



THE CONNECTION

Oct 9, 2009

Attendance Line 617-559-9509

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We have three major initiatives at Franklin this year. In the two previous editions of the *Connection*, I included descriptions of the Responsive Classroom and Professional Learning Communities. I would like to share a clear description of our third initiative, Response to Intervention. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions about any of our plans and goals for this year.

Response to Intervention (RTI): A Primer for Parents

By Mary Beth Klotz, PhD, NCSP, and Andrea Canter, PhD, NCSP

National Association of School Psychologists

A major concern for parents as well as teachers is how to help children who experience difficulty learning in school. Everyone wants to see their child excel, and it can be very frustrating when a child falls behind in learning to read, do math, or achieve in other subjects. Children who have the most difficulty are often referred for an evaluation to determine if they need and qualify for special education services. The term "learning disability" has been used for many years to explain why some children of normal intelligence nevertheless have much difficulty learning basic skills such as reading.

Some new federal laws have directed schools to focus more on helping all children learn by addressing problems earlier, before the child is so far behind that a referral to special education services is warranted. These laws include the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004. Both laws underscore the importance of providing high quality, scientifically-based instruction and interventions, and hold schools accountable for the progress of all students in terms of meeting grade level standards.

What Are the Essential Components of RTI?

Simply, "Response to Intervention" refers to a process that emphasizes how well students respond to changes in instruction. The essential elements of an RTI approach are: the provision of scientific, research-based instruction and interventions in general education; monitoring and measurement of student progress in response to the instruction and interventions; and use of these measures of student progress to shape instruction and make educational decisions. A number of leading national organizations and coalition groups, including the National Research Center on Learning Disabilities and the 14 organizations forming the 2004 Learning Disabilities (LD) Roundtable coalition, have outlined the core features of an RTI process as follows:

- High quality, research-based instruction and behavioral support in general education.
- Universal (school-wide or district-wide) screening of academics and behavior in order to determine which students need closer monitoring or additional interventions.
- Multiple tiers of increasingly intense scientific, research-based interventions that are matched to student need.
- Use of a collaborative approach by school staff for development, implementation, and monitoring of the intervention process.
- Continuous monitoring of student progress during the interventions, using objective information to determine if students are meeting goals.
- Follow-up measures providing information that the intervention was implemented as intended and with appropriate consistency.

Oct 9	Giftwrap orders due
Oct 12	Columbus Day—No School
Oct 17	School Appreciation Day 8:30 am – 4 pm
Oct 24	Halloween Bash 6-8 pm

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- Documentation of parent involvement throughout the process.

What Are the Potential Benefits of RTI?

Perhaps the most commonly cited benefit of an RTI approach is that it eliminates a “wait to fail” situation because students get help promptly within the general education setting. Secondly, an RTI approach has the potential to reduce the number of students referred for special education services. Since an RTI approach helps distinguish between those students whose achievement problems are due to a learning disability versus those students whose achievement problems are due to other issues such as lack of prior instruction, referrals for special education evaluations are often reduced. Finally, parents and school teams alike find that the student progress monitoring techniques utilized in an RTI approach provide more instructionally relevant information than traditional assessments.

News from the PTO

Our PTO dues drive is well underway and we would like to extend our thanks for the generosity of those families that have responded, we've collected about \$1,400 to date. If you haven't sent in your dues, it's never too late. As you know, PTO dues are critical to our efforts to enrich the curriculum and support our teachers. As we have reported to you in the past, PTO fundraisers and dues sponsor \$48,000 in classroom enrichment programs and school support. Much of that money is spent right now to book Creative Arts & Sciences guests, cover field trip subsidies and teacher stipends for classroom materials. We hope you'll consider the **Franklin Fun Pass**, which gives prepaid access to our most popular events, including a family pass to our upcoming Halloween Bash (Sat. Oct. 24th)!

Last week you received a package from the PTO of this year's planned events and volunteer opportunities. If you find an activity of interest to you, please return the **Volunteer Sheet**. A committee chairperson will give you a call to discuss how you can get involved. No effort is too small!

We also want to thank you for your attendance at the first PTO meeting on Thursday night. Amy Kelly and staff updated us on three new initiatives going on at Franklin. Responsive Classrooms, Professional Learning Communities and Response to Intervention are changing the dynamics of the classroom learning experience this year. We welcome Meiera Stern, who joined the PTO Board as Co-Secretary. We also thank Megan McAnulty, Carmen Pancerella and Cindy Schectman for their participation in updating the community about our School Appreciation efforts, the Creative Arts and Sciences programs that we are funding this year, and the commencement of planning for the much anticipated Halloween Bash.

A reminder that our **Sally Foster Gift Wrap** sale is going on now. Orders are due Friday, October 9th. Please help make our first fundraiser a success. Franklin earns 50% on most items purchased. Use the forms that were sent home in your child's folder a few weeks back, or go online to **www.sallyfoster.com**. Make sure that you use the school's number # 0951363 to get credit. Thank you for your participation.

School Appreciation Day is a great way to show our school faculty and our children that we care about the learning environment at Franklin. Paint a bookshelf, file papers, organize books, weed gardens, bring coffee and lunch to keep the workers energized . . . there are many ways you can help. We need every available hand on **Saturday October 17th**.

Finally, preparations for the **Halloween Bash** are also getting underway. Please make a point to volunteer and/or donate to this family evening of fun and festivities! We can use as little (half hour) or as much (4 hours) of your time as you can provide. Please help us make it a success!

We are extremely appreciative and indeed feel so very lucky to have such a great community of parents and other caregivers that provide ongoing support to Franklin. Your efforts as volunteers and participation in our programs and fundraisers really do provide much needed assistance to our faculty, our kids and our community.

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As always, we appreciate your collective wisdom and encourage you to contact any of us with your questions and ideas!

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

SCHOOL APPRECIATION DAY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SATURDAY, October 17, 2009 8:30 a. m. – 4:00 p. m.

Here is a wonderful opportunity (and a fun day) to show the teachers how much you care about our school. School Appreciation Day is a day of parent service that allows us to make repairs and improvements to the school and the classrooms that the School Department budget does not cover. Projects can be painting, carpentry, gardening, copying, and paperwork. It is also a great way to meet other parents and an easy way to become involved in the Franklin PTO community.

New this year: your attendance will count towards your kids' classroom teams... the team that has the most participation will be celebrated and have bragging rights until next year. Your "team" will not work as a group, we will match you with the job you are interested in doing. Enthusiasm is the only requirement. While some parents bring talent with tools and brushes – there is a job for everyone! Saturdays can be busy -- soccer, lessons, etc. If you cannot come all day, drop by for an hour. **ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOMED AND NEEDED!** Here are a few important details:

- Even if you can't attend on the 17th, you can support the day by donating materials or helping to cover the cost of lumber, paint and supplies.
- Drop by to donate food on the 17th, you will get to sign in for your class team!
- There is no child care for children and it can be dangerous for them to be around tools and paints, so come enjoy the adult company.
- It's a lot of fun to meet new people and help out the school. And of course, we will feed you breakfast and lunch (good food too!)

To volunteer to work or to bring food, please contact Katherine Lee or Megan McA'Nulty . Thank you for your generosity and time! We look forward to seeing you on the 17th.



Halloween Bash

Saturday October 24, 2009, 6-8 pm

This much loved Franklin School event is coming up soon! Games, Crafts, Face Painting, Snacks, Fortune Tellers, and other Haunted Happenings are in the planning stages!!!! We need lots and lots of help to make this event a screaming success!



Volunteers needed to:

- build props
- set up Friday after school,
- run a game or craft during the event,
- coordinate refreshments,
- greet our ghosts, ghouls, princesses and pirates at the door,
- clean up after the event
- etc., etc., etc.



Please contact Cindy Schectman or Julia Wolfe to lend your support!!!

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Franklin PTO Directory

Franklin PTO Directory coming home soon!

It is officially too late to provide information to the directory. I apologize to the eight students who are not in the book. Every effort was made to get your information. It should be showing up in your child's backpack next week. One directory is distributed to each family at the school.

Thanks to Mrs. Mastroianni, who provided me with the many lists required for the creation of this book. Thank you to all of our teachers for sending out and collecting the forms. Thanks to Susan Boyer, who proofread the information that everyone provided. Thanks to our many sponsors who helped cover the cost of printing. If you haven't sent in your check, now would be a good time.

If anyone is interested in helping with this project next year, I'd love to hear from you. I need a production assistant; someone who can coordinate the distribution and collection of the forms, and also keep track of our sponsors. No data entry is required. Think about it.

Thanks,
Jennifer Roy

BOOK CLUB for 5th Graders

The book club for 5th graders is every Wednesday in the library during 5th grade lunch. The book club has a monthly guest speaker from the public library come visit us and do book talks about best new books; and the kids and I take turns doing book talks on the weeks we don't have a guest. Students who come to book club will come straight to the library with their lunches (hot or cold) instead of going out to recess that day.

Parents of 5th graders may want to remind their kids to come to the library to sign up for book club Weds. mornings each week that they are interested in attending. There will be a sign up (each week) on the counter at the circulation desk. The first 22-25 who sign up will be able to come as we don't have enough seating for more than that.

Heather Walker, Library Teacher



From the Health Office

What's different about the flu this year?

This year a new type of flu virus – H1N1 (swine) flu -- is circulating, along with the typical seasonal flu seen every winter. Prevention steps for both types of flu are the same.

- Wash your hands often, or use hand sanitizer when a sink is unavailable
- Cover up when you cough or sneeze with your arm instead of your hands
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Get vaccinated when vaccine is available

Two different types of flu vaccine are available this year, and each one comes in a shot or intranasal spray. The seasonal flu vaccine provides protection against the seasonal flu only. H1N1 vaccine provides protection against H1N1 influenza only. Both types of flu vaccine are recommended for children. More information about the flu and flu vaccine is available at www.newtonma.gov/flu or by talking to your school nurse.

Health Screenings

The month of October starts Health Screenings for the students. Grades K and 1 Hearing, Vision and Growth (Height and Weight)

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Grades 2 and 3 Hearing and Vision

Grade 4 Vision and Growth (Height and Weight)

Grade 5 Vision and Postural Screening (Scoliosis)

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 617-559-9485

Reminders

When you call the attendance line please state the reason for your child's absence as we are tracking influenza like illness in all the schools.

The playgrounds get wet and muddy, milk and juice can spill and bathroom accidents can happen at any age. To avoid your child having to sit in wet or soiled clothing while waiting for a parent to bring clean dry clothing, it's a good idea to pack a change of clothing for your child.

As always please call the health office if there are any changes in your child's health status or if you have any concerns or questions.

Ann Garvin RN
617-559-9485

Newton Special Education PAC

Wednesday, October 21st – Kickoff meeting for Inclusive Schools Week.

Please join us at 100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, Room 210, at 7:30pm to discuss Inclusive Technology. We will plan the citywide celebration that takes place the week of December 7th to 11th, 2009. More details at <http://www.inclusiveschools.org/node/1767>

The Newton Parent Advisory Council for Special Education serves as a resource for parents and as a liaison between parents and the school administration. All parents, teachers, specialists and others with an interest in education are welcome. Contact info@newtonpac.org

Out-of-District Policy Statement

Out-of-District placements for students who wish to attend a school in Newton other than his/her district school are limited. Such placements are made on a space available basis only. Newton families, as well as members of Units A, B, C, D, E, NESAs, Custodians and Boston parents of students in the METCO Program, should call the Elementary Education Office (grades K – 5) at 617-559-6105 or the Deputy Superintendent's Office (grades 6 – 12) at 617-559-6115 for information. Students who receive acceptance for Out-of-District placement must remain in the school selected for the duration of the school year.

Applications for the following school year must be submitted on forms which will be available beginning November 2 in the Elementary Education Office (grades K – 5), Room 218, or the Deputy Superintendent's Office (grades 6 – 12), Room 214, at the Education Center.

If necessary, a lottery will be implemented to determine the order in which placements will be made. Completed applications, signed by the in-district principal, can be submitted no earlier than January 4, 2010 and no later than March 31, 2010. Applications submitted after March 31, 2010 will not be included in the lottery.

Class size in a given grade, in a given year, in a specific school, may preclude any placements including siblings.

Parents will be responsible for transportation.

Tuition Free Enrollment is limited to the per pupil cost of regular education.

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Dear Parents,

The use of the Internet and World Wide Web has become an integral and routine part of instruction in our classrooms and school libraries throughout the school day. We find that students use these resources at home as well. In order to teach students about the appropriate and ethical uses of the Internet, library teachers and instructional technology specialists are partnering with classroom teachers to instruct students about CyberSafety. These lessons were developed by Information Technology Department staff members who have been trained to use the I-Safe curriculum, a nationwide program to instruct students in Internet safety.

At some point during the months of October through February, students in grades 3 through 5 will participate in a CyberSafety lesson. In grade 3, the lesson will outline student responsibility for using the Internet and how to stay safe within a "Cyber Community." In grade 4, students will explore the responsible use of the Internet by discussing scenarios, such as bullying on the Internet or inappropriate use of Internet resources. Fifth-grade students will be focusing on Cyber Bullying, which is using hurtful or inappropriate comments in an electronic format. By co-teaching the lesson with the classroom teacher, our knowledgeable staff of library teachers and instructional technology specialists will be available to respond to children's questions.

If you have the opportunity to talk about this topic at home, it will help reinforce the message about personal safety and ethical use of the Internet. I suggest you ask your children what they have learned about CyberSafety and remind them to confide in you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Shelley B. Chamberlain, Director of Information Technology

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Art Classes at the New Art Center starting Now and in November! Many classes still have openings for the Early Fall Term (late September through end of October), and for the Late Fall Term (first week of November through mid-December). Visit our website to register for classes, call us, or stop by the New Art Center in Newtonville! Classes for children include Ceramics, Draw Fantasy & Manga, Artistic Architects, Play-n-Clay Clay Creatures, Adventures in Art, and Young Artists. We also offer a Saturday Drop-In Art Class for grades K-5 from 10:00-11:00 with a different project each week. Check the New Art Center's many classes for Teens and Adults. For more information or to register, visit our website www.NewArtCenter.org, or call 617-964-3424.

Could your child, ages 6 to 11, benefit from the consistent, caring friendship of a Newton teenager? Newton's One to One Program has an enthusiastic new group of high school seniors from Newton North and Newton South High Schools. If you would like the opportunity to have your matched this academic year with a "Big Brother/Sister", please call Nancy Holczer, Program Director, at 617.559.9063 by the end of October. Please leave a message on the answering machine, which includes your name, address, and phone number. A program of the Newton Public Schools since 1972. Funded by The Newton Partnership (formerly the Newton Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative).

Parent-Child Home Programs of Newton Community Service Center is looking for volunteers to provide home visits to low income families with toddler children. Home visitors bring free literacy tools (books and toys) to the families and model ways to increase positive verbal interactions in the home. Training and weekly supervision is provided. Commitment is for 6 hr/week during the school year. Please contact Debbie Brush at 617-969-5906 ext 113 or at dbrush@ncscweb.org

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Special Needs Drama Troupe All Newton Music School is offering a class for kids with special needs ages 10-13 yrs. old Mondays from 4:00 – 4:45pm. The theater class will be full of games, plays and fun. Drama David, a teacher for the past 16 years, offers a class where students of varying needs can feel successful and confident on stage. The class will focus on movement, projection, reactions and stage cues. Using several different techniques, Drama David will help bring voices out of the children. If interested, you can call the school at 617-527-4553 or go on the website at www.allnewtonmusicschool.com. If you have any questions, you can e-mail David Gaita at david_gaita@newton.k12.ma.us

For the second year in a row, talented, local artisans will be selling their work to benefit The Second Step, a program for survivors of domestic abuse, located in Newtonville. The sale takes place on Wednesday, October 28 from 3 to 8 pm, 345 Walnut Street, Newtonville, with parking available near Starbucks and Shaw's Market. A range of media will be represented, including jewelry, wearable fiber arts, quilts, and pottery. Donated and handmade baked goods will also be offered, with 100% of the proceeds benefiting The Second Step. Great opportunity to get those holiday gifts early with out the stress. For more information, please visit The Second Step website: www.thesecondstep.org

Helping Kids Cope with the Cancer Diagnosis of a Loved One. Starting on Monday, October 19, and every day during the week of October 19th, WGBH will be airing a special new episode of Arthur, called The Great MacGrady. This episode features Lance Armstrong as a special guest "star" and deals with the issues surrounding cancer and survivorship and helping kids to cope with the cancer diagnosis of a loved one. The real life segment of the episode features the Mason-Rice School community discussing how they dealt with their principal's (Mark Springer's) diagnosis and treatment of Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma three years ago. In conjunction with that episode, on Sunday, October 18th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm, WGBH is conducting a special invitational screening of The Great MacGrady, followed by a panel discussion entitled "When a Child Knows Someone with Cancer: Helping Young Children Cope with the Cancer Diagnosis of a Loved One". A host of new resources and effective strategies for supporting young children as they cope with the cancer diagnosis of a loved one will be provided. This event is limited to guests over the age of 16. For more information and to make your reservations, go to www.wgbh.org/arthursscreening, or you can call WGBH at 617-300-4200.

Newton Touch-a-Truck on Sunday, October 18, from noon to 4:00, 140 Brandeis Rd, Newton Centre. This promises to be a wonderful low-cost family fun day, with proceeds from the suggested donation of \$7 per family/carload going to support nonprofit programming for young children and their families in Newton. More than 30 trucks will be available for kids to climb on and explore. Visits from the NN and NS mascots, free snacks, and opportunities for families to have their children fingerprinted are just part of what's in store. From noon to 1:00, we will be hosting a special "horn-free hour" for kids who may be sensitive to loud noises.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE October 21 Meeting The CPC will meet on 21 October 2009 at 7 pm in the City Hall Cafeteria (basement). The agenda includes a possible new process for considering supplemental funding requests; distribution (but not substantive discussion) of new proposals; supplemental funding requests for two projects at the Newton History Museum; and a working session on the proposal for the old Charles River railroad bridge and approaches in Newton Lower Falls. For details, contact Alice Ingerson at aingerson@newtonma.gov, 617.796.1144, or check the webpage at www.ci.newton.ma.us/cpa.

'A Streetcar Named Desire' - This classic Tennessee Williams play, best for mature audiences, to be performed at the highly acclaimed Newton North High School Little Theatre Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 15, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$7. More information at 617-559-6406 or www.theatreink.net.

Winsor Music will present a Halloween concert on Saturday, October 31, 2009 at 2:00 pm (repeated at 4:00 pm) at St. Paul's Church, 15 St. Paul St., Brookline. The two programs will feature pieces played on the theremin (an eerie-sounding electronic instrument) with piano

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accompaniment. We DARE you to write a Halloween story! Kids, let your imaginations run wild! Your story should be between 5 and 10 minutes long, and appropriate for all ages. The winning story will be read at the concert and accompanied by sound effects from the spooky theremin and the black keys of the piano. This is a rare opportunity for all young writers and Halloween lovers! Email your story to info@winsormusic.org. Adults \$10, Children FREE

A Pumpkin Patch, right here in Newton! The United Parish of Auburndale is hosting its third annual Pumpkin Patch, from October 4th through October 31st. Pumpkins large and small, gourds and baked goods will be for sale. The proceeds help the UPA support a number of programs in the New England area. Don't miss this fun family outing! Pumpkin Patch hours are: M-F, 10am-6pm; Sat, 9am-5pm; and Sun, 11am-6pm. The UPA is located at the corner of Woodland Road and Grove Street near Williams Elementary in Auburndale. For more information, please contact the UPA at 617-964-8516.

You are invited to the 30th Anniversary Celebration of Understanding Our Differences on November 10, 2009, 7- 9 PM at the Brae Burn Country Club in Newton. The guest speaker is Governor Deval Patrick. Leadership Awards will be presented to Carol Kanin, past President of the Board of Directors who has led with passion and wisdom to promote UOD's mission and Ming Tsai, chef owner of Blue Ginger Restaurant for his work with State Senator Cynthia Creem in promoting food allergy awareness. The Understanding Our Differences curriculum team members will be honored for their expertise and extraordinary dedication in updating the curriculum and developing the new Autism Spectrum Disorder unit. For more information or tickets, visit our website: UnderstandingOurDifferences.org or call 617-559-6075.

Historic Newton: Saturday, October 17, noon to 5 pm **HOMESTEAD HAYFEST** Join us for an outdoor festival in honor of the 200th anniversary of the Jackson Homestead. Travel back in time to the 19th century: dance country dances to live fiddle music, make your own butter, watch craftsmen build historic furniture, press your own cider, and more! Don't miss the birthday cake! The crisp autumn air and beautiful foliage make October the perfect time to experience quintessential New England as its residents would have 200 years ago in a family-friendly way. Rain date Sunday October 18. Free. A New Exhibition at the Jackson Homestead and Museum **NEWTON SALUTES! Where Learning Never Stops:** 140 Years of Adult Education in Newton. Come see our newest Newton Salutes exhibit, on display through January, 2010. Newton Community Education is a self-sustaining arm of the Newton Public Schools, open to all students, regardless of residence, providing educational, social, cultural, and vocational programs at a reasonable cost. The exhibit features their collection of catalogs from the 1950s through the present, showing the changing trends in adult education - from "How to Fix Your Car" and "Millinery" in the 1950s to "Thai Cooking" and "Mastering Your iPod" today. Free with admission. 527 Washington St., Newton MA 02458, 617-796-1450 www.historicnewton.org

Hans Christian Andersen event at the Scandinavian Living Center 206 Waltham Street, West Newton. October 25, 2009, 2 – 4 PM. All children age 7 to 12 are invited to come and play games based on Andersen's fairytales, The Little Mermaid, The Ugly Duckling, The Emperor's New Clothes and many more. Children will receive information about the author, Danish culture and be able to listen to story telling. Danish treats, participation certificates and book prizes. Please feel free to come dressed up as the Little Mermaid or any other Hans Christian Andersen character. Everyone is welcome and the event is free.

A Tale of Two Cities at the Wheelock Family Theatre, Oct 30-Nov 29. Based on the book by Charles Dickens. www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org, 617-879-2300

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NCSC to Host Mayoral Candidates' Forum: NCSC's Council of Advisors will host a free Mayoral Forum on Tuesday, October 13 at 7:30 a.m. Moderated by Brooke Lipsitt, the Forum will focus on Ruth Balser's and Setti Warren's visions for providing a safety net to Newton citizens in this time of economic crisis and uncertainty. To ensure honest and candid responses, NCSC will not provide the candidates with a list of questions in advance. To be held at Newton Community

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Service Center, 492 Waltham Street in West Newton, the Forum will begin with a continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m. For more information or to RSVP, please call 617-969-5906, extension 300 by October 9. Walk-ins are welcome.

The Newton Highlands Area Council presents a discussion with Setti Warren and Ruth Balsler on Thursday, October 15 at 8:00 P.M. at Brigham House, 20 Hartford St, Newton Highlands. The candidates will be answering questions from the audience. Refreshments will be served.

Newton Mayoral Candidates Debate takes place Oct. 18, 7 to 9 p.m., at Temple Shalom, 175 Temple St., West Newton. Learn Ruth Balsler's and Setti Warren's plans for Newton's future. The audience may ask questions of the candidates. Everyone is welcome.

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Newton West Little League Player Evaluations for Spring 2010 On Saturday, October 17, at 3 pm, player evaluations for the 2010 Newton West Little League will take place at Lyons Field in Auburndale. These evaluations help the league place players in the appropriate levels, and make the teams as fair as possible, so it is important your child attend if he or she would like to play next season! Who: All players 8 - 12 years old as of April 30, 2010. (If you played in the NWLL Majors in 2009, you DO NOT have to attend!!) When: Saturday, October 17 (Rain Date: October 24). Where: Lyons Field, Auburndale. Bring: Glove, cleats, water. 8yr olds & second grade 7 yr olds 3:00PM; 9yr olds 3:45PM; 10yr olds 4:30PM; 11 & 12 yr olds 5:15 PM. To volunteer to help, or for any questions: email Eric at playeragent@newtonwestll.org Please, please make every effort to attend this evaluation - it is VERY important! ANNUAL MEETING: The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, October 19 at 7:30 at the Albemarle Field House. Among other items of business the election of voting and non-voting positions on the Board will be held. FALL CLEANUP: The annual cleanup of Lyons field will be on Saturday, October 31 at 10 am. Please come and help!

Energy Fitness & Gymnastics – High-quality gymnastics instruction in a non-competitive environment with low student-to-teacher ratios. Free cardio workouts for parents while children attend classes. Personal training for teens and adults. Birthday parties. Free trial classes. Two complimentary personal training sessions and one free nutritional consultation. E-mail frontdesk@energyfitnessgym.com for more information or visit www.energyfitnessgym.com for more info.

KIDS' KARATE Free Trial Class, Free Uniform for those who Enroll. Entry ages 1st through 5th grades, boys and girls. Friday, Nov. 6, 4:45-5:45, or Saturday, Nov. 7, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Cost per 7-Week Session: \$79 for once-a-week or \$99 for twice-a-week. Renting beautiful space at Trinity High School, Newton. For information package, please leave message at (617) 527-8052 or see kids-karate.org

CREATIVE ICE SKATING LESSONS: In West Newton! Join the Sheryl Franks "Creative Skating Academy", Learn to Skate Lessons. Call (617) 699-4736 for details on classes held at the Fessenden School Rink 250 Waltham Street, West Newton. We meet Sunday afternoons 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Earn patches learning Basic Skills through the USFSA program. Have FUN playing on-ice games, special events, and watching exciting performances by guest guests! Sheryl was a 1980 Olympian!

NAA Basketball On-line Registration is now open for the 2009-10 NAA basketball season. The NAA is a non-profit volunteer-run organization that organizes and administers basketball leagues in Newton for boys who live in Newton or attend school in Newton. Our leagues are for players from the third grade through high school. To register, or to find out more about the league, please visit our website at www.NAAbasketball.org. Registration deadline is October 20.

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Lice Aunties is an in-home, non toxic, all mom, lice removal business based in Newton. Thousands of heads checked with affection and a sense of humor. www.liceaunties.com

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

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.

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE HOLIDAYS Have current family portraiture taken at your home or at my photography studio, conveniently located in Newton near Homer Street. Please keep my photography services in mind for all your Bar Mitzvah needs. Call for an appointment today for your professional photo session. Visit the website <http://www.donnastangerphotography.com> 617-304-1819

Bowen Cooperative Nursery School now Enrolling for 2010-2011 Serving the Newtonville area for over 50 years, Bowen embraces the whole child with a developmentally appropriate, play-based curriculum. We are especially proud of our Transitional Kindergarten which is designed for older 4's and young 5's who might need another year to develop socially or academically before moving to Kindergarten. In our unique TK program, older preschool children are challenged in a fun and nurturing way that fosters both independence and a sense of community. For more information about this and other programs at our school, please call 617-332-3923 or visit our website at www.bowencoop.org.

Laurie G. Davis M.S. Ed., BCBA Educational and Behavioral Consultant Offering the following services; Educational and Behavioral Consultation, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Instruction, and Parent Coaching. As a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and former Public School Educator, I offer families the strategies and skills necessary to modify behavior and create more peaceful home environments. I work with students to improve upon academic skills as well as daily living skills. I support parents in understanding and navigating the IEP process. My experience includes working with families and children with ADD/ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, emotional disabilities, and learning disabilities. For more information, or to set up an appointment, please contact Laurie Davis 781-400-5132 or lgdavisconsult@gmail.com.

Franklin Office 617-559-9500

The next issue of the Connection will be published on Oct 30th. To submit something, submit it by NOON on Oct 26th. Ads are only printed as space allows, so meeting the deadline is not a guarantee of ad placement.