspergers, and is the co-author of "Social Skills Assessment and Training with Children: An Empirically Based Handbook".

Happy Spring!

The Wellington PTO executive board has come up with the following process to streamline our PTO communication. PTO communication is any communication that has to do with a PTO sponsored event or program.

- BEFORE any communication is sent out it must be reviewed and approved by the PTO Presidents. The PTO presidents will review the material with the Principal. The presidents will forward material to the appropriate people.
- Email all requests to Susan Black at susan_black02478@yahoo.com or Laurie Slap at lqslap@gmail.com. Do Not email the Principal directly.
- All other communication must be approved by the Principal, Amy Wagner at awagner@belmont.k12.ma.us before being distributed or posted.
- Exception is the Wellington Weekly – these requests can be forward directly to Irene Sieberg at isieberg@belmont.k12.ma.us.
- 2-3 days lead time is required. Last minutes requests will be processed if possible, but if occurs on a regular basis, the process will be changed.
- The PTO communicates in the following ways:

Type	Approval-1	Approval-2	Subject reads	Comments
Backpack flier	Email Co-Pres	Co-Pres to forward 2 principal	Backpack flier – date to distribute	Classrooms 525. Other teacher boxes +25 Color paper PTO, White School
Wall fliers	Email Co-Pres	Co-Pres to forward 2 principal	Wall flier – date to post	Limited info and print larger than Backpack fliers
Wellington Weekly	Email Irene Sieberg - isieberg@belmont.k12.ma.us		Wellington Weekly request	
Listserve request	Email Co-Pres	Co-Pres to forward	Listserve request	Will always start at PTO news on website
PTO website	Email Co-Pres			Form updates, Calendar updates, PTO news updates only, other website content
PTO Newsletter	Email PTO editor – julie_barton@hotmail.com	Co-Pres and Principal review in entirety		Understand submission dates
Sandwich boards/ easels	None			Announcements and agenda of PTO events
Room Parents – email and phone calls	Book Fair and Winter Carnival – ok All other – Email Co-Pres	Room Parent Coordinator		Principal has authority to invoke room parents at any time. Last minute PTO requests only done via email.

Thank you,
Wellington PTO Executive Board

PTO Dates to Remember

March 27

Wellington Family Movie Night
Wellington School Cafeteria

April 4

Belmont Foundation for Education Dinner

April 7

Fourth Grade Send Off Flower Sale

Submission Deadline for next PTO Newsletter:

April 1, 2009

Submission due dates for later issues are:

Issue #5 – Friday, May 15

Submit materials to julietbarton@hotmail.com or put them in the PTO Newsletter Box in the Main Office at Wellington.

Grade-Level News

Second Grade News

Second grade is expanding, we recently welcomed a few new students as well as Ms. Robertson, a long term substitute for Ms. Irish.

This cold winter has been appropriate for our study of Polar Regions and Alaska. We loved tracking the Iditarod and had wonderful visit from John Kenney and his sled dog Blue.

Second grade is studying Geometry in Math. The students are identifying the features of polygons and noticing two dimensional and three dimensional shapes in their environment.

In January, we enjoyed our visit from the Belmont Fire Department and the program on Fire Safety. Students learned how fire boxes work and were challenged to locate fire boxes in their neighborhoods. Do you know what a fire box does or where the nearest one is located? (Ask a Second Grader!)

Third Grade News

Third grade would like to thank the PTO for two great enrichment programs. The Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) worked with the students to demonstrate how water gets to the homes and buildings in Belmont. The students reviewed what they had studied during our water unit and learned about the history and use of the Quabbin Reservoir.

Third graders also enjoyed a wonderful presentation from local author and illustrator Timothy Basil Ering. He is best known for his work as the illustrator of *The Tale of Despereaux*. He shared with us about his early life, his decision to become an illustrator, and the process of illustrating for a published book. He also read his latest book to the students. We appreciate all the effort the PTO has put in to the enrichment of our curriculum.

Also, third grade students are enjoying the many programs offered after school for students and families. These programs, such as the Book Fair Pizza Night, Movie Night, and the

Skating Party are great activities that allow for our students to be part of the Wellington community.

Fourth Grade News

The fourth grade came back from winter break revived and ready to start the new year. One of the science units covered in 4th grade is "The Physics of Sound". In December, students were fortunate to attend an exciting presentation by Mr. Tom Wahle. Mr. Wahle spent time with each of the fourth grade classes talking about the essential components to sound. He also had a number of fun experiments set up for each of the students to try. What a great way to start our new unit on Sound!

Enriching Experiences

4th grade In-School Enrichment

In December, our 4th graders enjoyed Sound Science by Techsploration. Tom Wahle led the students through discussion and hands on activities to demonstrate the principles of how sound is created, transmitted and received. Students experimented with a model ear drum and built several devices that illustrate how sound is created, including a buzzing bee, a clucking chicken, and a straw flute, all from materials you can find at home.

Student Care News

Student Care continues to roll merrily along. Mornings are cozy and in Aftercare we have learned that some hot chocolate mixes require the addition of milk and some require water, and when you mix them up the result is gross no matter how many marshmallows you put in! There were lots of disappointed little taste buds, but we did learn something - "Read the Directions").

We have had great fun so far on the early release days and are looking forward to the rest. On March 4th, Sarah Salerno Thomas is came to do

interactive drama with the kids: on March 11th the Butler School Aftercare Program is joined us for our annual get together to see the Tanglewood Marionettes; March 18th is TBA; and on March 25th the Museum of Science is returning to do two shows: "Animal Invaders", and "Science Magic". For the May early release day, Kidstock from Winchester is coming to do a program with the Kindergarteners, and First, Second and Third Graders. The Fourth Graders will be doing something else exciting and fun for their last early release day with us.

We are having a great time with all the snow and enjoying the lengthening days.

Morning, Afternoon or Night...What's Your Child's Favorite Time to Exercise?

Whether your child is an early riser or a night owl, the Wellington PTO sponsors a sports program to fit his or her schedule.

Before School Sports takes place each Wednesday morning in the Wellington Gym. Boys and girls in grades K-4 gather at 7:30 a.m. to play

some of their favorite games like soccer, kick-ball or capture the flag (to name a few). This is a great program for the sports enthusiast who wants to get their workout in early. It also provides a wonderful environment for kids of all ages to play together and make friends in every grade.

After School Sports, a Wellington tradition, is underway. Grade 1 meets on Wednesday, grade 2 on Tuesday, Grade 3 on Friday and Grade 4 on Thursday. Like Before School Sports, boys and girls gather to play their favorite games. This program has been especially helpful during the cold winter months when playing outside is hard to do.

To find out more about the sports programs available, visit www.belmont.k12.ma.us/wellington today. Or, for more information email susan.pergamo@verizon.net.

WELLNESS TIPS

-TERRY GRIMM, RN

Skin problems are common this time of year:

Many people experience both generalized dryness and patches of dry skin during the cold weather months. Common causes include:

- dry heat inside buildings
- wind chafing and/or sunburn on exposed areas when outside
- rubbing of skin on fabrics(knees, elbows)

Daily treatment/prevention strategies include:

- Use skin lotion for general dryness, especially after bathing.
- For extra dry skin, choose products that have a very thick consistency, and take the time to rub it in well.
- Chapstick-type product for lips apply especially after eating/drinking.
- Don't forget sunscreen for exposed skin!
- Drink frequent sips of liquid (throats get drier too!).
- Apply Vaseline-type product inside nostrils using a cotton swab (especially for those prone to nosebleeds!)

Save the Date

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Celebrating our 10th Anniversary
Reception / Live Auction



FOUNDATION FOR
BELMONT EDUCATION

• MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS •

Invitation to follow

Contribute

Recycle with Funding Factory and Staples

Help the environment and the Wellington at the same time! Donate your empty printer cartridges and used cell phones at the Donation Station across from the cafeteria. We'll recycle them through Funding Factory and Staples to earn cash, credits or new recreational equipment. So far this year, we've earned over \$100 in credit. Check out www.fundingfactory.com for a list of qualifying cartridges and cell phones. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Fiacco at bfiacco@foleyhoag.com.

Target Take Charge of Education® Program

Do you already have a Target REDcard or VISA? Then don't miss this opportunity to raise money for the Wellington school! Just visit target.com/tcoe, or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school as a recipient of funds.

Wellington's ID number is 58744. That's all you need to do—Target does the rest!!! As soon as you designate Wellington, the PTO automatically receives a cash donation amounting to 1% of purchases made at Target and Target.com. Don't forget that grandparents, neighbors, alumni, and friends can take part, too!

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Kathy Fahey at kathleen_fahey@yahoo.com or 617-484-0785

Shopping at Shaw's – Two Ways to Support Wellington

Shaw's Receipts

Your Shaw's/Star Market receipts are an easy way to earn money for Wellington. We get 1% of the receipt total which adds up fast with the cost of groceries these days. Just send in the receipts with your child in an envelope marked "Shaw's Receipts" or put them in the envelope at the Donation Station. Ask your friends and neighbors for their receipts, too!

Shaw's Gift Cards = Free Money for Wellington

When you use Shaw's gift cards for your grocery shopping, the Wellington PTO earns 5%. This money is used for classroom supplies, field trip buses, etc. Last year, we raised \$2,000 from this program! To order, contact Ann Toomey at anntoomey@comcast.net or call 617-416-5379.

Shaw's Gift Cards = Free Money for Wellington

When you use Shaw's gift cards for your grocery shopping, the Wellington PTO earns 5%. This money is used for classroom supplies, field trip buses, etc. Last year, we raised \$2,000 from this program!

To order, contact Ann Toomey at anntoomey@comcast.net, call 617-416-5379, or fill out this form and send it into school in your child's folder in an envelope marked "Shaw's." Ann will deliver the cards to your home.

Date _____

Name _____

Email _____

Quantity of \$50 Cards _____

Check Amount _____ (payable to Wellington PTO)

P.S. Keep sending in those Shaw's/Star Market receipts!
(We get 1¢ back for every \$1.00 spent – it really adds up!)

Thank You

Support your school and use the Staples Reward Program

For all purchases on behalf of the PTO, please go to Staples. We are a member of the Staples reward program and all the money that we spend can give us extra \$\$\$ (This also refers to all personal purchases should you give them the reward number.)

Please use Reward Number "Wellington PTO" (first name = 'Wellington', last name = 'PTO')

Also as part of our Ink Cartridge recycling efforts - we take them to Staples - \$3.00/cartridge up to 10 a month. So we can get some good credits at Staples to offset our PTO office supplies expenses.

Thank You to All Who Have Helped so Far!

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered time, talent, and expertise to make all of our Fall events so successful. If you haven't been able to volunteer yet, and would like to lend a hand, check out our NEW website at www.belmont.k12.ma.us/wellington/pto.

Library Gift Book Program

The PTO has pre-purchased needed library books at discounted prices - from \$5 to \$25 - for you to choose from. It's easy! Select a book from the Gift Book collection in the library, or give a monetary donation, and our librarian will make a choice for you. Your book will be processed with a bookplate commemorating the person and occasion. When possible, our librarian will also present the book during the donor's library class time!

Your coordinators this year are Jane Slavin jane.slavin@verizon.net and Mirela Duda mireladuda@yahoo.com.

Please see the back page for a list of recent book donors.

Family Movie and Pizza Night Friday, March 27, 2009

Join us for another fabulous cinematic experience!

Madagascar 2

**A great night complete with fresh popcorn and pizza.
Bring your family and your pillow and enjoy a fun and
funny movie with your friends.**

We hope to see everyone there!

Thank you to the following people who purchased books for Wellington's library:

- Akram-Boshar, Leena - The Abominable Snowman, Fishing, and Spy
- Athanasiou, Alex - My First Ballet Book
- Balakrishnan, Renuka - Dog
- Banks, Benjamin - The Dancing Dragon, Good Luck Mrs. K!
- Bonnin, Del - Barack Obama, Famous Places of the World - North America
- Chan, Owen - Ed Emberley's Big Purple Drawing Book, First Grade Takes a Test
- Conroy, Ainsley - Anansi Goes Fishing, Calico Cats, The End
- Corderi, Jack - Finding Home, Shannon and the World's Tallest Leprechaun, Arabian Horses, Yorkshire Terriers
- Coultrip, Ryan - Upstairs Mouse, Downstairs Mole, 101 Easy To Do Magic Tricks, The Master Detective Handbook, Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark
- Dutton Balcioglu, Aygul - School Jokes
- Fernandes, Matilde - President's Day
- Fisher, Timothy - Shetland Ponies
- Fullerton, Sophie - Goldfish, Palomino Horses, Rafi and Rosi
- Grimaldi, Ian - Lightship, Nothing But Trouble
- Hadley, Luke - Where's Waldo in Hollywood?
- Hirai, Dylan - Famous Places in the World - South America, Thoroughbred Horses, Where's Waldo in Hollywood?
- Jen, David - The Road to Oz
- Jen, Kevin - Camping, The Million Dollar Strike
- Klingbeil, Daniel - The Great Serum Race
- Kogachi, Atsuko - Groundhog Day
- Kolk-Tomberlin, Nate - Where's Waldo Now?
- Lally, Ciara - Ancient Rome and Pompeii, The Old African
- Legere, Mattea - Gully's Travels, Louise, The Adventures of a Chicken
- Lim, Samantha - Elizabeth Leads the Way
- Lynch, Philip - Dinosaurs
- Mabbott, Chelsea - Colonial Home, Grandmama's Pride, Bringing in the New Year, Fiona's Luck
- Mouradian, Lori - 1607: A New Look at Jamestown
- Okuda, Waka - Rosie's Walk
- Rhoades, Emily - Scared Silly!, Where's Waldo?
- Seiger, Jonah - Pet of the Met
- Shinoda, Kiwa - For You Are A Kenyan Child
- Sillette, Elisabeth - Jingu, Hidden Princess
- Simmons, Zabelle - The Best Teacher in the 2nd Grade, White House White-Out
- Slavin Family - World War II
- Steinert, Andrew - Hoodwinked, American Curl Cats
- Trodden, Christian - Food Jokes!
- Vuong, Lindsay - Rhinos in Danger, Sports Jokes, Tuck Everlasting
- Wagner, Addie - Missy Violet & Me
- Wetzel, Eric - Manx Cats
- Yoshida, Keito - Minerva Louise and the Colorful Eggs, Old English Sheepdogs, Beagles

2008-2009 Roger Wellington PTO Membership Form

What is the PTO? The Wellington PTO is a group of parents and classroom teachers working together with the principal to create a welcoming community for all Wellington families. We also work to provide field trips and enrichment activities to support the curriculum at all grade levels. Much of this work is made possible through our annual membership drive, fundraising activities, and the generous gift of time from our parent volunteers.

All donations are tax-deductible.

Membership Dues\$25.00 per family

Additional voluntary donations are appreciated and help to fund PTO programs. Please indicate amount:

\$50.00 \$75.00 \$100.00 other _____

Total _____ Cash/Check (Please make checks payable to the Wellington PTO)

Don't forget to check your company's corporate matching program and watch your donation do twice as much. If your company offers corporate matching, obtain a gift matching form from human resources and submit it to PTO membership through the school office and we will verify your contribution and return the form.

Your name _____

Address _____

Child's name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

Child's name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

Child's name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

This form can be sent in with your child or dropped off in the school office. Please note "Membership" on the envelope.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!