



# THE CONNECTION

Mar 19, 2010

Attendance Line 617-559-9509

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### Multicultural Night

Thank you to all the families and faculty members who helped out with Multicultural Night. This is such an important and exciting event for the Franklin community. As you could see, the attendance far exceeded our expectations. I have already met with the committee to begin planning next year's event. We will spread out to all parts of the school next year in order to alleviate the congestion.

### MCAS is Coming!

Next week, the third, fourth and fifth grade students will begin the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). In addition to Math and English Language Arts (ELA), the fourth grade students will be taking the MCAS Long Composition Writing Test. The Long Composition is a two part test where the students will write a personal narrative, edit it, and write the final draft all in the same day. The Long Composition portion of the MCAS is being administered to all fourth grade students in Massachusetts on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. Newton's dismissal time on Tuesday is normally 12:30 p.m. In order to administer the test at the same time as all of the other schools in Massachusetts, we must extend school hours to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, for all students in grades K through 5. **On Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> school will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m.** Please note: Kindergarten students who are in group A and usually stay in school until 3 p.m. on Wednesday will stay until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> instead. On Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, group A will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m.

It is extremely important that students are present and on time to school for the MCAS. Please insure that your child gets to bed early, eats well and stays healthy in the days leading up to the MCAS testing.

Franklin students and teachers have been, in a sense, preparing for the MCAS test for several months. Although we do not "teach to the test", we teach students the information that is outlined in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The MCAS is based on these frameworks, and therefore the students are tested on material they have been learning throughout the year. We believe that the students are well prepared.

### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MCAS DATES:

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Testing Schedule

3/25 Reading Session 1  
3/26 Reading Session 2

5/14 Math Session 1  
5/17 Math Session 2

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Testing Schedule

3/23 Long Composition (Long Day)  
4/5 ELA Session 1  
4/6 ELA Session 2

5/12 Math Session 1  
5/13 Math Session 2

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Testing Schedule

3/22 ELA Session 1  
3/24 ELA Session 2

5/10 Math Session 1  
5/11 Math Session 2  
5/18 Science Session 1  
5/19 Science Session 2

Mar 23-24	MCAS Switch Days
Apr 2	No School—Good Friday
Apr 6	PTO Meeting 7 pm
Apr 19-23	Spring Vacation
May 1	Spring Auction
May 2	Newton Serves for Franklin

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## News from the PTO

Nothing like a rainy cold Nor'easter to get you longing for spring! It's hard to believe that we are half way into March and April is coming quickly. As we head into the last 3 months of the school year, we've got much to be thankful for and much to look forward to!

Once again, Franklin's *MultiCultural* festivities were well attended and absolutely fantastic. The place was packed and everyone enjoyed the singing, stories, crafts, international cuisine and filling up the passports. Many Franklin families shared their cultural heritage on posters, in activities, and in song. It is so obvious that our diversity within a tightly bonded and protective community is what makes our school such a positive, nurturing environment for our children. We would like to thank **Joanne Caruso** and **Angela Coffidis** for organizing such a memorable event, and all the many others who donated their time to set up, clean up, or run an activity.

SAVE THE DATE!!! The **2010 Franklin School Auction & Gala** is being held on Saturday, May 1, 7-11 p.m. at American Legion Post 440, 295 California St, Newton. As you know, the auction is our major fundraising event of the year, generating proceeds for classroom literacy, technology, Creative Arts & Sciences and other programs. The PTO has pulled together a large and diverse group of parents to coordinate this year's auction, in hopes not only of offering the Franklin community some discounted deals on items such gift certificates to hotels and restaurants, and summer camp tuitions, along with grocery stores, dry cleaners and other services of everyday existence, but also to bring the community together for an evening of music, great food and socializing.

This year's event will feature entertainment by a live band, "Here She Comes" -- featuring Franklin's own, **Mark Lublin** -- and a full evening of live and silent auctions.

As you may know, fundraising has been a challenge this year. Please know that if you have not paid your **PTO Membership Dues**, it is not too late. This year our dues participation rate is down substantially, with less than 25% of families participating. The Creative Arts and Sciences Programs are funded entirely by PTO money. In order to fund the great programs, field trips and technology needs of the school we need to raise \$48,000. Membership dues, if paid by each of our over 300 families would bring us to about one quarter of that goal. PTO programs benefit each and every one of our over 400 students at Franklin. We generally ask for \$35 per family, but if that amount doesn't work for you, please consider giving whatever you can comfortably afford. Also, if your company has a matching gift program, please consider making this one of your matching gift requests. Please contact Deb Rooney for more information.

A reminder that **Newton Serves** is going to be held on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. Look for more information from Marysol Masse-Makimura and the Playground Committee for some landscaping projects that are in the works.

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events and encourage you to contact us if you have questions, suggestions or have the desire to volunteer!

Warm Regards,  
Tracy, Eva, Deb, Lisa and Meiera

## Franklin Spring Auction

**Saturday, May 1, 2010**

Come support our school at the annual Franklin Spring Auction on Saturday, May 1st from 7-11 pm at the American Legion Post 440 at 295 California St!



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The Spring Auction is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Franklin School PTO. It is a fun-filled adult-only evening where parents, teachers, and friends can enjoy appetizers and desserts, dance, and mingle while bidding for a wide range of goodies in silent and live auctions and purchasing raffle tickets for other prizes. To reach our goal of \$25,000, we need your donations! We are requesting one donation per family. You can donate an item, a membership to a museum, a talent, or your time.

**PLEASE SEEK DONATIONS!** In order to reach our goal, we need your assistance in seeking donations. We are also very interested in items that you may personally donate. For example, if you have a vacation home; or tickets to a theatrical, musical or sporting event; maybe a special talent – such as cooking, art, foreign language. Forms were posted on the listserve and went home in the backpacks this week!

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER!** We also need more volunteers to help us make the auction a success. If you are willing to help with cooking, decorating, ticket sales, setup and cleanup.

Please contact Tracy Soehle, Eva Zervos, Lisa Chedekel, Deb Rooney or Meiera Stern with donation information.

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## Newton Serves for Franklin

SAVE THE DATE

Newton Serves (for schools only)

Sunday, May 2

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Franklin's project is to landscape and clean up around the front of the school and around the upper grade's playground.

Any questions, please email Marysol Masse-Makimura

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## Creative Arts Update

Franklin students have enjoyed a couple of great Creative Arts and Sciences programs over the past few weeks. Just after break, children's science and nature writer **Debbie Miller** spoke to third and fifth graders about life in Alaska, where she's lived with her family for more than a decade. Debbie's talk focused on Alaskan animals that have developed unusual adaptations to survive the rugged winter. She also discussed the culture of the Native Athabaskan Indians. The kids asked great questions and were engaged throughout. Check out Debbie's website at [www.debbiemilleralaska.com](http://www.debbiemilleralaska.com) for more information about her books and to see some amazing photos of Alaska!

Last week, students in grades K-5 were treated to a performance of "Helen Keller: Champion of the Disabled" by **Historical Perspectives for Children**. The program introduced the children to the life story of this remarkable woman who, despite severe disabilities, graduated with honors from college, became a prolific author, and worked to improve the lives of the disabled all over the world. Helen's story illustrated how hard work and believing in yourself can help you to overcome obstacles, and that blindness and deafness do not prevent a person from being successful. The program was a wonderful supplement to Franklin's Understanding Our Differences program.

There are several more programs on deck for the remainder of the year – then it all starts again next year! So think about joining the committee: just imagine the programs you can be part of bringing to Franklin! For more information, contact Melanie Adler

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## Multicultural Night

Thank you to everyone involved in making Franklin's Multicultural Night such an inclusive and positive experience for our school and community. The events planned for Multicultural Night allowed us to experience a view into the many cultures that make our community so special.

All the people who participated did so in the double role of teachers and learners with a focus on validating every student's culture, and on celebrating our community.

We want to thank Amy Kelly, our Principal, for allowing us to continue this wonderful tradition here at Franklin. We also want to recognize the custodial staff, John Carvelli and Ron Luce for their immense patience and long hours. The event would not have been possible without their help!

We also want to thank the staff who so generously gave their time preparing for the event and for their help that evening.

A special thanks to Sara Seals who taught the children multicultural songs. It was a pleasure to watch the children participate in the evening activities.

A heartfelt "thank you" to all the performers who shared their talents with us and provided our school with a taste of their rich cultural heritage.

*Irish Step dancers* Molly and Aidan Devine

*Chinese dancers* Jenny Wang and Jessica Chen

*The YES Troupe (Youth Eastern String)* Aaron Xu, Amanda Ho, Xin Song and Yulan Li

*Chinese Yo-yo Troupe* members Kevin He, Justin Lin

*ZDRAVETS* Bulgarian music ensemble members Catherine Bromberg, Dean Brown, Dick Forsyth, Martha Forsyth, Pat Iverson, Ralph Iverson, Kristin Lewis, David Skidmore, Teve Stevig, Patrick Yacono and Janet Jeracaris.

We are grateful to all the families and community members who so proudly represented their country and offered all of us a window into their culture.

Many thanks to the numerous chefs, whose delicious dishes made for a most interesting table.

Special thanks to everyone who helped us with setting up, serving food and clean-up.

Bob and Madison Mobilia, Ellen Whalley, Susan Boyer, Lorraine Miller, Michelle Roover, Jennifer Caruso, Antonio Sarandrea, Tara Jamison, Parris Farr, Jayashree Iyer, Jilie Yordarin.

*The Multicultural Day Committee*

## Newton Special Education PAC

**Tuesday, March 2 at 7:30 pm**

The community is invited to learn about two approaches currently used in Newton Public Schools to increase students' access to learning: Assistive Technology (AT) and Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Karen Janowski, Assistive Technology Specialist for NPS, will present AT strategies for K-12 students, particularly those with written expression and reading challenges. Karen Clay, UDL Technology Specialist for Newton's high schools, will describe how a UDL curriculum is designed to be accessible to all learners, thereby benefiting the entire class--not only those students who struggle with reading, writing or organization. For more information about AT and UDL see Karen Janowski's professional blog at <http://teachingeverystudent.blogspot.com> and Karen Clay's UDL blog at <http://kclay2.wordpress.com/>

Light refreshments and networking begin at 7:15 pm, 100 Walnut St, Room 210, Newtonville.

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For more information about the Newton PAC or to join our online discussion group, please email [info@newtonpac.org](mailto:info@newtonpac.org) or visit our website at [www.newtonpac.org](http://www.newtonpac.org). If you have questions about special education services or are interested in finding out more about resources offered by the Sped PAC please contact one of Franklin's liasons: Eileen Sanberg, [eesanberg@aol.com](mailto:eesanberg@aol.com), Julie Leahy, [jpl2002@verizon.net](mailto:jpl2002@verizon.net), Joan Schulz [dschulz@rcn.com](mailto:dschulz@rcn.com)

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## Attention to parents who have a child with ADHD currently in 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

The Floating Hospital for Children in cooperation with the Newton Public Schools is delighted to offer again a computer-based attention training systems to children with ADHD throughout 15 Newton Elementary Schools for children next school year in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades.

One system uses EEG biofeedback (or neurofeedback, [www.playattention.com](http://www.playattention.com)) and the other uses a Standard Computer Format ([www.braintrain.com](http://www.braintrain.com)) for cognitive training. Both systems are considered clinically equivalent. Private coaching sessions can be very expensive. This intervention does not involve any medication; however, if a child on medication can enroll.

This research project is fully funded by a grant from the Federal Department of Education. Students enrolled will not pay for any services received. The project has been discussed and approved by the superintendent's office of the Newton Public Schools.

**Enrollment is in April 2010.** Interested parents contact Elizabeth Frenette, Enrollment Coordinator, at [CATS@tuftsmedicalcenter.org](mailto:CATS@tuftsmedicalcenter.org).

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## Dr. David Fleishman Appointed as new Superintendent

The School Committee voted unanimously on Sunday, February 28th to appoint Dr. David Fleishman as the Superintendent designee pending approval of a site visit to his home district and an agreed upon contract.

Dr. Fleishman is currently the Superintendent of Schools in Chappaqua, NY. Prior to becoming Superintendent in Chappaqua, Dr. Fleishman was Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Wellesley, MA. Before that he was an Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources in Ossining, NY. Dr. Fleishman began his career in education as a teacher in the New York City Public Schools. He holds an Ed.D from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Fleishman will begin his term on July 1, 2010.

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## Cyberbullying

Is cyberbullying just for parents of older children to worry about? No. According to Dr. Elizabeth Englander, Founder and Director of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center, parents should begin talking with their children "as soon as children begin to go online and play interactive games – usually first or second grade. It's not necessary to frighten children; just ask them how children speak to each other – both online and offline – and discuss it if they say they see or read something that was mean or cruel." Learn more on **Saturday, March 20 8:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.** at Parenting Newton Kids in 2010: Keeping Our Kids Safe and Enhancing Learning in the Digital Age at Brown Middle School. This half day parent conference will feature a keynote presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Englander, Founder and Director of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC), as well as Technology and "How To" Clinics, workshops on adolescents and cell phones, special issues of technology and children with special needs, and more. RSVP not

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## Going to Kindergarten

NEWTON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN & THE QUALITY FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN GRANT are sponsoring

### **“Going to Kindergarten”: Helping Children and Parents Make the Transition A Presentation for PARENTS of Children Entering Kindergarten**

Presented by Deborah Weinstock-Savoy, Ph.D, Consultant with WarmLines

That small step across the kindergarten threshold is actually a giant leap for the child and parent into the world of “big kid school”. In this interactive workshop, we will discuss the emotional, social, and development challenges presented by the transition from home, family daycare, or preschool to kindergarten. We will look at the environment and expectations of kindergarten and strategize together about how to help children and parents deal positively with the process of transitioning to kindergarten.

Deborah Weinstock-Savoy is a licensed psychologist with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and over 20 years of professional experience working with families with young children. She specializes in leading parent support groups in both community and corporate settings. She is the mother of three children.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 30, 2010

WHERE: Newton Cultural Center, Room 101, 225 Nevada St, Newton, 02460

TIME: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Registration: Community Partnerships for Children, 617.559.6065 or email:

Beverly\_Mobilia@newton.k12.ma.us

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Stand for Children's Day on the Hill** Tuesday, March 23, 9 a.m. – noon Parents and other education advocates from Newton will join with hundreds of education advocates from around the state on Beacon Hill to show our support for public education. We'll hear from speakers in the field of education policy and practice during the indoor rally, and have an opportunity to tell our legislators what matters to Newton. The event is free and open to the public, and transportation will be provided, but advanced registration is requested. For more information and to register, please visit [www.stand.org/ma/dayonthehill](http://www.stand.org/ma/dayonthehill). Online Rally: Make an online “sign” to send to Beacon Hill to show legislators how many people care about public education. Go to [www.stand.org/ma/signs](http://www.stand.org/ma/signs) and help spread the word by asking your friends to make one, too!

**Newton's Only Working Farm:** The Historic Newton Angino Community Farm and Sustainable Local Food. The 2 and a quarter acre homestead on the corner of Winchester and Nahanton Streets was a family farm for 300 years. Generations of the Angino family farmed there from 1917 to 2005. Now it's owned by the city and operated as a non-profit, preserving a valuable cultural and historical landscape and serving as a model for sustainable agriculture in our community. Newton Community Farm Board Member and Landscape Designer Ted Chapman gives a talk about what this special piece of land can tell us about the history of Newton and the vital role of farming in daily life. Thursday March 25th at 7pm at the Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street. Free. Part of the 'Roots in our History - The 2010 Newton History Series'

**Here's a great way to make a difference and get an enriching experience.** Out-of-town patients receiving treatments at Boston's top-notch hospitals often need short term accommodations...a home to come home to. If you have a spare room, please consider "Hospitality Homes": [www.hosp.org](http://www.hosp.org). Here's a recent story: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/newton/news/x196136368/Newton-alderman-opens-home-for-burn-victim>

**Mason-Rice Elementary School is celebrating it's 50th Birthday** on Saturday, May 1st 2010

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(rain date May 2nd). Current and former families, alumni, faculty and community members are all welcome to help us celebrate! There will be children's games, great food, live music, a chorus production, tours of the building, and ceremonial cutting of the cake and presentations by Principal Mark Springer. For more information on the 50th birthday, visit the 50th Birthday Website, or email [MasonRice50@gmail.com](mailto:MasonRice50@gmail.com). Go to Facebook at Mason Rice 50th to see who are getting reconnected, post old pictures, and read what other alumni remember about Mason-Rice.

**FitKids Jamboree at NCSC**, West Newton: Saturday, March 27th. Parents, looking for a new way to get the wiggles out? Bring your kids ages 2-5 to the FitKids Jamboree. Athletic activities provided by Knucklebones, healthy snack choices provided by Whole Foods Market, and the Lakeshore Learning Art Experience gives kids the ability to create things that reinforce active, healthy lifestyles. Divided into three 2 hour sessions (9-11 a.m., 11:30-1:30 p.m., and 2-4 p.m.). Located at 492 Waltham Street, West Newton. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.FitKidsJamboree.com](http://www.FitKidsJamboree.com) or call 617-935-9856.

**Expanding Our Idea of Neighborhood** - Great Community Service event for families! Every year, thousands of people from across the state gather to participate in the annual 3.6 mile Mother's Day Walk for Peace in Dorchester. The Walk, scheduled this year for Sunday, May 9, was started in 1996, by Tina Chery after her 14 year old son, Louis was killed on his way to a "Youth Against Gang Violence" meeting near his home. Among those walking are elected officials, law enforcement professionals, neighbors, clergy, advocates and parents and friends of people lost to violence. The Walk is one way to show that "people care". While one goal of the walk is to raise money for the Louis D Brown Peace Institute— which provides crisis management and advocacy to families impacted by violence, the larger goal is to raise awareness of the problem of violence in these neighborhoods just miles from our own. This year, we are making a concerted effort to draw walkers from the suburban communities to come support their Boston neighbors. Tina Chery will be in Newton Center on Sunday March 28, 4-6pm to talk about her son and what inspired the creation of the annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Please call Josie Greene for more information 617 527-7468.

**BIKE NEWTON**, [www.bikenewton.org](http://www.bikenewton.org), is holding a General Meeting at the Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada St. on SUNDAY, March 21, 2-5 PM. This free event will feature displays about BIKE NEWTON's projects, and discussions (facilitated by Newton Aldermen) regarding the recently-submitted application for Newton to be designated a Bicycle-Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB). The mayor will be joining us at the meeting, along with other city officials. There will be a SmartCycling CLINIC for Youth (all ages). The clinic is a great way to learn bicycle safety while having fun. Leader: Steve Heinrichs, Certified LAB Instructor, and member of the BIKE NEWTON Steering Committee. RSVP for event to [bikenewton@gmail.com](mailto:bikenewton@gmail.com), or call 617 527-1237. To register for the clinic, contact [sheindr4143@aol.com](mailto:sheindr4143@aol.com)

**BU Research Study Participants Needed** We are inviting your child to take part in a research project about how weight status can affect adapting to change. To study this, we are looking at how 5- to 7-year-old children adapt their steps when walking at different paces (slow, normal, and fast). All 5- to 7-year-old children who can walk independently are eligible to participate. The study is being conducted by Dr. Simone Gill in the Developmental Adaptation Laboratory at Boston University. The overall aim is to understand how adaptation changes and what factors affect adaptation from infancy through adulthood. With your help, we hope to learn more about the factors that affect human learning and development. If you are interested in participating, please contact Simone Gill at [simvgill@bu.edu](mailto:simvgill@bu.edu) or at 617-353-7513.

**Turtle Lane Theatre's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Talent Contest:** Open to all age 8-18. Top prize includes a \$500 Savings Bond. Auditions March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, Semi-finals March 20<sup>th</sup>, Finals March 27<sup>th</sup>. Participants will be notified of an audition slot within 72 hours of registering. Application fee: \$15. Applications and additional information at [www.turtlelane.org](http://www.turtlelane.org) or call 617-244-0169. (sponsored by Village Bank in Newton)

**Here's an excuse for a night out! The Newton Country Players proudly presents "THE 25th**

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**ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE"**, a Tony award winning musical to be performed April 16-17 and 23-24, 2010 at MassBay Community College. Please go to <http://ncpspellingbee.org/> to buy tickets or for more information. Six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser. **THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE** is a hilarious tale of overachievers' angst chronicling the experience of six adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. The show's Tony Award winning creative team has created the unlikeliest of hit musicals about the unlikeliest of heroes: a quirky yet charming cast of outsiders for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time. This delightful musical features a uniquely talented adult cast of 9. The adults play the kids as well as the adults, in multiple roles. The show has a high element of improvisation among its ensemble cast. Don't miss it! Music & Lyrics by William Finn € Book by Rachel Sheinkin Conceived by Rebecca Feldman € Additional material by Jay Reiss This show is not recommended for children under the age of 13.

Please join us for the **Newton Children's Cooperative Nursery School FUNRAISER Concert**. Get ready for some sing-along, dance-along, laugh-along family fun in this rockin' musical journey through classic kids' tales and original songs with Debbie and Friends ([www.debbieandfriends.net](http://www.debbieandfriends.net) Thursday, April 22, 2010 10:30 a.m. Hyde Community Center, 90 Lincoln Street, Newton Highlands, MA 02461 \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door - children under 1 free. Tickets available at Learning Express, Newton Centre starting Monday, March 22nd Ticket info: 617.527.8539

**Lincoln-Eliot PTO presents: Year of the Tiger Fundraiser** April 9, 2010, 7 PM May the Year of the Tiger, beginning February 14, 2010, be an optimistic and bold year for all our community. When: Friday, April 9, 7 PM Where: American Legion Post 440, 295 California Street, Newton, Ma 02458 What: An adults-only evening of sipping cocktails, eating hors d'oeuvres, socializing with other parents, and bidding on great items like restaurant and spa certificates ... and much more. Tickets are \$10 (\$15 at the door). Why: We need to raise \$10,000 to continue excellence in Arts and Sciences for Lincoln-Eliot. please contact [president@lepto.org](mailto:president@lepto.org) for tickets or information

**Bringing Down the House: June 4-6 at Newton North** Join in a fun-filled retrospective of student and community life at Newton North on June 4-6, before the building closes its doors for the last time. "Bringing Down the House" celebrates the more than 30 years of high school life at Newton North. The weekend features a free Open House from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, with a walk down memory lane on Main Street, memorabilia displays, video and music clips, alumni gatherings, art activities, live music, dining and the Great North Yard Sale. Other festivities include a Theatre Ink retrospective on Friday night, Jubilee concert on Saturday night and Alumni Jazz Brunch on Sunday morning. Times and ticket prices for these events will be announced soon. We are looking for volunteers to help plan and execute the commemoration. Please email [klgrannan@northptso.org](mailto:klgrannan@northptso.org) or phone 925-324-4519 for more information on the event or how to get involved. Newton North PTSO

**Looking for parenting advice** on How to Get an Athletic Scholarship? or Top 10: Korean American Children's Books, or How to Get Rid of Lice? or Science Projects? or Public vs. Private School? or need book ideas for your children? If so, please check out parenting blog by Newton Mom, <http://pragmaticmom.com>

**Spontaneous Generation**, presented by Theatre Ink and student directed by Mercer Gary and Graham Techler. In a world where fear rules and all hope is lost, there is only one improvisational troupe the planet can depend on: SPONTANEOUS GENERATION! It's back and it's better than ever. Spontaneous Generation is Newton North High School's only improv troupe and stuffed to the brim with chuckles, giggles, and snorts. Spon. Gen. performs at Newton North and at improv clubs around the Boston area. So call the neighbors because Spon. Gen. is back. April 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th at 7:30. Little Theatre at NNHS, 360 Lowell Avenue, Newtonville. Tickets \$5 at [www.theatreink.net](http://www.theatreink.net) or 617-559-6406.

**Attention parents of preschool-age children:** A few spaces have opened up in both classrooms of

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the Newton South Preschool Program for the 2010-2011 school year. We are a Child Development Lab School based in the Family and Consumer Sciences Dept. at Newton South High School. . A full "school day" tuition option or a four-hour "half-day" tuition option is available. The preschool one classroom serves children two years, nine months by September 1, and the preschool two classroom serves children three years, nine months by September 1. The curriculum follows the NAEYC and MA. DOE guidelines and standards for quality early childhood education programs. We follow the Newton Public Schools calendar, opening on September 1, 2010 for the upcoming school year. All interested families should contact Melissa Hammel, Director, by emailing, [Melissa\\_Hammel@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:Melissa_Hammel@newton.k12.ma.us). Thank you for your interest.

## SPORTS & DANCE

**Kindergarten Soccer** Register now for Newton Kindergarten Soccer Spring 2010! All children entering kindergarten or first grade in Newton in the fall of 2010 are invited to join the program. Kindergarten Soccer will meet on 8 Saturday mornings, April 24 - June 19 (except 5/29) at Richardson Field. Kindergartners will play from 9:15 to 10:15, and pre-kindergartners will play from 10:45 to 11:45. The fee for Kindergarten Soccer is \$60. (Financial assistance is available and is confidential). Every child must bring a size 3 soccer ball and wear shin guards each week. The deadline is March 31, 2010. [www.kindergartensoccer.org](http://www.kindergartensoccer.org)

**Ready, Set, Run! The 18th Annual Newton Heartbreak Hill Youth Race** is on Sunday, April 18th, noon – 3 pm. The race is one mile, up and down Heartbreak Hill. Pre-registration required. Youths (9 – 18) \$10, Adults (19 – 90) \$12, Wheelchair athletes \$10, Family walk \$10. First 500 registrants receive free t- shirt. All registrants receive a race medallion, seedling tree and a free ticket to pre-race pasta/pizza party on Saturday, April 17th, 5:30 pm at Newton City Hall. Sports celebrity appearances include photo-ops with "Pat" the N.E. England Patriots Mascot, and face painting by the N.E. Revolution cheerleaders! Call 617-527-8283 for more info, or register at [www.newtoncivicpride.org](http://www.newtoncivicpride.org)

## April Vacation

**April Vacation Week at the New Art Center.** April 20-23, 9:00-3:30pm, extended hours are available. We welcome students currently in grades K-5, and teens in grades 6-9. The day includes classes in painting, drawing, sculpting, ceramics and drama, as well as a snack time, lunch and recess. Children will be inspired by the exhibition in our Main Gallery, EXTRAORDINARY: Puppetry, Storytelling, & Spirit. We'll create small and large puppets, made from found objects and materials such as wood, wire, clay and more! For more information and to register, please visit [www.newartcenter.org](http://www.newartcenter.org) or call 617-964-3424. Register Early! Tuition: \$270, \$255 sibling rate

**Vacation programs and more with Newton Community Ed** NCE has a variety of exciting and unusual programs coming up for April vacation. Sign up for Marble Machine Madness, Create a TV Show, Engineering with Legos or Painting. Older kids can choose to take our Babysitting Certification class over spring break. We also have openings in some of our ongoing winter classes. Private violin lessons are available at Mason Rice, Bowen, and Countryside. For weekend fun, young ones can sign up for Soccer Tots, Play Soccer, or our Spring Nature Walk. Registration has begun for all our summer programs. We have some great new offerings this year, such as Check I.T. Out, Fiber Arts, Engineering Workshop, Sew...What's New, and lots more. Plus we have our popular returning favorites like Clay Workshop, Domino Physics, and Club Invention. We have lots for middle school siblings too. Call our office at 617-559-6999 or visit our website at [www.newtoncommunityed.org](http://www.newtoncommunityed.org) for information or to register.

**Girls April Vacation Soccer Clinic:** BC Lady Eagles Soccer School for girls 6-14 april 20-23 9am-3pm at the BC Newton Campus. Soccer fun and development. Registration: <http://bceagles.cstv.com/camps/bc-w-soccer-camps-april.html>

**April Break Rock Star Boot Camp** At the School of Rock. 4/19/2010 to 4/23/2010 For details about this event, click the link below: [http://www.teenlife.com/events/event\\_details.asp?id=100308](http://www.teenlife.com/events/event_details.asp?id=100308)

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**NCSC Summer Day Camp at Hale Reservation (Grades 1 - 8)** Registration is now open for the Newton Community Service Center Summer Day Camp at the beautiful Hale Reservation in Westwood (transportation from our West Newton location is included). Join us for fun-filled days of boating, Red Cross swim lessons and free swim, arts and crafts, fishing, boating, archery, a ropes challenge course, nature activities, sports, cookouts, special events, overnights and more at our ACA-accredited camp. From June 28th through August 27th, join us for two, four, six, eight weeks – or the entire summer! For more information or to register, please go to our web site at [www.NCSCweb.org](http://www.NCSCweb.org). If you have questions, please contact Megan Cap-Renzi at [mcap-renzi@ncscweb.org](mailto:mcap-renzi@ncscweb.org) or (617) 969-5906, ext. 224.

**Farmer-in-Training Summer Program for Middle Schoolers** at Newton Community Farm – This summer program for Middle School Students (going into 6th through 9th). Spend a week outdoors with friends and staff from Newton Community Farm. Learn to plant, maintain and harvest a farm garden. Discover how food is produced and enjoy camaraderie as you work at the farm and maintain garden plots at Nahanton Park, growing food for the Newton Food Pantry. Sign up for one week or as many weeks as you'd like. Learn a lot, work hard and have fun. Mon – Fri 8:30 am to 1:30pm at Newton Community Farm, 303 Nahanton Street. Weekly sessions run July 5th through August 27th. Weekly fee: \$135 for members, \$150 others. 6 student limit per week, so sign up early. For more info or to register: [www.newtoncommunityfarm.org](http://www.newtoncommunityfarm.org). Questions? [education@newtoncommunityfarm.org](mailto:education@newtoncommunityfarm.org) or 617-916-9655

**Newton Community Ed—see under April Vacation**

**JCC Kaleidoscope Creative Arts + Science Camp Open House** Sunday, March 28, 2-4pm Leventhal-Sidman JCC, 333 Nahanton St., Newton, MA 617 558-6523 [kaleidoscope@jccgb.org](mailto:kaleidoscope@jccgb.org) Meet the director, tour the facilities, and learn about this day camp where boys and girls in grades K-8 make new friends, learn new skills, stay active, and nurture their “inner artists.” CIT program available (grades 9-11). Transportation available from Brookline, Wayland and Framingham. 2010 Camp dates: June 28-August 20. [www.kaleidoscopecamp.org](http://www.kaleidoscopecamp.org).

**Club Invention** focuses on projects that enhance creativity, teamwork, and inventive-thinking skills. Children entering grades 1-6 participate in 5 project modules promoting science, math, history, and the arts through creative problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Newton teachers lead the curricula and Judi Fitts, a Cabot 4th grade teacher, returns as director. Register for one or both weeks: July 12-16 and/or July 19-23. Newton South High School, 9-3:30. Extended day program available. \$275 includes all materials and a T-shirt. For more info or to register, contact Newton Community Ed at [www.newtoncommunityed.org](http://www.newtoncommunityed.org) or call 617-559-6999.

**Newton Youth Players “My Fair Lady”** – Summer Monday, June 28 – Thursday, July 22. 9am – noon Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada Street, Newton Still a few spaces open! This popular theatre group is sold out until Spring 2011, being a part of the summer production is a great way to become a part of this outstanding program. Children ages 7 – 10 are invited to learn how to act, sing and plan a production. Visit [www.newtonyouthplayers.com](http://www.newtonyouthplayers.com) for more information. Newton Resident \$665. Register at 617-527-8283.

**Art and Music programs** for children, with and without a caregiver for the summer at the Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada Street, Newton.

**June Time for Families** Twice a week, Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 – 11:15 am, June 1,3,8,10 Leading up to “Time for Partners”. Art each day with Kim, Jacques or Mary Bruno and music with David Polansky. \$85. Call 617-527-8283 to register, or visit [www.newtonculturalcenter.org](http://www.newtonculturalcenter.org) for more information.

**Time for Partners** For children ages 18 months – 4 years with an adult Choose Mondays – Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:15 am June 28 – August 5 Music and art every day. Mondays - \$100,

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Tuesdays – Thursdays - \$120 Call 617-527-8283 to register, or visit [www.newtonculturalcenter.org](http://www.newtonculturalcenter.org). for more information.

**Summer Swing** A drop-off program for children ages 3 – 6 June 28 – August 5, 9 am – noon 2, 3 and 4-day options available One hour lunch bunch available \$10 per day. Art, music and creative movement program with different themes each week. 2 – day: \$465, 3 – day: \$665, 4 – day: \$865 Call 617-527-8283 to register, or visit [www.newtonculturalcenter.org](http://www.newtonculturalcenter.org) for more information.

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*Ads do not constitute PTO endorsement of products or services.*

**Metro Music Disc Jockey Service for All Ages:** Franklin parent Marian Rambelle not only sings (at the Franklin Coffeehouse and other venues), she's also an experienced DJ who knows how to keep the dance floor hopping! By specializing in music of the 80s, 70s, and 60s, while also including earlier and more recent hits, Metro Music pleases all-ages crowds. She has provided DJ services for over one hundred events and is known as a classy DJ, with clients such as the Boston Symphony and the Goethe-Institut Boston. Email [marian@metromusic-dj.com](mailto:marian@metromusic-dj.com) or visit [www.metromusic-dj.com](http://www.metromusic-dj.com). 617-527-4590. Franklin discount or \$100 offered - use code FRANKLIN.

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**PIANO INSTRUCTION** Berklee & New England Conservatory graduate with 30 years teaching experience has several openings in studio. Beginners Welcome. Learn Jazz/Blues/Classical, theory, sightreading from a patient, caring teacher. Gloria Jasinski, phone: 617.566.9704, email: [piano566@comcast.net](mailto:piano566@comcast.net)

**Peirce Elementary School Family Does Pet Sitting!** While you are on business trips, vacations, day outings, etc., give your dog a fun time, too! Your puppy/dog will be well cared for while you're away. Your pet will be fed, walked, pampered, played with; in short, will be having fun! We're a family with two kids; 17 and 10 years old. We've had our own dogs before and now we are opening our hearts and home to pet sitting while folks are away. We have been doing this service for the last few years and it works very well for the animals and for our kids, too! We will only take one at a time, or two at a time, if you wish for your pet to vacation with a friend (!), so please schedule your time ASAP. Reasonable rates. [EMagids@aol.com](mailto:EMagids@aol.com) or 617-527-6654

**ActiveMinds Tutoring, LLC:** Your source for in-home tutoring. Effective, Personalized and Convenient. All grades/all subjects, including test preparation (MCAS, SAT, SSAT...). Sign your child up for academic success and receive a free lesson! Call: (617) 663-5700 during business hours, or (617) 227-2225 Eve/Wknds. Please visit our web site at [www.activemindstutoring.com](http://www.activemindstutoring.com).

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## Franklin Office 617-559-9500

The next issue of the Connection will be published on Apr 9<sup>th</sup>. To submit something, submit it by NOON on Apr 5<sup>th</sup>. Ads are only printed as space allows, so meeting the deadline is not a guarantee of ad placement.