



NEWTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

News for November 2025

Message from the Principal

Good afternoon Newton School Community,

It is so hard to believe that it is already November, and soon the holiday season will be upon us. We have enjoyed a lovely fall, but I want to remind everyone that with the fall season also comes a dip in the temperature that requires light coats or sweatshirts during outdoor recess. Please help us remind students to dress warmly when they come to school.

Thank you for partnering with us to support your children and our school. With the change of the season, I also want to reflect on the many blessings that come with being part of the Newton school community. I am so grateful for our wonderful community, students, and staff, and I wish each of you a wonderful Thanksgiving break, or Thanksgiving holiday for those who celebrate.

With gratitude and appreciation,
Carol Jacobs

Important Dates

November 2 - School Picture Retakes

November 4 - Election Day- NO SCHOOL for students - Teacher Professional Development Day

November 17- PTO Meeting 3:30-4:30 pm - representatives from the School Committee will attend

November 21 - All School Meeting - Parents are welcome

November 26- Early Release

November 26- Turkey Trot

November 27- Thanksgiving Day

Annual Turkey Trot

The Annual Turkey Trot for the entire district is scheduled for Wednesday morning November 26 from 9-11. Our Physical education teacher Craig Murdock is leading this event, and we are excited to have some fun right before the Thanksgiving break. Students will be running laps and collecting stickers and there will be some friendly competitions between classes. Please be sure your child is dressed in clothing that is appropriate for running and playing outdoors for the morning.

Dismissal Request

Thank you to all families for working with us on the dismissal process. It is not working as well as we hope so we want to remind you of a few things.

Pick Up in the Circle

1. Please display your number so it is easily visible (hanging from your mirror, taped to the side window work well).

This allows our staff to call ahead and have students ready to come out more quickly

2. Please do not get out of your car. We have a staff member in the circle to help your child get into the car if needed. This allows the flow of traffic to move more smoothly. Please make sure their seat is on the right side so they can load quickly. We do not want students loading on the left for safety purposes.

3. We are going to ask the buses that pick up in the circle to pull all the way around to the cone. All other cars should pull as far forward as they can to improve flow.

4. If you have to go into the school, you must park in the parking lot and walk to the school. No one should be leaving their car in the circle unattended at any point during the busy arrival or dismissal period.

Just a reminder that school begins at 8:30 am and all students should be in the building before 8:45 am to avoid being late. It is disruptive to students when they come into school late so please make every effort to get your children to school on time. If you are having trouble with this process, I will be happy to speak with students. Thank you for your help with this!

GPS Volunteer Opportunities

We still need two parents and a community member for our School Council, which will begin meeting this month. It is so important to have the voices and perspectives of parents on this advisory council. We will work on the school's School Improvement Plan, the budget, look at data, and discuss ways to make our school better. The commitment is one monthly meeting. Please send me an email asap at carjac1@gpsk12.org.

Your voice matters!

STEPS TO BECOMING A VOLUNTEER WITH GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1. CORICHECK
Go to Central Office (195 Federal Street) and fill out a one page form.
Please bring your driver's license.

2. GET FINGERPRINTED
<https://www.fisbnt099.com/locations/massachusetts/>
• Choose [DIGITAL FINGERPRINTING]
• Choose [PRE-K - 12th GRADE EDUCATION] - last option on the drop-down menu.
• Choose [ALL OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL]
• Provider ID: 01140000
• Zip code - Greenfield [01301]
• Choose a location to make an appointment - the closest place to do that is Staples.)

3. COMPLETE THE SCHOOL TRAININGS
<https://gpsk12.org>
• Click on the Bubble box that says, [RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY]
• Click on the Bubble box that says [VOLUNTEER]
All prospective volunteers must pass a background check, fill out an application, complete the mandatory training, and sign a participant release form.
Links to Mandatory Trainings - Must Complete All Four:
• Greenfield Volunteer Application
• Volunteer Mandatory Training
• Volunteer Mandatory Training Sign-off Sheet
• Adult Participant Release Waiver for Volunteers

"WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL. RESEARCH SHOWS THAT WHEN PARENTS ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION THERE IS A DIRECT LINK TO INCREASED STUDENT PERFORMANCE. YOU CAN TALK WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER ABOUT WAYS TO HELP IN THE CLASSROOM OR CONTACT THE MAIN OFFICE AT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN HELPING. THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO BE INVOLVED."
-GPS WEBSITE

THANK YOU!

Banking Program Happening at Newton

The school banking program is off to a good start, but there is still room to sign up to have your child open a savings account. The staff from the bank come to the school on banking days, and

students can make a deposit to their account and watch their money grow. Saving money is certainly an important skill to learn at a young age.

NEWTON ELEMENTARY & FREEDOM CREDIT UNION



Savings Day is Thursday, 11/13/2025

JOIN ANYTIME!!!!

For more information please call us at 774-4182

Massachusetts Farm to School's Harvest of the Month Program

Hello families!

This October, Chef Kyle Zegel facilitated our second cafeteria taste test of the school year here at Newton! If you don't already know, during these taste tests Kyle serves up samples of delicious recipes featuring produce from local farms. Students vote on the sample and their feedback determines if the recipe becomes part of the meal rotation, helping Greenfield increase local purchasing, scratch cooking, and encouraging students to try new foods and learn about the local food system.

If you would like to volunteer to help out during these monthly taste tests, please reach out to Ruby Henry on the PTO for details!

This month's taste test was a pear parfait! The pears were sourced from Fix Brothers Fruit Farm in Hudson, NY and turned into a sweet and flavorful compote with ginger and cinnamon to give it some oomph. Of the 96 students who tried the sample, 79% reported they "loved it" and 7% reported they "liked it". I call that a winner! Check out the recipe card below, so you can cook the recipe at home.

Happy cooking!

Chef Kyle



October

HARVEST OF THE MONTH

PEARS

"PEAR-FAIT" RECIPE

Serves: 4 **Prep/Cook Time: 30 min**

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lbs fresh, local pears
- 1 cup water
- ¾ tsp cinnamon
- ¾ tsp ground ginger or 1 TBSP fresh ginger
- 1 TBSP fresh or bottled lemon juice
- 1 tsp lemon zest (optional but delish!)
- 2 TBSP maple syrup
- 2 cups plain yogurt
- 1 cup fresh or frozen berries of your choice
- 1 cup granola



DIRECTIONS:

- Stem, core, and roughly chop pears.
- Add pears, water, maple syrup, lemon juice, cinnamon, and ginger to a stock pot. Bring to a light boil and simmer on medium heat for 20-30 minutes.
- Remove from heat and let cool. Once cool, puree with a blender or immersion blender.
- In 4 small bowls, assemble the parfaits layer by layer in the following order: ½ cup of yogurt, 2 tablespoons pear compote, ¼ cup berries, and ¼ cup granola. Enjoy!

Curriculum Connections



Fourth Graders are Nuts About Math

Fourth graders started the year off showing off their math skills.



Friends- I'll Be There For You

The fourth grade students in Ms Haag's class drafted and published essays on the topic of *What makes A Good Friend?*



All Are Welcome Here

Ms Baron, our speech and language teacher, and her students made this board to welcome everyone back to school. Love this message!



Why Are Fish So Smart?

Our young artists made fish for this board because *smart fish swim in schools*



Inspired by the book, The Dot by Peter Reynolds

Our student artists used this book as inspiration to create their own dots inspired by Vasily Kandinsky. The catch phrase- Make your mark and see where it takes you!



Fourth Grade Goals

Fourth graders are setting goals and achieving them! They are responsible learners!



Falling into Fall with Scarecrow Math

Students in third grade were showing their knowledge of addition and multiplication.



Affirmational Quotes

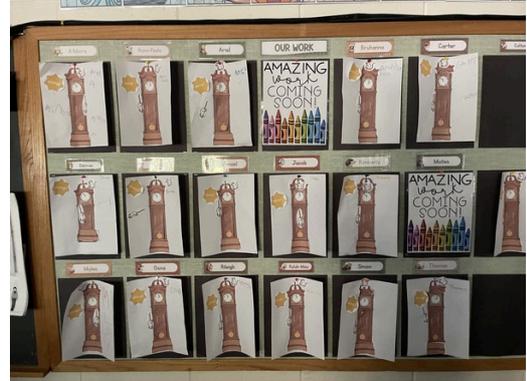
This year the school hallways include motivational messages reminding students of how much they can accomplish!

They created poems and did the math, representing repeated addition and multiplication.



First Grade Talks about Being Kind

The first graders illustrated ways that they can be kind



Kindergarteners learned about Grandfather Clocks

Mrs. Connolly's kindergarteners learned about Grandfather Clocks in their Core Knowledge unit and then they made their own.

Library News



BEHIND THE SHELVES: LIBRARY NEWS



SORA READING APP



Students now have 24/7 access to Sora, a reading platform where they can borrow FREE ebooks and audiobooks! Sora includes thousands of titles, books in a variety of languages, and read along features. Students can also set reading goals for themselves. Here are the steps to access Sora:

- Download from an app store or by going to soraapp.com.
- Search and click on “Greenfield Town Schools”.
- Students should use their school accounts to sign in.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rachel at racdow1@gpsk12.org



REMINDER



Third and fourth graders are able to bring one library book home each week. Please help remind your student to return their book. Thank you!

November Lunch Menu

November 2025 GPS LUNCH MENU Elementary School

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pancakes & syrup Egg Patty, home fries orange slices	Election Day- No School 4	Beef hot dog 5 oven fries Baked Beans watermelon	Grilled Chicken sandwich 6 honey glazed local carrot coins, grapes	Pizza 7 salad w local kale and romaine
Mozzarella Sticks 10 mixed vegetables	No School- Veterans Day 11	Chicken enchilada empanada 12 ranchero beans	Orange Chicken w/ 13 Rice, Broccoli, Fortune Cookie, Mandarin Oranges	Meatball Sub w/ Marinara & Mozzarella, 14 green salad
Ciabatta grilled cheese sandwich 17 tomato soup	Hamburger/ black bean burger 18 carrot sticks smiley fries	Chicken Patty Sandwich 19 Assorted vegetables	Turkey, Mashed 20 potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, roll, local cider, apple crisp	French bread pizza 21 Salad and assorted vegetables
Black bean Quesadilla w/ local kale 24 assorted fruit & vegetables	Chicken nuggets, 25 whole grain dinner roll, curly fries, kale chips	Early release K-12 Deli wrap 26 apple, carrots & ranch, chocolate chip cookie	No School Thanksgiving Break 27	No School Thanksgiving Break 28
Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 5

Daily Alternates

Sunbutter & Jelly and Cheese Sandwich available every day

- Monday**
- Nacho Kit**
- Tuesday**
- DIY Pizza Kit**
- Wednesday**
- Breakfast Sandwich**
- Thursday**
- Bagel & Yogurt**
- Friday**
- Chicken Patty Sandwich**



Fun Fact: Lacinto kale is also called "Dinosaur" kale, due to its lumpy leaves that resemble reptile skin!

If students do not take a meal, they may purchase milk separately for \$0.60

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. **Menus may contain allergens.**



IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- ALL GPS students qualify for FREE breakfast and lunch under CEP through School Year 2026-2027!
- All meals are served with milk and assorted fruits & vegetables
- Menu subject to change

Before School Care

We still have some openings for our before-school care program. Lynnette Stribley is the Coordinator of the program. If you signed up before school started but have yet to receive a response, we have space for you! Please contact Sara Toponce or by calling the school at 413-772-1370.

Thank You to the PTO

This group is amazing! Just last month, they provided food and treats to the staff during parent conferences, ran the annual book fair to raise funds for school enrichment programs, and participated in the Trick or Trunk event at Four Corners and distributed treats to over 200 students! Please consider joining the PTO and help them support our school. Contact the PTO if you would like to volunteer some time. Make sure to follow our Newton PTO page on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/NewtonSchoolfriends>



Carol Jacobs

<https://gpsk12.org/newton-school>

