



# The North Beverly Star

## April News

Congratulations to all of our North Beverly Stars for a job-well-done on this month's MCAS testing. Thank you to all of the staff and families for working so hard to prepare and support our students.

A big round of applause goes to our fifth grade stars, the Integrated Arts team and our NB staff for an outstanding performance of *Annie*.

The warm weather is just around the corner and with it comes tick season. North Beverly is a relatively woody area and it is very important that we remain diligent in protecting our children from potential harm from ticks. This spring the North Beverly School will be working in partnership with Brigham and Women's Hospital to initiate a Lyme Disease Prevention Program. More information will be coming home to you through the NB Health Office.

Happy Spring!

Mrs. Flewelling

[jflewelling@beverlyschools.org](mailto:jflewelling@beverlyschools.org)



### Student Safety

Your child's safety is the most important aspect of his/her education. Please help us ensure the safety of all students during drop off and pick up each day by adhering to the following guidelines:

- Escort your children when crossing through the parking lot
- Please do not park or live-park along the parking lot driveway. During drop off and dismissal times, the lanes become too narrow for cars to pass.
- Communicate any and all dismissal changes to the office as soon as possible
- In the event you are going to be late to pick up your child, please make the office aware as soon as possible

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep all students safe!

### Morning Drop-Off

Teachers report for morning supervision at **7:35 am**. Please refrain from dropping your child off any earlier, as there will not be staff available to supervise them. Thank you for your help in our efforts to keep all of our North Beverly Stars safe!

### Important Dates

- **Mon. April 2nd**—PTO Calendar Sale begins
- **Tues. April 3rd**—Passover
- **Thurs. April 5th**—12:00 noon Early Release Day
- **Fri. April 6th**—Good Friday, **NO SCHOOL** for teachers and students
- **Sun. April 8th**—Easter
- **Tues. April 10th**—Lyme Disease Prevention Program Begins; Kindergarten to the Music Theater
- **Thurs. April 12th**—Molly Pitcher visits grade 5
- **Fri. April 13th**—Bamidele Dancers at 10:00 am and 12:50 pm
- **Mon. April 16th—Fri. April 19th**—School Vacation Week
- **Wed. April 25th**—Administrative Professionals Day; School Council Meeting at 2:45 pm in Media Center
- **Fri. April 27th**—Kindergarten Snack Day; Grade 3 to IMAX Theater
- **Mon. April 30th**—Last day to turn in PTO Calendars



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A copy of this newsletter can be viewed on our school website at <http://beverlyschools.org/>

### PTO Meetings

☉ May 2nd 6:30 pm

☉ June 6th 6:30 pm

### School Council Meeting

☉ April 27th 2:45 pm

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# PTO Updates

Happy Spring from your North Beverly PTO!

The monthly PTO meeting location is being moved from the Media Center to the **Science Room** beginning with our next meeting scheduled for **May 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30pm**. Also new, there will be light refreshments served prior to the start of the meeting beginning at 6:00pm in the Science room as well. This meeting will be followed by a presentation on

Child Safety by Beverly Police Officer Brian Long. This hour presentation is for **ADULTS ONLY** and will begin approximately at 7:00pm.

Other items to keep in mind; the spring fundraiser will begin at the start of April. We are doing a **Cash Calendar** this year instead of Deeds for Dollars. Details on how it all works will be coming home shortly. Nominations for the next year's PTO board will also be sent home within the week. There are a

handful of positions that are open, so if you have wanted to get involved but didn't know how this is your chance.

Also the PTO board wants to remind the school community that if you have an idea, suggestion or just a question but are not sure who to ask or you are unable to attend a meeting you can always place a note in the PTO mailbox that is located in the school office or you can e-mail Mary Morency at mor-ency.j@comcast.net.

## Enrichment

On Thursday, April 12, the fifth graders will have a visit from "Molly Pitcher: Woman of the War", presented by Young Audiences of Massachusetts. Mary Hayes was but one of many "Molly Pitchers" who followed their husbands to war during the American Revolution. These women were not allowed to fight (though Mary claims she did), but they gave up comforts and risked their lives daily to ease suffering and aid the

patriot cause. As Mary describes the fierce winter at Valley Forge and the Battle of Monmouth the following June, she laces her talk with astonishing facts and outrageous 18th century opinions on everything from health care to manners.

All students are in for a treat on Friday, April 13, when the Bamidele Dancers and Drummers will dazzle them with exciting music and dancing from West Africa, Brazil and the

Caribbean. The dancers and drummers, dressed in authentic costumes and playing various instruments, rev up the audience with their boundless energy. What a way to kick off April vacation! Parents may attend either a 10AM or 12:50PM show in the gymnasium. This program is also presented by Young Audiences of Massachusetts and was funded partially by a grant from the Local Beverly Cultural Council.

## Reading Connections

### Reading Aloud

Joanne Bider

"I always stumble because I read too fast." "I'm afraid my child won't listen to me." "I was laughed at when I read aloud at school."

Do you have worries like these when you read aloud? Many parents avoid reading aloud to their kids. However, reading aloud is one of the best ways to help your youngster succeed in school. Keep these tips in mind:

- Everybody makes mistakes. If you make mistakes when reading aloud, your child will learn that it's okay for her to do so, too.

- Practice makes perfect. Find a book that you like and read it aloud by yourself until you feel comfortable.
- Involve your youngster in the story. Have him turn the pages. Or, read one line and have her read the next.
- Take your time and don't rush the story. Your child can tell if you're in a hurry. Reading slowly will help you read clearly.
- As you feel more comfortable, try changing your voice to show the character's feelings—joy, sadness, fear. These variations can make the story more exciting for both of you.
- Remember that you are helping

your child learn to enjoy reading.

Try different types of reading materials, such as comic strips and poetry.

- Above all, try to relax and enjoy the time you are spending with your youngster!

Have fun reading!

*Source: 2007 Resources for Educators; Aspen Publishers, Inc.*



## Library Letters

Greetings from the Library Media Center!

April is National Poetry Month, and I am thrilled to share my enthusiasm for this often overlooked and sometimes misunderstood genre. The Library Media Center has a wonderful collection of Poetry books for all ages and interests. Did you know there are Poetry books that share a common theme? Interested in dinosaurs? Sports? Check out Dinosaurs by Lee Bennet Hopkins, or Great American Sports Poems. Poetry can also help teach American history, or illustrate the immigrant experience with words and feelings, and not just names and dates.

When students are exposed to a variety of texts (non-fiction, fiction, narrative, poetry, plays), their writing and reading comprehension skills will most likely improve. Exposure to classic poets, e.g. Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, or Robert Frost, contributes to the collective common knowledge that is important for standardized testing, and future educational pursuits. Each of these poets is represented in our library by a book of poetry chosen with young people in mind. (Poetry for Young People series)

How about poetry for Kindergarten or 1st graders? Beginning readers can feel successful with the short length of many poems. Predictable rhyme, rhythm, and verse are helpful when children are learning to read. Additionally, a poem with four or five lines can feel less threatening than a story with thirty to forty words. Many poets appeal to children with non-

sense, jokes, and "gross out humor". Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky are well known to most kids. These men seem to remember what made them laugh as boys, and use poetry to connect with today's boys and girls. Douglas Florian is one of my favorite poets; look for his work on our bulletin board, celebrating all things spring from the book, Handsprings. Other Florian titles include: Laugheteria, Insectlopedia, and Bow Wow Meow. Ask your local librarian for more Florian!

National Poetry Month also means poetry writing. There are many opportunities for students to write and publish original poetry, and I am promoting two contests in the Library Media Center: the Veterans for Peace (VFP) poetry contest, and the Harvard Coop poetry contest. There is information in the Library Media Center, and participation is NOT mandatory. Prizes include gift certificates to local bookstores, publication in the VFP Peace Poetry Book, and an invitation to read their poem at West Parish Elementary School in Gloucester. If you have any questions about either of these contests, ask your son or daughter.

Finally, a tremendous thank you to all of the parents who came to meet me at Open House on March 22nd. It was wonderful to meet you and share some of the work we have done this year. I enjoy teaching your children, and sharing with them my love and enthusiasm for reading, information, research, and libraries.

Until next month, Happy Reading!  
Heidi Wakeman, LMS

## In Other News...

### Preschool Story Time

Only one Story Time left for this year! Please bring your preschooler and join Ms. Frazier for Preschool Story Time to be held from 1:15—2:00 pm in the Media Center on Tuesday, April 10th.



### Snack Day

Our last Snack Day of the year will be sponsored by the Kindergarten Classes, on Friday, April 27th. All students will have the opportunity to purchase a snack for \$0.25 during lunch and recess times.