

Countryside Elementary School

School Handbook



PTO Directory

2022-2023



Aiden Shimizu-Brennan | Winner of the 2021-2022 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 (countrysideptodirectory@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 2022-2023 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!

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. No lunch is served on early release days.

All School Early Release Days

The all school early release day schedule is below. The children are dismissed at 12:10 PM on the following dates:

- Thursday, September 29
- Tuesday, November 8
- Thursday, December 8
- Thursday, February 2
- Thursday, March 23
- Thursday, May 11

Conferences and Progress Reports

The district provides two formal conference times during the course of the school year. The fall conferences will be held during October 24th through November 8th and the spring conferences will be held during March 23rd -April 6th. Classroom teachers will send out information as the dates approach. You will also receive a progress report at the end of January 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.

MCAS

The district will administer MCAS in grades 3-5 at the elementary level during April and May.

- 3rd and 4th Grade: English Language Arts and Mathematics^[11 SEP]
- 5th Grade: English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science Technology and Engineering^[11 SEP] We will send out the exact schedule for each grade level once it has been finalized.

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 2022-2023 school year!

Best,

Beth Herlihy
Countryside School Principal

Countryside has a total of 376 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, Mahoney, Minutolo
Grade 1	4 Classrooms	Bannon, Guarrera, McLaughlin, Wong
Grade 2	3 Classrooms	Powers, Cantalupo, Wilbur
Grade 3	3 Classrooms	DeForest/Sosa (Co-Taught), Mitchell, Restivo
Grade 4	3 Classrooms	Carr/McConnell (Co-Taught), Tomaneng, Whiting
Grade 5	3 Classrooms	Bikofsky, Greene, 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. If you are not getting the weekly Update, sent on Sunday nights, please email copresident@countrysidepto.org.

The Countryside Childrens' Center (the After-School Program) is also housed in the school. Please email Glenn MacEachern at 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 is 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.

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) 9/29, 11/8, 12/8, 2/2, 3/23, 5/11

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 (Education 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 https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/799
<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 forecasted 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 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.

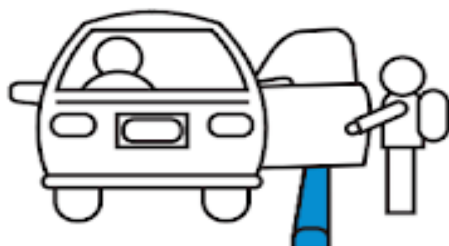
BLUE ZONE

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 and Understanding Our Differences. 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

copresident@countrysidepto.org

Chelsea Boughan

Melissa Monokroussos

Treasurer

Steven Lee

Clerk

Julie Winsett

Lori Zinner

Fund-Raising Coordinator

Adam Bernstein

Room Parent Coordinators

Zina Gomez-Liss

Janet Jackson

Past President

Sue Johnston

Lori Zinner

Ex-Officio Members

Liz Flaig

Barbara Mauger

Shion Walsh

Members-at-Large

Sangeeta Jathar

John McEachern

Jill Tucker

Carolyn Virgilio

Principal

Beth Herlihy

Teacher Reps

Abbey Bannon (gr 1)

Michelle Powers (gr 2)

Jennifer Tomaneng (gr 4)

Suzanne Szwarczewicz (ELL)

2022-2023 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: copresident@countrysidepto.org.

Annual Fund

Adam Bernstein

BOKS

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

FORJ

Volunteer needed!

Fifth Grade Committee

Liz Flaig (Co-chair)

Punam Sharma (Co-chair)

Christy DeSmith

Ayca Ozkumur

Maegan Spontak

Carolyn Virgilio

Garden/Playground Committee

Julie Winsett

Library Help

Beth McDonough

Lost and Found

Shion Walsh

Metco Liaison

Lea Revallion

Mini Grants

Ginevra Botta

Sue Johnston

Jill Tucker

Outside Message Board

Barry Mauger

PTO Website

Jon Winkler

Special Education PAC Liaison

Jill Canelli

Update Editor

Lisa Northman

Walk to School Advocate

Margot Schoenfelder

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

2022-2023 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

Volunteer needed!

Russian

Volunteer needed!

Cantonese

Tammy Tong

Mandarin

Wangling Xie

Jessica Liu

Spanish

Sara Ocana Lopez

Hebrew

Dalit Noi

Persian/Farsi

Volunteer needed!

ELL Committee Chair

Jessica Liu

Japanese

Volunteer needed!

Portuguese

Ana Kose

2022-2023 PTO Event Organizers

Welcome Back Coffee

Punam Sharma

Winter Gear Swap

Shy Walsh

Springfest

Chelsea Boughan

Sue Johnston

Jill Tucker

Back to School Picnic

Sangeeta Jathar

Countryside Family Game Night

Amye Kurson-Collins

Chelsea Boughan

Field Day

Adam Bernstein

Class Pictures

Lori Zinner

Teacher Grab-and-Go Lunch

Carolyn Virgilio

Incoming K Play Date

Jenny Jing

Spirit Wear

Sue Johnston

Raffle/Fun Run

Sue Johnston

Parent Party

Melissa Monokroussos

Breakfast for Faculty/Staff

Carolyn Virgilio

4th Grade Art Contest

Shilpy Singh

Holiday Drive

Sue Johnston

Halloween Party

Barbara Mauger

Sue Johnston

Newton Serves

Julie Winsett

Back to School Supplies

Lori Zinner

Mystery Dinner

Barbara Mauger

Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Carolyn Virgilio

Musical

Volunteers needed!

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 Mahoney	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
Cat McLoughlin	Grade 1	mclaughlinca@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
Lindsey Wilbur	Grade 2	wilburl@newton.k12.ma.us
Amanda DeForest	Grade 3	deforesta@newton.k12.ma.us
Ashley Mitchell	Grade 3	mitchellas@newton.k12.ma.us
Emily Restivo	Grade 3	restivoee@newton.k12.ma.us
Jackie Sosa	Grade 3	sosaj@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
Rachel Bikofsky	Grade 5	bikofskyr@newton.k12.ma.us
Rachel Greene	Grade 5	greener@newton.k12.ma.us
Kim McDonagh	Grade 5	mcdonaghk@newton.k12.ma.us
Michele Morris	Grade 5	morrism@newton.k12.ma.us

Specialists

Zara Woodhead	Art	woodheadz@newton.k12.ma.us
Laura Stroessner	Library	stroessnerl@newton.k12.ma.us
Hildi Arnold	Physical Education	arnoldh@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	Literacy Specialist	danisea@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
Jack Turner	Math Aide	turnerj@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	Team Specialist	blahutm@newton.k12.ma.us
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Shoshana Anapolle	Special Educator	anapolles@newton.k12.ma.us
Kristine Barker	Team Specialist	barkerk@newton.k12.ma.us
Christina Colon	Special Educator	colonc@newton.k12.ma.us

FACULTY AND STAFF continued

Rachele Thivierge	Special Educator	thivierger@newton.k12.ma.us
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Gina Griffin	BCBA	griffing@newton.k12.ma.us
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Jeff Gates	SPED Aide	gatesj@newton.k12.ma.us
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Lauren Magann	SPED Behavior Therapist	magannl@newton.k12.ma.us
Gemmy Moreno	SPED Behavior Therapist	morenog@newton.k12.ma.us
Sarah O'Donovan	SPED Aide	odonovans@newton.k12.ma.us
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Kate Parker	SPED Behavior Therapist/Aide	parkerk@newton.k12.ma.us
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McKenzie Silva	SPED Behavior Therapist/Aide	silvam@newton.k12.ma.us
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Morgan Thompson	SPED Aide	thompsonm@newton.k12.us
Nicole Weatherby	SPED Aide	weatherbyn@newton.k12.ma.us
Darren Zow	SPED Behavior Therapist/Aide	zowd@newton.k12.ma.us
Leanna Bellevue	Kindergarten Aide	bellevuel@newton.k12.ma.us
Mary Ann Garrity	Kindergarten Aide	garritym@newton.k12.ma.us
Mary Miller	Kindergarten Aide	millerm@newton.k12.ma.us
Lauren Brett	Co-Taught Intern	brettl@newton.k12.ma.us
Emalyn Duvall	Co-Taught Intern	duvalle@newton.k12.ma.us
Sara Jorgensen	Co-Taught Intern	jorgensens@newton.k12.ma.us
Building Team		
Andi Cherry	ISS (Instructional Support Staff)	cherrya@newton.k12.ma.us
Kevin Walsh	ISS	walshk@newton.k12.ma.us
Ryan Scanlan	Building Aide	scanlanr@newton.k12.ma.us
Lisa Vancans	Information Technology	vancansl@newton.k12.ma.us
Chris Mills	Information Technology	millsc@newton.k12.ma.us
Gillian Van Delft	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		
Cesarina Perez	Lunch Manager	perezc@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

COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL AND PTO CALENDARS

2022				2023			
SEPTEMBER	6	Tu	First Day of School	JANUARY	2	M	NO SCHOOL- New Year’s Day
	6	Tu	Welcome Back Coffee		3	Tu	School Resumes
	8	Th	Fall Picnic		11	W	PTO Meeting
	14	W	PTO Meeting		11	W	Teacher Grab and Go Lunch
	21	W	Picture Day		16	M	NO SCHOOL – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
	22	Th	Back to School Night		22	Su	Lunar New Year (recognized)
	26	M	NO SCHOOL - Rosh Hashanah	FEBRUARY	2	Th	Early Release
	29	Th	Early Release		8	W	PTO Meeting
			20-24		M-F	NO SCHOOL- February Break	
OCTOBER	5	W	NO SCHOOL - Yom Kippur	MARCH	5	Su	Family Escape Room
	7	F	New Family & ELL Coffee				
	10	M	NO SCHOOL - Indigenous People’s Day		8	W	PTO Meeting
	12	W	PTO Meeting	23	Th	Early Release	
	24	M	Diwali (recognized)	APRIL	1	Sa	Parent Party*
	29	S	Halloween Party		7	F	NO SCHOOL - Good Friday
	31	M	Halloween		12	W	PTO Meeting
			17-21		M-F	NO SCHOOL - April Break	
			22		Sa	Eid al-Fitr (recognized)	
			TBD			Multicultural Festival	
NOVEMBER	8	Tu	Early Release	MAY	10	W	PTO Meeting
	9	W	PTO Meeting		11	Th	Early Release
	11	F	NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day		11	Th	Teacher Appreciation Lunch
	12	Sa	Mystery Dinner		29	M	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
	TBD		ELL Thanksgiving Party	JUNE	7	W	Field Day
	23	W	Early Release for Thanksgiving		8	Th	Springfest
	24-25	Th-F	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess		14	M	PTO Meeting
			19		M	NO SCHOOL - Juneteenth	
			27		Tu	Last day of School (with 5 snow days) Early Release @	
DECEMBER	8	Th	Early Release	*Tentative			
	14	W	PTO Meeting				
	TBD		Holiday Gift Drive				
	26- 30	M-F	NO SCHOOL - December Recess				
Date TBD: Field Day, PTO Volunteer Appreciation Party, 5th Grade Graduation							

