



THE CONNECTION

May 7, 2010

Attendance Line 617-559-9509

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As always, Franklin School is a busy place. Last weekend, families came out in droves to support the Franklin School by attending the auction and the Newton Serves event. I have many updates and thanks to offer.

- **Newton Serves** – Thank you to Marysol Masse-Makimura and all of the families who spent last Sunday landscaping outside of Franklin. It looks amazing! Also, thank you to the Axon/Smillie family for building our first raised garden bed. Some first and fifth graders planted last Friday. Keep checking to see what is growing!
- **Franklin Auction** – Once again, the auction committee outdid themselves. It was a wonderful night of live music, great food, and fundraising for the student at Franklin. Thank you to everyone that organized and participated.
- **Penny Challenge for Haiti** - The Penny Challenge was a great success as Franklin raised over \$1,400. This money will go to Partners in Health for their remarkable healthcare in Haiti and to Oxfam for its tried and true post-disaster rebuilding and water and sanitation projects. Thank you to everyone that participated and a special thanks to Simon Rosenberg and his family for initiating and following through on this important project.
- **MCAS Open Response** - Our third, fourth, and fifth graders successfully completed the English Language Arts portion of the MCAS in April. We were very proud of each student's effort and perseverance. As a school, we are committed to improving each student's performance on the MCAS starting in third grade and ending in fifth. Our area of focus has been the open response portions of the ELA and math. Not only do these types of questions require coherent and well-organized writing, they also ask students to use higher level thinking skills such as inferring, summarizing, comparing and contrasting, predicting, prioritizing, analyzing, applying, and evaluating. On the ELA, open response questions always ask the student to "support answers with important details from the reading" and in math to "show all work, diagrams, tables, or computations" and "if work is done in your head, explain in writing how you did the work." Students receive a score of 1(lowest) to 4(highest). Our long-term goal is to exceed the Newton average, a score of 3 on every open response question.
- **Math MCAS** – The third, fourth and fifth graders will begin the Math MCAS next week. Fifth graders will also take the Science MCAS. The testing dates are as follows:
Grade 3: May 14th and 17th
Grade 4: May 12th and 13th
Grade 5: May 10th and 11th (Math) and May 18th and 19th (Science)
- **Staffing for 2010-2011** - The quality of Franklin School is defined to a large extent by the quality of its teachers. Unfortunately one of our fifth grade teachers, Steve Kanode, has resigned and will not be returning next year. Mr. Kanode has accepted a position as an assistant principal in Waltham. Although we will miss Mr. Kanode, we wish him well as he embarks on the next phase of his educational journey. In order to secure the best possible replacement for Mr. Kanode, we began interviewing potential candidates this week. In addition to Mr. Kanode's move, several teachers will be changing grade levels. At this time, the classroom teacher configuration for next year is as follows:

Kindergarten: Mrs. Boudreau, Mrs. Joseph and Mrs. Maguire

May 27-Jun 1	Franklin Book Fair
May 31	No School—Mem. Day
June 1	4 th Grade Concert 7 pm
June 3	PTO Meeting 7 pm
June 8	5 th Grade Concert 7 pm

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Grade 1: Ms. Devaney, Mr. Mucci and Ms. Scott
Grade 2: Ms. Dischino, Ms. Galbraith and Mrs. Russillo
Grade 3: Mrs. Mahoney, Ms. Maurer and Ms. Terk
Grade 4: Ms. Fucci, Mrs. Keane and Mrs. Lanfear
Grade 5: Ms. Back, Mrs. Matteo, Mrs. Sullivan and a new hire

News from the PTO

It's been a busy -- and productive -- Spring at Franklin so far, with the Auction and Newton Serves events happening back-to-back!

As a volunteer PTO Board, we worry every year that we won't get enough parents involved in our fundraising and community-building activities -- especially in a shaky economy, where families have so many competing priorities -- but this year, as in years past, we are heartened by how many of you pitched in to help us with the auction and the Newton Serves landscaping project. To see so many parents come out for our biggest fundraiser of the year on a Saturday night, and then head out to the school Sunday morning to plant trees and spread mulch -- it's really a tribute to a community that cares about its kids.

Our preliminary count shows we raised enough money (an estimated \$17,000-\$18,000) at the May 1 Auction to continue to fund Creative Arts & Sciences and other critical classroom programs that are not funded in the school budget. Meanwhile, Marysol Masse-Makimura and her team of volunteers were able to re-landscape the school in record time, in sweltering heat!

If you haven't been able to get involved in school activities so far, there's still plenty of time -- and opportunities. You'll be hearing about a new technology drive being launched at Franklin, to try to replace the school's outdated classroom computers. If you have any interest in helping with that effort, in any capacity, please contact Gretchen Hollmer.

We'll also need your help with our annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Color Day and other activities before the end of the school year.

As you may know, with the help of parent Cindy Starr, we created a Facebook page with Franklin PTO and school information. Please check out the page, which will continue to be updated.

Most importantly -- we need a few new faces next year on the PTO Board and would encourage you to contact us if you have the slightest interest in joining! The board is made up of parents who work as a team on school projects, learning as we go, sharing the load as well as the rewards (yes, there are rewards to volunteering!) Please let us know ASAP if you'd consider it. Our last PTO meeting of the year is scheduled for June 3; we hope to vote in some new members before September!

Finally, a reminder/plea: We have a Paypal Donation button on our website at www.franklinpto.org. We are asking ALL families to contribute \$35 in membership dues to help to fund programs and field trips that benefit every child in the school. That \$35, if paid by every family, only amounts to 25% of what we need to raise to fund the year's programs and activities. If you haven't paid your PTO dues yet, or if you missed the auction and would simply like to donate, you can use the Paypal Button to make your tax deductible contribution to Franklin PTO. Thanks!

Tracy, Eva, Deb, Lisa and Meiera

Franklin Library Book Fair

The Franklin Library will be holding a book fair Thursday, May 27 - Tuesday, June 1st. The book fair will be open from 8:15 to first bell each morning and from 3:00-3:30 each afternoon. Also the evening of June 1st before, during and after the concert the book fair will be open. We will be promoting summer reading with this fair and all money raised from the book fair will be used for needed library books, materials and supplies. We will be doing teacher wish lists also, so if you would like to help improve your child's classroom library this is a good way to find out what teachers are needing and wanting for books. The book fair will also be open for students to shop during their library times during the week. Hope to see you at the book fair!
Mrs. Walker, Library Teacher

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Announcing a Special Parent to Parent Coffee Hour for Franklin Families

Please join other Franklin parents with special needs children for an informal discussion. We will help each other provide a support network and forum for sharing information, resources and strategies to improve and provide the best education for our children with special needs. The meetings will be held outside of school grounds and discussions will be kept confidential. We hope this will be first of many to come.

Parents of children with a 504 plan, Individual Education Plan (IEP), and those participating in the Neighborhood Inclusion, REACH and Elementary Stabilization (ESP) programs, as well as parents who are considering whether their child needs special education services are welcome to attend.

This first meeting will be held at the home of Joan Schulz, 64 Hatfield Road on Wednesday, May 19th at 730 pm. Please RSVP or drop by. You may contact Joan Schulz or Eileen Sandberg with any questions or comments.

Music Concerts

It's Spring! Must be time to hear the results of all that practicing:

4th Grade Concert (Strings, Band, Choir) Tuesday June 1, 7 pm in the Franklin Auditorium

5th Grade Concert (Strings, Band, Choir) Tuesday, June 8, 7 pm in the Franklin Auditorium

Art

Dear Franklin Families,

Please have your/each child bring in a **LARGE BROWN PAPER SUPERMARKET STYLE BAG** to ART class. Art work will be passed back to all students during class at the end of the year. The work will make it home safer in a separate bag, rather than their back-packs

☺ Extras are always welcome!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you,
Robin Leed
(Art Teacher)

Newton Serves for Franklin

Thank you for participating in Newton Serves

Thank you so much to those of you who turned out last Sunday to help with Franklin's Newton Serves project. We got an incredible amount of (back-breaking) work done. I wish I could name the names of all the people who worked so hard to finish this project, but I worry that I will leave someone off the list. Thank you--you know who you are!!!

For those of you who missed the fun, here is what we did:

--Planted, watered, and mulched 3 pear trees, 6 cherry trees, and 48 junipers along the front of the school.

--Planted, watered, and mulched 6 rhododendrons, 9 daylilies, 2 dogwood, 8 golden mops, and 1 fernspray bush around our new patio.

--Spruced-up our existing patio garden.

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- Picked up trash and a ton of clothing from the playground.
- Repainted the existing four square and hopscotch games.
- Painted 2 hopscotch games near the kindergarten/first grade playground.
- Painted 2 new games on the concrete near the basketball court.
- Painted a mural of the solar system on the school driveway.

A volunteer from the Verizon Pioneers donated paint and brought all the necessary supplies to do the paintings of the hopscotch, solar system, etc.

Enjoy your clean, beautiful school yard.

Sincerely,

Marysol Masse-Makimura, on behalf of the playground committee: Sue Membrino, Sandy Skinner, Karen Bernat, Laura Lanfear

Newton Special Education PAC

Wednesday, June 16 Awards Ceremony and brainstorming for 2010-2011 year

For more information about the Newton PAC or to join our online discussion group, please email info@newtonpac.org or visit our website at 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, Julie Leahy, jpl2002@verizon.net, Joan Schulz dschulz@rcn.com

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

What Parents of School-Age Children Need to Know About Bullying, a free parenting workshop will be held at Lincoln Eliot Elementary School, 191 Pearl St. 02458 on Tuesday, May 11th from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. **NO REGISTRATION IS NEEDED.** Meghan McCoy, affiliated with the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State College, will speak about what is and is not bullying, how to recognize if your own child is a bully or being bullied, and how parents should respond if their child becomes involved in a bullying incident. Ms. McCoy has worked with over 80 schools in New England on issues related to bullying and cyberbullying reduction.

Parents of preschool and elementary students are invited to attend, **PREPARING FOR SUMMER CAMP: CREATING A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR CHILD**, a free workshop to help prepare children for the transition from the school year to day camp. This workshop will be held on Thursday, May 27th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Franklin Elementary School, 125 Derby St., 02465. Participants in this workshop will learn how to best prepare for a new camp experience, such as: how to ease camper anxiety, how to best partner with camps regarding your child's unique needs and learn strategies to ensure a smooth transition to camp. Child care and a light supper for children will be provided at no charge. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** To register, contact: Jenny Gamson, The Newton Partnership, 617.559.9064 or jenny_gamson@newton.k12.ma.us

Breakfast for Champions: All volunteers for **Understanding our Differences** (UOD) program are invited to the end-of-year celebration of your efforts to make our schools safe and accepting for all. Share breakfast with Mayor Setti Warren as he salutes you and gives awards to your School Coordinators for their leadership this year. Pose for the annual "UOD Family Photo". Newton War Memorial, Friday June 4, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Bring your friends and fellow volunteers! RSVP at volunteerbreakfast@UnderstandingOurDifferences.org

Are you looking for a unique creative Jewish educational experience for your children after school? Keshet Newton provides excellence in Jewish and Hebrew education on weekday afternoons. In a joy-filled, camp-like environment, we explore Jewish knowledge and cultivate a

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sense of community as our children grow to become proud, educated Jews. Limited openings remain for new students for 2010-11.

WANTED - KIDS AND TEENS TO RIDE FOR A CURE!! Calling all kids to participate in the 5th annual PMC Newton/Needham/Brookline Bike Ride to benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Jimmy Fund! The event takes place on Sunday May 23, from 12-4 pm at 180 Wells Office Park in Newton. Teens (13 years+) can ride in the 17-mile teen road ride, which starts promptly at 12:30 pm. Kids ride starts at 1pm and kids can ride as long as they want on the office park course. Post party celebration includes refreshments, music, games, kids activities, an awesome raffle, and more!! The minimum fundraising amount per rider is just \$50.00, but wouldn't it be great to raise additional donations? Build a team with friends, school or teammates, and make a long lasting difference in the fight against cancer. Note: 12 year old sixth graders who are advanced, strong riders can participate in the Teen Ride at the discretion of their parents. Take action today! To ride or volunteer, go to kids.pmc.org/nnb For information and volunteer opportunities, contact Jordana Alford (jlalford@rcn.com), May Chiu (mayfchiu@earthlink.net), or Jane Quinn (janequinn419@gmail.com).

The Chestnut Street Teen Center is open Monday - Friday evenings, 5:00-9:00pm for students in grades 8-12. This beautiful facility offers structured social and recreational activities for teens for FREE! There is a pool table, ping pong, video games, fitness room, computers, kitchen and a music room with instruments including guitars, drums, and recording equipment. Please encourage all teens to come and check it out. Together with the staff they can plan trips, dances and other events. The Chestnut St Teen Center is located at 1254 Chestnut St, in Pettee Square, Newton Upper Falls, and is a division of Newton Community Service Centers Inc. and sponsored by The Newton Partnership.

Friends of the Newton Free Library Host 26th Book and Author Luncheon The Friends of the Newton Free Library present Anita Shreve, author of A Change in Altitude, and Andre Dubus III, author of The Garden of Last Days, at the 26th Book and Author Luncheon, on Friday, May 7, 2010, at 12:00 noon, Newton Marriott, 2345 Commonwealth Ave at Route 128. For tickets and more information, please visit <http://www.newtonfreelibrary.net/?sec=friends&doc=luncheon> or email bookandauthor@gmail.com.

Red Sox Tickets Thursday, June 17 - 7:10 pm - Arizona Diamondbacks Wednesday, September 22 - 7:10 pm - Baltimore Orioles The Hyde Community Center has purchased group tickets for two Red Sox games at Fenway Park this summer. The seats are in the Right Field Terrace section. Half of the game tickets are Bar Stool seats and half are Standing Room. The seats, both bar stool and standing, are together in one private area. This will facilitate groups of friends and neighbors who want to mingle and chat while they watch the game. Also parents of kids who don't want to sit still for the entire game might like this arrangement. The bar stool tickets are \$55 each and the standing tickets are \$35 each. Each ticket price includes a \$5 donation to the Highlands After School Program Scholarship fund. This fund allows Newton Highlands Middle Schoolers whose families have financial need to attend this wonderful program. Please email John Rice at director@hydecenter.org or call him at 617-527-4933 if you are interested in purchasing tickets!

Free Parent Group enrolling now! The popular Parent Management Training (PMT) series is beginning again. Leading this group is Rachel Nenner-Payton LICSW, a senior clinician at Riverside Community Care in Newton. She is trained and experienced in running PMT groups. This group will focus on decreasing behavioral problems and increasing positive behavior in children and is highly effective in reducing tantrums, fighting, and disruptiveness. The group will run for six weeks (5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, 6/11) and is located at the Newton Outpatient Center at 64 Eldredge St, Newton 02458. Registration is required. To register or gain more information call Rachel Nenner-Payton at 617.969.4925.

Extended deadline -DONATIONS OF PROM DRESSES NEEDED. Clean Your Closets and Make a Teenager Happy! Newton South High School juniors Rachel Davidson and Sammie Levin are collecting new and "gently worn" prom dresses, purses and shoes to donate to Becca's Closet, a global non-profit that provides formal attire to high school students with financial need. Please

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bring all donations to Holly Cleaners, 1314 Centre St, Newton, by mid-May. Send questions to dressdonation@gmail.com.

Congratulations to all the accomplished spellers that participated in Newton's Annual Spelling Bees at the Newton Cultural Center on March 1, 3, 8 and 10! They were very exciting evenings, especially because many of the categories on all four evenings ended in ties! The Spelling Bees were sponsored by the Newton Civic Pride Committee and the Mayor's Office for Cultural Affairs, in cooperation with Mt. Ida College. In particular, we would like to thank Dr. Katy Pletsch de Garcia and her wonderful English and Spanish language students that were invaluable in helping to keep the evenings flowing smoothly, and the waiting contestants entertained. The registrations for these Spelling Bees more than doubled since last year, and many people were not able to participate. A tip for next year's Bees, the new dates will be announced in early January, sign up quickly! The following is a list of the winners: Congratulations to everyone! Monday, March 1 1st Grade: Priya Agarwal, Grace Archer, Rudra Shulin 2nd Grade: Andy Goldberg, Ethan Kopf, Caroline Murray 3rd Grade: Christian Negrotti, Milan Rosen, Alex Tesson Wednesday, March 3 Kindergarten: Fitch Perkins, Shiv Sawhney, Hunter Young 1st Grade: Vikram Konanki, Aidan Leonard, Kate Silagi 2nd Grade: Wilder Perkins, Sidney Wen, Jocelyn Wong 3rd Grade: Annabelle Lubin, Savannah Macero, Sophia Ryals Monday, March 8 Kindergarten: James Bombara, Lily Creem, Daniel Stollow 1st Grade: Olivia Dubin, Nicholas Hu, Ellie Wang 2nd Grade: Pete Delmonico, Alexandra Kolodney, Julie Wise 3rd Grade: Christopher Crawford, Ricky Halloran, Yejoo Yang 4th Grade: Zoe Land, Sam Linder, Max Teszler Wednesday, March 10 4th Grade: Bhairavi Chandrasekhar, Leoni Lee Foster, Sophie Magidson 5th Grade: Samuel Burnham, Maren Gunning, Bimini Horstmann, Raynold Huang 6th Grade: Danielle Eisen, Kay Goodhart, Jin Hyun Kim

The Newton Free Library invites you to meet YoElena Tkebuchava, author of 'Poetic Easel'. YoElena has been interested in fine art and history since before starting her formal education. She began writing poetry at age 8, and published her first book at age 12. In 'Poetic Easel', YoElena Tkebuchava shares the beautiful world of fine art through the work of 40 artists. Best for 3rd graders through adults. Saturday May 8th at 2pm in the Newton Free Library's Drucker Auditorium. Registration gets underway Monday May 3rd and is required. More info: www.newtonfreelibrary.net or call 617-796-1370.

Historic Newton presents 28th Annual Newton House Tour Newton, MA. Historic Newton will hold its 28th Annual Newton Tour on Sunday, May 23 from noon to 5 pm. The Newton House Tour offers the public a rare opportunity to tour private residences throughout the city. The tour showcases a wonderful selection of outstanding renovations, restorations, old and new architecture, interior design and landscaping. This year, there are a record ten properties on the tour, which include a variety of styles in neighborhoods throughout the city of Newton. One of the interesting properties this year is a Carriage House located in Newtonville. The current owners knocked down the 1960 garage that did not match the architecture of the original house and rebuilt a new carriage house. They tried to match the architecture of the new carriage house to their 1910 home as much as possible, including the same roofline. The new carriage house holds three cars on the first level, and a large gym, two new baths, and a guest suite on the second level. Additional homes on the tour include: West Newton – c.1876 Stick Style; Newton Corner – c. 1890 Brick Queen Anne; Chestnut Hill – 1957 Modern - Designed by renowned architect Rudolf house/green features; Newton Lower Falls – 1878 Italianate; Newton Center – 2009 Contemporary Arts and Crafts with "green" features; Newtonville – 1900 Shingle Style; Newton Highlands – 1910 Colonial; The Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds Tickets cost \$25 (\$20 for members) if purchased by May 21 or \$30 (\$25 for members) if purchased on May 22 or 23. They may be ordered online at www.historicnewton.org or may be ordered by phone at 617-796-1450. For more information, contact Historic Newton at 617-796-1450.

On May 12th, School of Rock (<http://www.schoolofrock.com/boston>) will share the stage with national headlining act **Bella Morte** (<http://www.bellamorte.com>), recording artists signed to Metropolis Records. The show will take place at the Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster Street in Arlington, and run as an early show (7-10 PM) since it is a school night. Also performing are NH-based alternative rock band Mortuus Ortus, and Synthetic Division, an electro-pop duo. School

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of Rock is offering pre-sale tickets to all Newton school district students and their parents at a discounted rate of \$10. Please call 617-923-3434 for information, or visit bella.eventbrite.com

Come Walk with us on Mother's Day! A great community service event for families. It's not too late to join other Newton families for the annual 3.6 miles Mother's Day Walk for Peace in Dorchester. Scheduled this year for Sunday May 9th, the Mother's Day Walk is a walk of solidarity in Boston, bringing together mothers from various communities to stand against youth violence. Among those walking are elected officials, law enforcement professionals, neighbors, clergy, neighbors and friends. Register at www.louisbrownpeaceinstitute.org or contact Josie Greene at 617 527-7468 if you'd like to join other families participating.

"Anxiety and Your Child": Are you worried about your child being anxious? What's the difference between the occasional headache and stomachache and the early signs of anxiety? Internationally recognized Clinical Psychologist Catherine Steiner-Adair, Ed.D will present a free parenting workshop Thursday May 13th from 7:30pm to 9pm at the Williams School Auditorium, 141 Grove Street. No registration required. Dr. Steiner-Adair will discuss what anxiety looks like in children. She will define the difference between an anxious moment and an anxiety disorder. Parents will learn how anxiety impacts families and the different ways to help your child through anxious moments and more serious anxiety issues. Transitions to camp, new beginnings, handling the end of the school year and more will be discussed. Dr. Steiner-Adair is an internationally recognized clinical psychologist, school consultant and author. She consults to parents and K-12 schools on a wide range of topics related to strengthening children's social and emotional development and deepening parents' connections to their children. Affiliated with McLean Hospital and Harvard Medical School, she has a private practice in Newton. (Sponsored by the Newton Partnership)

The Boston Ballet Newton Studio Presents: "Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs", Friday May 7th at 7:30pm and Sunday May 9th at 1:30pm and 6:30pm. Choreography by Bruce Wells. Sorenson Center for the Arts at Babson College, Babson Park. Tickets and more info at www.bostonballet.org/school or 617-456-6263.

USED BOOK SALE – Books wanted and books to be sold for a cause. Back by popular demand: The Newton South High School Used Book Sale was such a success for the community last year, we're doing it again – and all to support literacy!! Sale dates: May 25, 26, and 27 in Wheeler House Commons. We're currently collecting books for the sale and need your donations! Looking for gently used or new books, including fiction, non-fiction, classics, best-sellers, test prep materials, etc. for all ages!! Books may be dropped off in collection boxes located in Wheeler Commons or at the POD located in the parking lot outside Wheeler House starting May 3rd daily from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. If you're unable to drop off books during these times, please email Patrice Wilson @ pwwilson1@verizon.net to arrange a drop off.

Shine, presented by the Musical Theatre Cabaret Troupe at Theatre Ink and student directed by Kelly McIntyre, John Paul Roby and Hayley Travers. Cabaret Troupe was established to spread the word about new and contemporary musical theatre! It showcases songs mostly written post 1995, and will appeal to all contemporary audiences. The troupe consists of freshman-seniors and you will be delighted with full troupe numbers along with small group and solo performances. The show is directed by and accompanied by students. May 14th at 7:30pm, Lasker Auditorium at NNHS, 360 Lowell Avenue, Newtonville. Tickets \$5 at www.theatreink.net or 617-559-6406

Plant Exchange May 22nd: 9am-3pm. Bring a Plant/Take a Plant: Ferns creeping out of bounds? Hostas growing like weeds? Lily of the Valley taking over your side yard? May is the month to divide and thin your garden plants. Why put those beautiful Iris divisions in the compost bin? Share them with your Newton neighbors at the 1st Annual Plant Exchange. Now's the time to save old flower pots, milk cartons, coffee cans, large yoghurt containers, even plastic bags to pot up those divisions. If you can't dig them up just before the event, keep them moist and in the shade until The Exchange Date: Saturday, May 22nd, 9am-3pm, rain or shine. Bring what you don't want and find something new for your garden at 27 George Street just off Centre Street in Newton Corner. (One block north of the light where Sargent/Cabot Street crosses Centre Street). All

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exchanges are free, but please consider making a donation in any amount to the box marked 'METCO Community Scholarship Fund' which helps Newton METCO graduates attend college. For more information, email: BHoward617@aol.com. (This is a Bigelow Middle School Student's Community Service Project)

Suzuki School of Newton Group Concert The Suzuki School of Newton invites you to its annual Spring Group Concert. Come and hear our students perform the pieces they have been working very hard on this semester. The concert will be on Tuesday, May 18 at 5:00 PM at the Day Middle School, located at 21 Minot Pl in Newtonville. Please stay for a reception and light refreshments after the show. For more information, call the Suzuki School at 617-964-4522.

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 Motor Development Laboratory at Boston University in the Occupational Therapy Department. 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 or at 617-353-7513. Scheduling is based on participants' availability, so after-school times, evenings, and weekends are definitely available.

90% of high school students in the METCO program attend college, far surpassing the rate for minority students nationwide. These students go on to successful careers and lives. METCO families and supporters are invited to **attend the 24th Annual Newton METCO Community Scholarship Celebration and fundraiser May 16th**. Since 2000, over 192 students have been granted scholarships from the fund that has raised nearly \$170,000. The fund is facing uncertainty in these rough economic times. Contributions may be sent to: Newton METCO Community Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 600053, Newtonville, Ma. 02460. The Newton METCO Scholarship Celebration takes place Sunday May 16th from 4-6pm at the Myrtle Baptist Church, 21 Curve Street, West Newton, where the keynote speaker will be the newly appointed minister from Myrtle Baptist Church, Reverend Brandon T. Crowley. A light dinner will follow. (Church office: 617-332-5870)

NSHS TALENT SHOW FOR HAITI Want to get out on a Saturday night and see some amazing talent? Come to the NSHS Talent Show for Haiti. **ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO HAITI TO HELP THE RELIEF!** (through the Partners in Health organization). Watch great acts from Tertulia and other talented students at NSHS. Also, hear from a speaker who has just returned from Haiti. Saturday May 8th at 7pm at the NSHS auditorium. Tickets cost \$10 (\$12 at the door). Email Nshshaitirelief@gmail.com to reserve your ticket for \$10 or more info. S.O.S. (SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS). All too often, when a disaster strikes, people get mobilized to organize relief efforts during its immediate aftermath and then, once it's out of the news, our attention begins to fade. Fortunately, at Newton South High School, we have an incredible group of students who not only organized immediate relief efforts, but who have continually worked to help provide Haitian relief long after it's been in the spotlight. Please show your support for their on-going determination and hard work by supporting the May 8th NSHS Talent Show for Haiti.

For immigrant parents of young children - Raising Children in America: Challenges and Hopes Tuesday, May 18, 2010 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. Newton Community Service Center 492 Waltham St., West Newton MA 02465 Child Care Available Space is limited. Pre-registration is required. Register by emailing: laraujo@ncsweb.org or call 617.969.5906 x217 Co-sponsored by The Newton Partnership and Newton Community Service Center Raising children in America can present unique challenges for immigrant parents. This workshop will explore the often conflicting values, beliefs and assumptions that immigrant families struggle with raising their children in America. Together parents will discuss the value of preserving their own cultural traditions and methods of parenting versus integrating American parenting techniques and how parents can negotiate between the two. This workshop will be facilitated by Loraine Araujo, M.Ed., a native

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SUMMER & CAMPS

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of Brazil. She is a multi-lingual therapist for The Parents Program at Newton Community Service Center, where she works closely with immigrant families.

SUMMER & CAMPS

MATH SUMMER - Summer is a great time to catch up, keep up and get ahead in Math. Mathnasium Learning Center in Newton Highlands offers individualized math summer programs in a fun, relaxing environment. Schedule your 12 tutoring sessions (\$495) around your vacations and camps. Save \$50 when you register before June 1. (617) 340-3665 or www.mathsummer.com

Summer with Newton Community Ed Newton Community Education offers a great variety of summer programs for kids of all ages. Find out how things work at a real TV station and produce your own show, make anything you want from clay, learn about the human body and get some tricks of the medical trade, be a pre-schooler in a Broadway show... we have everything from Jazz Workshop to Engineering; you're sure to find something that works for you. To help with your plans we've added new classes right after school gets out, running Tuesday-Friday June 22-25. These include: Create a TV Show, Wicked Cool Medical School, Marble Machine-Apalooza, Knitting Club, and Soccer & Sports. Some of our summer programs have filled, but lots still have openings. Call us at 617-559-6999 or visit our website at www.newtoncommunityed.org for more information or to register.

The BC Lady Eagles Soccer School will be holding their summer clinics clinic for girls ages 6-14 during June 28-July and also July 19-22, 9:00am-3:00pm at the BC Newton campus. Come join us for soccer fun and development. Registration may be found at: http://bceagles.cstv.com/auto_pdf/p_hotos/s_schools/bc/sports/w-soccer/auto_pdf/summerreg

Higher Ground Teen Leadership Adventures Pick a Week — Change Your Life Session 1: July 25 – July 31 Session 2: August 1 - August 7 Session 3: August 8 - August 14 • Explore the outdoors • Challenge yourself • Make new friends Teens become leaders at Higher Ground through a mix of outdoor adventure, building construction, team sports, group challenges, reflection, and self-discovery projects. From sun-up to lights-out, every day is filled with an opportunity to explore the outdoors, learn new skills and make new friends. Each adventure is a bold step toward becoming a leader. Higher Ground offers teens entering grades 8-12 an unforgettable summer focusing on building confidence, character, friendships and memories. Campers learn the power and value of hard work and community service as they become peer mentors to one another and role models for younger campers — leading sports, building, and other challenge activities. **NEW! Wilderness Adventure Camp** August 8 – 14 For teens entering grades 8 through 12 Can you survive in the wilderness? Each of Higher Ground's weeklong camps are focused on outdoor adventures, but this special Wilderness Adventure Camp in August offers extra high-energy, extreme expeditions with adrenaline rushes teens will never forget. Learn basic wilderness survival skills under the close supervision of our highly trained staff. Call (617) 244-1404 x370 www.NCSCweb.org

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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

Piano lessons from Waban-based teacher. Now accepting students of all ages at all levels for the fall. Contact Jennifer Baverstam at 617-388-8208 or jbaverstam@gmail.com

Underwood Kindergartner Mom Would Like Your Input in an Online Survey. Incentives offered: Participate in an online survey and earn a \$10 Starbucks gift card and be entered to win dinner at Skipjacks and movie tickets for 2. Give feedback on a new business venture aimed at connecting parents to one another online, founded by a Newton mom. For more info or to sign up, contact Amy McPherson amymcp@verizon.net.

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.

\$800 Spacious 1 BR suite in Newton Centre for elder helper Furnished 1 bedroom suite with private entrance, private bathroom, bedroom, separate living room with wet bar and dining area. Looking for a roomer, \$800/month utilities included, to also help an older couple several hours/week with transportation, errands, emergencies, house-sitting, etc. Rent can be reduced according to the amount of time spent as an elder helper (more time spent as a helper = less rent). Enjoy a view of Crystal Lake from your private deck, walk to T and Newton Centre, shared washer dryer, and shared oven. This suite is available now and we can be flexible with a move-in date. Contact: ginwrob@comcast.net

The Pine Manor College Child Study Center has openings for the 2010-2011 academic year. This private, non-profit, preschool program serves families with children ages 2 years 9 months up to Kindergarten age. If you have any questions, you may reach me at 617 731-7039.

Franklin Office 617-559-9500

The next issue of the Connection will be published on May 28th. To submit something, submit it to newsletter@franklinpto.org by NOON on May 24rd. Ads are only printed as space allows, so meeting the deadline is not a guarantee of ad placement.