

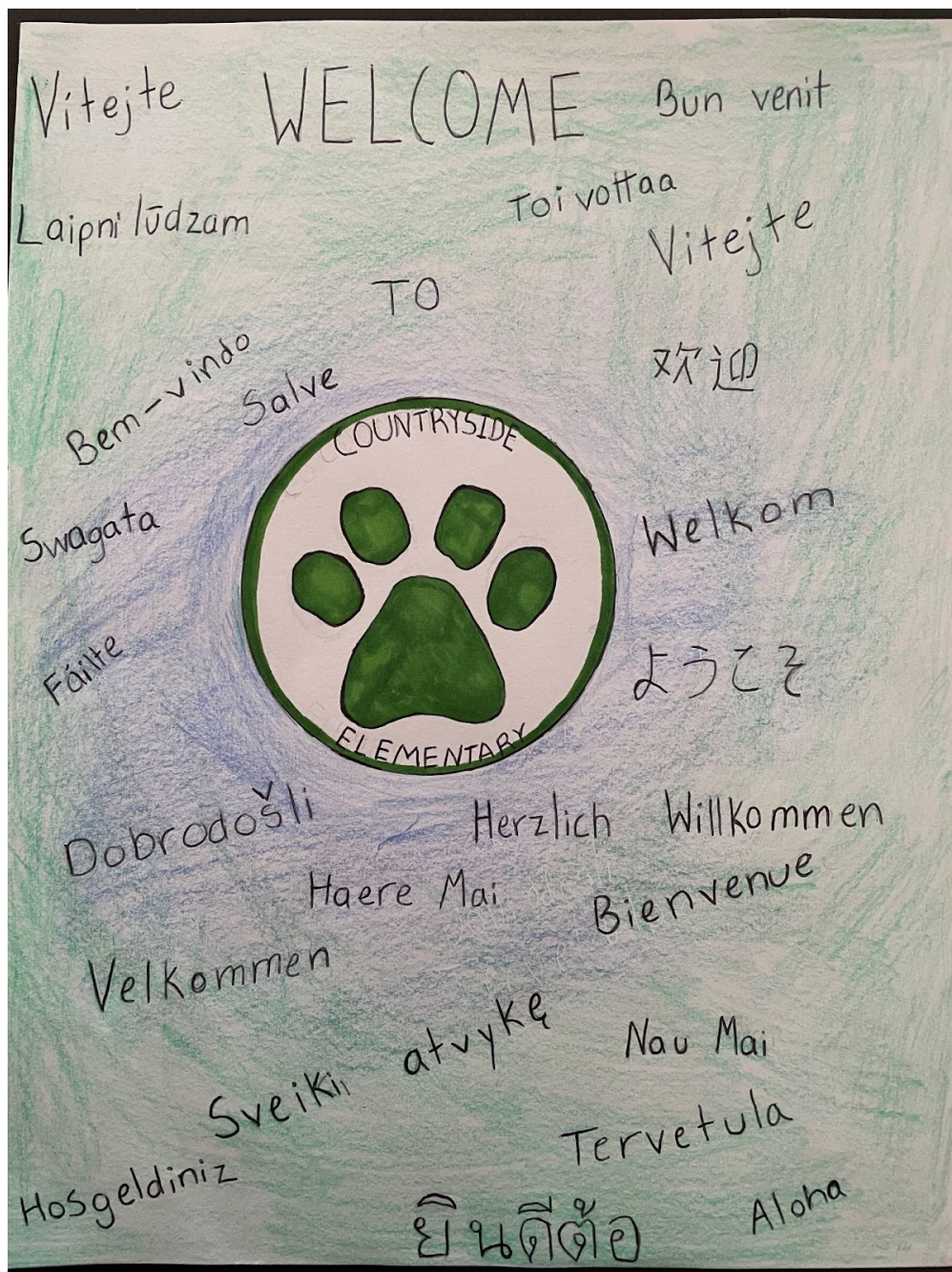
Countryside Elementary School

School Handbook



PTO Directory

2021-2022



Luana Almeida | Winner of the 2020-2021 4th Grade Art Contest

191 Dedham St, Newton MA 02461

Office: 617-559-9450

Countrysidepto.org

Call Back/Safe Arrival: 617-559-9470

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ABOUT THE DIRECTORY

The use of the information in this directory is strictly for personal use within our Countryside community. It is not to be shared with third parties. **Use of information for any commercial, public, or political purpose is prohibited.** Thank you.

This directory is as complete as possible with the information we have been provided. If your personal information has changed or is missing, please update it online by following the steps below.

How to update your information online:

Returning families: Login to your account at <https://countrysidepto.membershiptoolkit.com> to update your information. Need to create a login? You should have received an emailed link to your directory listing last summer. If you cannot find the email, contact Julie Garan (countrysidedirectory@gmail.com) for the link to your family's listing.

New families:

Please use this link to add yourself to the directory:

<https://countrysidepto.membershiptoolkit.com>

Click on the Register/Login button. Create a new account. After verifying your email address, you can log back in to update your information. This URL will be your online directory login going forward.

How to use the online directory:

Login to your account at <https://countrysidepto.membershiptoolkit.com/directory>. Once logged in, click on the "Search" tab on top of your page. You can now search by families, students, or faculty. There is a "membership toolkit" app in the App Store that is available and easy to navigate.

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Countryside Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! This handbook includes helpful information about school events, which provide opportunities to connect with other members of our community. It also contains a wealth of information about our school and district procedures. As you look through the information, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I am happy to be of assistance!

At the core of our collective work is taking care of our children socially, emotionally, & academically. Approaching this with grace, patience, and open communication is of critical importance. As the principal of Countryside, I want you to know that I am here to work collaboratively with you to support you in any way I can. Although there are still so many unknowns and uncertainty about the year ahead of us, I want you to know that the biggest commitment I will make to the Countryside community is that we are one community. You all are important members of Countryside.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

- Students may enter the school building at 8:10 AM when the first bell rings. Supervision is **not** provided before that time.
- The Blue Zone is a city ordinance. Blue Zones are strictly for drop-off/pick-up. Parking is not permitted 30 minutes before and 60 minutes before school ends.
- The parking lot by the side of the school is for Countryside faculty and staff only.
- The school day ends at 2:50 PM on full days and 12:20 PM on Wednesdays and 12:10 PM on early release days. No lunch is served on early release days.

Conferences and Progress Reports

The district provides two formal conference times during the course of the school year. The fall conferences were held in late October through November 5th and the spring conferences will be held during March 24th – April 6th. Classroom teachers will send out information as the dates approach. You will also receive a progress report on February 3rd and at the end of the school year in June. We are available throughout the year to answer any questions you may have about your child's growth and development. You are our partners in supporting your child's growth and we are always happy to meet or speak with you.

Please refer to this handbook for important information and procedures that we hope you find to be useful. Thank you to the Countryside PTO for publishing this valuable family resource that is made possible by your generous donations. We look forward to an incredible and memorable school year!

Best,

Beth

Countryside School Principal

Countryside has a total of 374 students. We are a staff of over 85 full and part-time Teachers, Special Education BT's and Aides, ISS (Instructional Support Staff), Office/Nurse, Custodians and Lunch Monitors.

Our Configuration is as follows:

Kindergarten	3 Classrooms	Albert, MacDonald, Minutolo
Grade 1	3 Classrooms	Bannon, Guarrera, Wong
Grade 2	3 Classrooms	Powers, Cantalupo, Wilbur
Grade 3	3 Classrooms	DeForest/Ray (Co-Taught), Restivo, Mitchell
Grade 4	3 Classrooms	Carr/McConnell (Co-Taught), Tomaneng, Whiting
Grade 5	3 Classrooms	Beck, Bikofsky, Morris/McDonagh (Co-Taught)

We are a multicultural community comprised of African-American, Hispanic, Asian and White students. 37% of our children come from families speaking a language other than English. Languages spoken at home include Arabic, Cantonese, Creole, English, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Gujarti, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Slovak, Spanish, Vietnamese and Urdu.

Core Values are central to our work with children.

Our Core Values: Respect, Cooperation, Responsibility and Learning

Countryside Rules: Be Your Best Self
 Respect Everyone
 Respect Materials
 Have Fun

Responsive Classroom approach supports our school culture and is practiced in all of our Classrooms.

We have a very active PTO who publishes a weekly PTO Update (via email) with a calendar of events as well as opportunities to volunteer for the organization.

The Countryside Childrens' Center (the After-School Program) is also housed in the school. Please email Glenn MacEachern gmaceachern@cccnewton.org for information about the program.

Countryside Mascot: BEAR CUB Countryside Colors: GREEN and WHITE

COUNTRYSIDE PROGRAMS

Early Morning Program – Supervised before school care is offered from 7:20-8:10am. To enroll please go online at www.myschoolbucks.com.

Assistance available. Questions: 617-559-9025

Bus Transportation – Eligible children may ride the bus to and from school. There is no fee. To enroll please apply at www.newton.k12.ma.us/transportation. (Link didn't work with the 3 in it)

Questions: 617-559-9051

Lunch Program – Information about lunch is on the NPS website at www.newton.k12.ma.us.

This year, lunch is provided free of charge to all students. Questions: 617-559-6315.

After-School Program – Countryside Children's Center offers an after school program. Please email Glenn MacEachern gmaceachern@cccnewton.org or call him at 617-965-6434 for availability and information.

HOURS AND PHONE NUMBERS / CONTACT INFO

School Hours 8:10am - 2:50pm M, Tu, Th, F
8:10am - 12:20pm W

Early Release Days (dismissal at 12:10pm) 11/2, 11/24, 12/9, 2/3, 3/24, 5/12, 11/24, 6/22 (if last day), 6/29

Phone Numbers and Contact Info

<u>Office</u> -	617-559-9450
<u>Late or Absence</u> -	617-559-9470 (24 hours/day)
<u>Principal</u> - Beth Herlihy	herlihy@newton.k12.ma.us
<u>ELL Office (Ed Center)</u> -	617-559-6043
<u>CCC (Aftercare)</u> - Glenn MacEachern	617-964-6958 gmaceachern@cccnewton.org
<u>School Nurse</u> - Laura Murphy, RN	617-559-9453 murphyl@newton.k12.ma.us
<u>Transportation</u> -	617-559-9051 www.newton.k12.ma.us/transportation
<u>Lunch Program</u> -	617-559-6315 www.newton.k12.ma.us/feebasedprograms
<u>Early Morning Program</u> -	617-559-9025 www.newton.k12.ma.us/domain/66
<u>Registration</u> -	Follow links to Register www.newton.k12.ma.us

Weather Related Closings

The School Superintendent's Office makes a "reverse 911" to inform families once a decision has been made about delaying or closing school.

Decisions are made based on current, or forecast weather conditions, and are usually made in early morning hours or, when possible, the evening prior to a closing. Information about school closings is available via the **weather emergency number 617-559-9699, on local television stations, or at Newton Public Schools' web address www.newton.k12.ma.us**. Please do NOT call the police or school officials - this ties up telephone lines and disrupts attempts to plan for or respond to emergencies.

GENERAL INFORMATION

For more information, visit the FAQ link at <http://www.countrysidepto.org/>.

In case of absence

If your child will be absent or late, you must call the Countryside Safe Arrival line, 617-559-9470, before the opening bell. If your child is not in school and you have not called, the school secretary will call your home. If the child cannot be located or accounted for, the school will contact the Newton Police immediately. If your child is late due to a medical appointment, please have the doctor's office write a note.

Crossing Guards

Crossing guards are on duty at Dedham Street and Upper Falls (M, Tu, Th, F 7:45-8:30 a.m. and 2:45-3:35 p.m.; Wed 7:45-8:30 a.m. and 12:15-1:05 p.m.)

Drop-off and Pick-up

Please use caution when dropping off or picking up children. Do not park in the bus lane, enter the driveway or staff parking lot, make U-turns, park in the blue zone, double park, or turn into or back out of driveways. These are dangerous practices because small children may not be visible behind your car.

Arrival

Doors will be locked until 8:10 a.m. at which time children may enter the building. Supervision is not provided before this time. Doors will be locked again at 8:30 a.m. To enter the school when doors are locked, press the buzzer by the front doors and go to the front office once admitted.

Buses

Children who travel to and from school by bus are expected to take the bus each day unless absent. For any other arrangements, please send a note with your child.

Parking Lot

The school parking lot is for staff use only. Parents and visitors should park on the street, that is not the Blue Zone or Bus Zone. Please do not enter the parking lot or use it as a cross through.

Dismissal

At dismissal time, please wait outside the building for your child. If your child must be dismissed early from school, please send a note. Parents should report to the office, and the school secretary will call for the child. A child will only be released for early dismissal with an authorized adult.

Volunteer

To chaperone or volunteer, you must fill out a CORI/SORI form that can be obtained from the office. Please bring completed forms to the office with a copy of your photo ID for processing. Please do not send the forms back with your child.

Contact Phone Numbers

Please provide accurate phone numbers in ASPEN. If you have a new number, please make the change in ASPEN. It is important to have up-to-date phone numbers in case of an emergency.

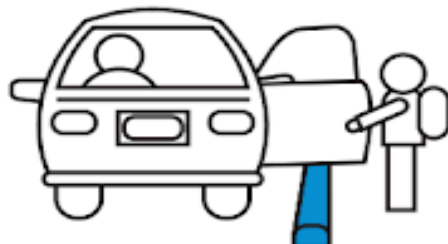
BLUE ZONE

The Blue Zone is a city ordinance. Violations are enforceable by a fine. The Blue Zone is designated by a painted blue curb and is strictly for drop-off and pick-up. Parking is not permitted in the Blue Zone 30 minutes before school starts and 60 minutes before school ends until 30 minutes after dismissal.

BLUE ZONE RULES FOR DROP-OFF



STOP
at the
blue curb



DROP
child at the
blue curb



ROLL
Drive away
safely!

ABOUT THE PTO

Every parent and teacher at Countryside is a member of the PTO! The PTO works together to make Countryside a better place. The PTO funds programs to enhance your child's educational experience such as Creative Arts and Sciences, Understanding Our Differences and an annual Musical. We host a variety of events to support multicultural awareness, charitable giving and social growth. The PTO supports teachers by funding non-technical equipment and classroom supplies. The PTO also purchases books and other materials for the school library. The PTO creates a strong sense of community among parents, students, faculty and staff and facilitates timely communication to help keep everyone informed.

PTO Mission Statement

The mission of the Countryside Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is to enrich our children's education by:

- creating an inclusive and welcoming community within classes, grades, and the school as a whole;
- fostering constructive connections between parents and teachers, specialists, and staff;
- enhancing campus life through special programs and resources; and
- providing financial and in-kind support in the attainment of these goals.

Learn more at www.countrysidepto.org



PTO Officers and Board Members

Co-Presidents

Anne Dixon
Sue Johnston
Lori Zinner

Treasurer

Nick Jathar

Clerk

Julie Winsett

Fund-Raising Coordinator

Joris Gjata

Room Parent Coordinator

Jess Lourie

Past President

Barbara Mauger

Ex-Officio Members

Liz Flaig
Shion Walsh
Kerry Prasad

Members-at-Large

Jen Behr
Sangeeta Jathar

Principal

Beth Herlihy

Teacher Reps

Abbey Bannon (gr 1)
Nicole Cantalupo (gr 2)
Suzanne Szwarczewicz (ELL)

2021-2022 PTO Committee Chairs

The PTO welcomes new volunteers all year long and encourages all parents who wish to help to contact the committee chairs directly. Please send any questions to the Co-Presidents at: pto@countrysidepto.org

Annual Fund

Joris Gjata

BOKS

Freya Hurwitz

John McEachern

Box Tops for Education

Jenny Jing

Creative Arts and Sciences*

Rakshaa Dadlani

Karen Jacobson-Sive

Directory and Database Management

Julie Garan

Julie Winsett

ELL Committee

Jessica Liu

Fifth Grade Activities

Rebecca Gavin

Anna McDonald

Garden/Playground Committee

Julie Winsett

Metco Liaison

Volunteer needed!

Mini Grants

Ginevra Botta

Rebecca Gavin

Sue Johnston

Musical Director

Jinhui Xu

Outside Message Board

Barry Mauger

PTO Website

Jon Winkler

Special Education PAC Liaison*

Jill Canelli

Update Editors

Sharon Morgenbesser (Lead)

Chelsea Boughan

Nirmala Doddannara

Lisa Northman

Monica Shook

Understanding Our Differences

Kerry Prasad

Walk to School Advocate

Adam Lipson

** These Chairs are also
ex-officio PTO Board
Members.*

2021-2022 ELL Committee

The Countryside Community includes people from all over the world. The ELL committee seeks to ease the transition to a new school culture for our ELL families. Cultural Leaders are listed below.

Arabic

Volunteer Needed!

Korean

Jiyeon Kim

Russian

Volunteer Needed!

Cantonese

Tammy Tong

Mandarin

Wangling Xie

Jessica Jie Liu

Spanish

Sara Ocana Lopez

Hebrew

Dalit Noi

Persian/Farsi

Volunteer Needed!

ELL Cmte Chairperson

Jessica Liu

Japanese

Volunteer Needed!

Portuguese

Ana Kose

2021-2022 PTO Event Organizers

Class Pictures

Lori Zinner

Teacher Grab-and-Go Lunch

Volunteer needed

Newton Serves

Julie Winsett

Spirit Wear

Jennifer Holmes

Rockin' Raffle

Liz Flaig

Rob Flaig

Lori Zinner

Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Volunteer needed

Halloween Party

Barbara Mauger

Sue Johnston

Movie Night

Nick Jathar

Springfest

Adam Lipson

Holiday Gift Drive

Sherri Bianchi

4th Grade Art Contest

Volunteer needed

Field Day

Volunteer needed

Multicultural Festival

Jinhui Xu

Lost and Found

Jen Behr

Back to School Supplies

Lori Zinner

FACULTY AND STAFF

Administration and Main Office

Beth Herlihy	Principal	herlihye@newton.k12.ma.us
Dolly Wallace	Executive Asst.	wallaced@newton.k12.ma.us
Laura Murphy	Nurse	murphyl@newton.k12.ma.us

Classroom Teachers

Jen Albert	Kindergarten	albertj@newton.k12.ma.us
Nicole MacDonald	Kindergarten	macdonaldn@newton.k12.ma.us
Molly Minutolo	Kindergarten	minutolom@newton.k12.ma.us
Abbey Bannon	Grade 1	bannona@newton.k12.ma.us
Melanie Guarrera	Grade 1	guarreram@newton.k12.ma.us
Erica Wong	Grade 1	wonge@newton.k12.ma.us
Nicole Cantalupo	Grade 2	cantalupon@newton.k12.ma.us
Michelle Powers	Grade 2	powersm@newton.k12.ma.us
Lindsay Wilbur	Grade 2	wilburl@newton.k12.ma.us
Amanda DeForest	Grade 3	deforesta@newton.k12.ma.us
Ashley Mitchell	Grade 3	mitchella@newton.k12.ma.us
Erin Ray	Grade 3	raye@newton.k12.ma.us
Emily Restivo	Grade 3	restivoe@newton.k12.ma.us
AnneMarie Carr	Grade 4	carra@newton.k12.ma.us
Emma McConnell	Grade 4	mcconnelle@newton.k12.ma.us
Jen Tomaneng	Grade 4	tomanengj@newton.k12.ma.us
Brian Whiting	Grade 4	whitingb@newton.k12.ma.us
Jeff Beck	Grade 5	beckj@newton.k12.ma.us
Rachel Bikofsky	Grade 5	bikofskyr@newton.k12.ma.us
Kim McDonagh	Grade 5	mcdonaghk@newton.k12.ma.us
Michele Morris	Grade 5	morrism@newton.k12.ma.us

Specialists

Caitlin Mavilia	Art	maviliac@newton.k12.ma.us
Laura Stroessner	Library	stroessnerl@newton.k12.ma.us
Matthew Crow	Physical Education	crowm@newton.k12.ma.us
Griffin Maxwell	Music/Band/Wind Instruments	maxwellg@newton.k12.ma.us
Tom Sheppard	Strings/Orchestra	sheppardt@newton.k12.ma.us

Support Staff

Alaina Danise Peterson	Literacy Specialist	petersona@newton.k12.ma.us
Domenica Clark	Literacy Aide	clarkd@newton.k12.ma.us
Jean Huff	Literacy Aide	huffj@newton.k12.ma.us
Lisa Beaulieu-Jones	Interventionist	beaulieujonessl@newton.k12.ma.us
Kelly Gartside	Math Coach	gartsidek@newton.k12.ma.us
Jen Ortega	Math Coach	ortegaj@newton.k12.ma.us
Jill Clifford	Math Aide	cliffordj@newton.k12.ma.us

English Language Learner Program (ELL)

Amanda Napolione	ELL	napolionea@newton.k12.ma.us
Suzanne Szwarczewicz	ELL	szwarczewiczs@newton.k12.ma.us
Mila Achildiyev	ELL Aide	achildiyevm@newton.k12.ma.us

Special Education

Maryanne Blahut	Special Education Chair	blahutm@newton.k12.ma.us
Tracy Piantedosi	Learning Center	piantedosit@newton.k12.ma.us
Shoshana Anapolle	Learning Center	anapolles@newton.k12.ma.us

FACULTY AND STAFF continued

Christina Colon	Inclusion Facilitator	colonc@newton.k12.ma.us
Rachel Thivierge	Inclusion Facilitator	thivierger@newton.k12.ma.us
Amy Turner	Inclusion Facilitator	turnera@newton.k12.ma.us
Jessica Blais	Psychologist	blaisj@newton.k12.ma.us
Rebecca Young	Social Worker	youngr@newton.k12.ma.us
Gina Griffin	BCBA	griffing@newton.k12.ma.us
Lori Franzella	Speech and Language	franzellal@newton.k12.ma.us
Trisha Poirier	Occup. Therapist	poiriert@newton.k12.ma.us
Valerie Lewis	Behavior Interventionist	lewisv@newton.k12.ma.us
Andreanna Amaral	SPED Behavior Therapist	amarala@newton.k12.ma.us
Taylor Arcuri	SPED Aide	arcurit@newton.k12.ma.us
Nicole Berry	SPED Behavior Therapist	berryn@newton.k12.ma.us
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Kendall Dardy-Jones	SPED Behavior Therapist	dardyjonesk@newton.k12.ma.us
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Rachel Hogan	SPED Aide	hoganr@newton.k12.ma.us
Lauren Magann	SPED Behavior Therapist	magannl@newton.k12.ma.us
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Marie Pierre	SPED Behavior Therapist	pierrem@newton.k12.ma.us
Frankie Procaccini	SPED Behavior Therapist	procaccinif@newton.k12.ma.us
Marian Roewer	SPED Aide	roewerm@newton.k12.ma.us
James Spinner	SPED Behavior Therapist	spinnerj@newton.k12.ma.us
Morgan Thompson	SPED Aide	thompsonm@newton.k12.us
Darren Zow	SPED Behavior Therapist	zowd@newton.k12.ma.us
Edie Goethals	Kindergarten Aide	goethalse@newton.k12.ma.us
Mary Ann Garrity	Kindergarten Aide	garritym@newton.k12.ma.us
Mary Miller	Kindergarten Aide	millerm@newton.k12.ma.us

Building Team

Andi Cherry	ISS (Instructional Support Staff)	cherrya@newton.k12.ma.us
Laura Cooper	Intern	cooperl@newton.k12.ma.us
Mary Manning	Information Technology	manningm@newton.k12.ma.us
Chris Mills	Information Technology	millsc@newton.k12.ma.us
Gillian VanDelft	Metco Counselor	vandelftg@newton.k12.ma.us
Mark Repta	Custodian	reptam@newton.k12.ma.us
Tom Busa	Custodian	busat@newton.k12.ma.us
Lenny Schofield	Custodian	schofieldl@newton.k12.ma.us

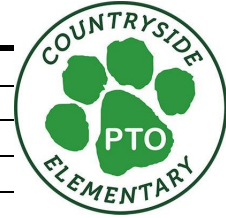
Lunchroom Staff

Loretta Schiavone	Lunch Manager	schiavonel@newton.k12.ma.us
Kristine Lau	Lunch Monitor	lauk@newton.k12.ma.us
Kitty Lee	Lunch Monitor	leek@newton.k12.ma.us

Countryside Children's Center (Aftercare Program)

Glenn McEachern	Director	gmaceachern@cccnewton.org
Gabo Garcia	Countryside CCC location	617-964-6958
Jesse Crandall	Upper Falls CCC location	617-965-6434

COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL AND PTO CALENDARS



2021	SEPTEMBER	6	M	NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
		8	W	NO SCHOOL - Rosh Hashanah
		9	Th	First day of School
		10	F	Welcome Coffee for families
		14	Tu	Fall Picnic
		16	Th	NO SCHOOL - Yom Kippur
	OCTOBER	11	M	NO SCHOOL - Indigenous People/Columbus Day
		20	W	Picture Day
		21	Th	ELL Welcome Coffee
		10/27-11/3		Fall Parent-Teacher conferences (10/27 - 11/3)
		30	Sa	Halloween Party (rain date 11/6)
	NOVEMBER	2	Tu	EARLY RELEASE - 12:10 dismissal
		4	Th	Diwali (Recognized observance)
		11	Th	NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day
		Date TBD		ELL Thanksgiving Party
		24	W	EARLY RELEASE for Thanksgiving Recess at 12:10 p.m.
		25-26	Th-F	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess
	DECEMBER	1	W	PTO Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom
		9	Th	EARLY RELEASE -12:10 dismissal
		24-31		NO SCHOOL - December Recess
2022	JANUARY	1	F	NO SCHOOL- New Year's Day
		3	M	School Resumes
		5	W	PTO Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom
		17	M	NO SCHOOL – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
	FEBRUARY	1	Tu	Lunar New Year (Recognized observance)
		2	W	PTO Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom
		3	Th	EARLY RELEASE - 12:10 dismissal & Teacher Grab-and-Go Appreciation Lunch
		3	Th	Student Progress Reports posted to Aspen
		21-21	M-F	NO SCHOOL- February Break
	MARCH	2	W	PTO Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom
		24	Th	EARLY RELEASE - 12:10 dismissal
		3/30-4/6		Spring parent-teacher conferences
		Date TBD		Multicultural Festival
	APRIL	6	W	PTO Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom
		15	F	NO SCHOOL - Good Friday
		18-22	M-F	NO SCHOOL - April Break
		24	Su	Newton Serves
	MAY	3	Su	Eid al-Fitr (Recognized observance)
		4	W	PTO Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom
		9	M	Fun Run
		12	Th	EARLY RELEASE - 12:10 dismissal & Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
		18	W	Rockin Raffle
		31	M	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
	JUNE	1	W	PTO Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom
		9	Th	Springfest Date
		20	M	NO SCHOOL - Juneteenth
		22	W	Last Day of School for Students (with No Snow Days) Early Release @12:10 n
		29	W	Last day of School (with 5 snow days) Early Release @12:10
		Date TBD		Field Day, PTO Volunteer Appreciation Party, 5th Grade Graduation