

NEWTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

News for October 2025

Message from the Principal

Good afternoon Newton School Community,

We are entering our second month of school, and we are really working hard and making progress! Our staff is establishing rules and expectations in their classrooms, and we are all focusing on using the Newton Way throughout the school.

Just to remind you, the Newton Way includes three easy and important actions that include being SAFE to ourselves and others. This includes not only physical safety but also social and emotional safety. The second action is to be KIND in our words and actions, and the third is to be RESPECTFUL to our peers and the staff. I would appreciate it if you would review these expectations with your children. It is important that all students follow the directions, refrain from refusing to comply when asked, control their words and tone when angry or frustrated with a request, and use positive and encouraging words to others when they are trying hard. We want to be the best community we can be, and if we all work together, I know that we will be successful!

I want to thank everyone who attended our Open House! I know it meant a lot to our staff and your children that you were able to visit our school and see their work. I know schedules are busy, but please let me know if there are obstacles that I can assist with, such as transportation to some events. Your partnership is invaluable to making this school the place we all want to work, learn, and celebrate our amazing students!

October is going to be a busy month, so please watch for updates from your classroom teachers and on School Messenger!

Fall is definitely in the air. The PTO still has some beautiful mums for sale. If interested, please let Sara in the office know, and the cost is \$10.

With gratitude and appreciation,
Carol Jacobs

Important Dates

October 1- Custodian Appreciation Day

We are very lucky to have two great custodians to celebrate, John and Bob, who do a great job.

October 7- Deadline to drop off gently used Halloween costumes in the box in the foyer

This year, the elementary school is inviting families to drop off gently used costumes that your family no longer needs, and then families can come in and "shop". Only one costume per student, please so more students will have the opportunity to take advantage of this opportunity. There is a box in the foyer to collect them through October 7th.

October 8- October is Fire Safety Month, and we will have fire safety visits from the Greenfield Fire Department.

October 9- Kick Off Day for the School Banking Program at Newton School- Look for information in student backpacks.

October 9- Parent Conferences PreK-4 (Early Release for K-4 only)

October 10- Parent Conferences K-4 Early Release

October 10- Bus evacuation practice - 8:30 am- 9:30

October 10- Touch A Truck - 9:00-11:30 am (sponsored by the PTO) Students will have the chance by grade to enjoy visiting with public safety officials and exploring their vehicles for 30 minutes.

October 13- NO SCHOOL Indigenous Peoples Day

October 15- UNITY DAY in the district- Staff and students wear Orange

October 17- All School Meeting - 9:00-10:15 am- 4th grade will host, but all grades will perform

October 20-25- Scholastic Book Fair

New Dismissal Procedure for Picking Up Students to Begin on October 6th

1. Every family that is on our pick up list will be issued two placards with a number and your child's name on it. You will be given two placards in case you have a second person picking up on a regular basis.
2. When entering the circle, all cars must display the placard from their mirror so the assistant who is calling students can see it visually in plain sight. If you do not have a placard displayed, you will have to park in the parking lot and walk up to the school to get your child. We would appreciate everyone working with us to display this so we can easily identify your number and your child to make the process move more efficiently. I suggest keeping it in your glove compartment so it is always easily accessible.
3. Please pull all the way around the circle. Do not get out of your car and leave it in the circle. This will jam up the flow. As you pull around, the assistant will help get your child into the car, so there is no need for parents to get out. I ask that if you have a booster for your child that you put it on the right side so students can get right in, and if they need help, the assistant can help them. There will be one assistant assigned to this task.

4. Students will also have a mini placard attached to their backpack.

Thank you for your understanding and support in this new process. We hope that this process will improve the speed, flow, efficiency, and safety of our pick up process.

GPS Volunteer Opportunities

I am still looking for two parents and a community member to join the school council to discuss important school matters such as the school improvement plan, the budget, and future plans. Please let me know if you are interested. I want to start this in early October. It is a wonderful opportunity to be involved. Meetings are once a month after school.

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://gfpsch.hibntools.com/location/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](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 to Start at Newton

The Freedom Credit Union is once again partnering with Newton School to offer a Student Banking Program. The goal of the Student Banking Program is to help students develop sound financial habits by learning the importance of setting financial goals and establishing a saving routine. Beginning October 9, 2025, a representative from Freedom Credit Union will visit the school to accept deposits to your child's **Youth Savings Account** if you want to participate in this program.

For the remainder of the year, deposits may be made on the **second Thursday of each month**. If your child is not part of the Student Banking Program but you would like them to be, an initial deposit of \$5.00 will be provided by the Credit Union to get your child started. Your child was given information about this program to take home on October 1 so look for it in their backpack. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the **Freedom Team** Cassie Biskerski at 413-774-4182 or Bella Justiniano at 413-774-9909.

Massachusetts Farm to School's Harvest of the Month Program

Hello families!

Chef Kyle Zegel here. This September, I facilitated the first cafeteria taste test of the school year here at Newton! I will be here again once per month, all school year, serving up samples of delicious recipes featuring produce from local farms and food producers based on [Massachusetts Farm to School's Harvest of Month Program](#). Students will vote on the sample recipe at the end of lunch, and their feedback will determine if the recipe becomes part of the meal rotation, helping Greenfield increase procurement of local food products and healthy scratch-cooked recipes and encouraging students to try new foods and learn about the local food system.



This month's taste test was roasted tomato soup served with grilled cheese! The tomatoes were sourced from Joe Czajkowski Farm in Hadley and roasted whole with onions and carrots before being blended with chicken broth and spices. **Student feedback was positive with 72% reporting they "loved it" and 14% reporting they "liked it". Check out the recipe card below, so you can cook the recipe at home.**

Happy cooking!
Chef Kyle



HOMEMADE TOMATO SOUP

Try this delicious, homemade tomato soup featured in our September 2025 elementary taste test!

Serves: 4-6

Total Time: 1 ½ hours (worth the time, believe me!)

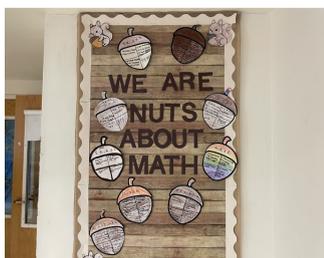
INGREDIENTS:

- 4 pounds fresh roma or san marzano tomatoes, whole
- 1 large yellow onion, peeled and quartered
- 1 pound carrots, cut in 1" pieces
- 1-2 cloves garlic
- 2 ½ TBSP olive oil
- 3 ½ cups broth, chicken or vegetable
- 1 TBSP dried or 2 TBSP fresh basil
- 2 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- ½ tsp fresh black pepper

DIRECTIONS:

- Toss onions and carrots with olive oil. Leave garlic whole and cut out the top, tough part of the core of the tomatoes. Roast all veggies at 400 F for 15-20 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool enough to handle.
- Remove skins from tomatoes and garlic. Add all vegetables to a covered oven safe dish with basil, paprika, salt, pepper, and broth. Bake at 375 F for 30-45 minutes.
- Using either an immersion blender, regular blender, or food processor, blend to the consistency of a smooth sauce. If your soup clings to the back of a spoon it's ready.
- Enjoy with grilled cheese or a refreshing salad!

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?*



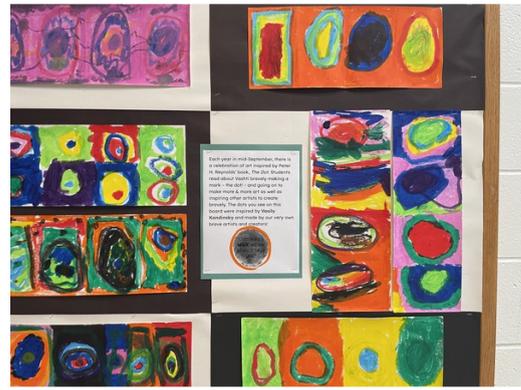
All Are Welcome Here

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



Affirmational Quotes

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



First Grade Talks about Being Kind

The first graders illustrated ways that they can be kind



Kindergartners learned about Grandfather Clocks

Mrs. Connolly's kindergartners learned about Grandfather Clocks in their Core Knowledge unit

and then they made their own.

Library News

October Lunch Menu

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 Lynnette at lynstr1@gpsk12.ma.us or by calling the school at 413-772-1370.

Thank You to the PTO

Make sure to follow our Newton PTO page on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/NewtonSchoolfriends>

Greenfield Community News



Carol Jacobs

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