



Notes From the Office

Looking Ahead:

Early Release **today**, Wednesday, April 4th.

Early Release on Wednesday, April 11th.



Note From Our Principal

Dear Lilja Families:

Beginning in May, the faculty and I will start the process of grouping students for placement into classrooms for the next school year. This is a major undertaking, which we address thoroughly and thoughtfully. The ultimate goal for our classroom placement process is to create well-balanced, heterogeneously-grouped classrooms where each student can thrive and grow. The placement team considers each student's strengths and needs across a wide variety of domains: academic proficiency across content areas, social skills and behavioral dynamics, leadership qualities, maturity, peer relationships, and services received. Your child's present teacher and other support staff members have a wealth of information about the conditions under which your child learns best. They will consider this information carefully as part of the placement process.

As you can appreciate, it is an artful challenge, not a perfect science. We work hard to create balanced groups, so that each student gets the teacher attention they deserve and each class can develop a positive and productive climate. We do not look to match children with specific teachers but to create groups that maximize the learning outcomes for all. *We cannot therefore accept requests for specific teachers.*

Our faculty knows your children well, and so you do not need to weigh in on this process. If, however, there is special information that you think we may not have, **please submit it to me in writing by April 24th.** Know that any letters I receive will be shared at the placement team meetings.

We cannot guarantee a multiage placement for all of the families who might prefer that. (Being in a multiage 1 / 2 also does not imply that you will continue in a multiage 3 / 4). However, we will honor the "opt out" option, as we have done in previous years. **Families who wish to "opt-out" of a multiage class placement should send a letter to the principal by April 24th.** At present, there are 4 multiage classrooms at Lilja School. Students in the multiage classrooms remain with the same teacher for a

two-year period (1st and 2nd grade OR 3rd and 4th grade); each classroom has a mix of students from both grades. During this two-year cycle, students in the multi-age classrooms receive instruction in the same curriculum topics and areas of study as students in single grade classrooms. Students work on all content areas in a multiage model, with the exception of math where students are grouped by grade level for sequential instruction. (FYI: students who begin in a multiage must continue in that setting for the second year, due to the nature of the curriculum cycle.)

We anticipate Lilja will have these classes for the 2018 - 2019 school year (in addition to 2 pre-school classes):

Kindergarten: 5 classrooms

Grade 1: 4 classrooms

Grade 1-2: 2 classrooms

Grade 2: 3 classrooms

Grade 3: 3 classrooms

Grade 3-4: 2 classrooms

Grade 4: 3 classrooms

Students will have an opportunity to meet their next year's teacher and classmates on "Sneak Preview Day" at the end of the school year. Parents will be notified of their child's placement on the final ROSP. As always, we thank you for your support and collaboration. Here's to a wonderful last three months of school!

All the best,

Anne Carothers

Principal

Lilja PTO



News & Events Snapshot

Keep up with all the PTO news that's fit to print. Learn about upcoming events and other happenings around the Lilja and Natick community.

[Click Here to Catch Up](#)

Kids Count, Too!

Kids Count Too! is a specialized group that is designed for families where a parent is diagnosed with cancer. Kids Count Too! (KCT) is a safe place where kids and teens get together and engage in projects and conversations about what it is like to have a family member with cancer.

There are three groups that meet simultaneously, a young child group (ages 7-12 yo) a teen group (13-18 yo) and a parent group. The meetings are held on Wednesdays, 5:30 to 7:30 PM, starting April 25th and running through May 30th. The groups will meet at the Community Senior Center, Route 135 in Natick. A light supper and babysitting will be available. There is no cost to the families for this program. Please see this [flyer](#) for more information and how to sign up for the program.

Yearbook

Hi Lilja Families,

If you have any photos of your students in the classroom, on field trips or at Lilja sponsored events like the Fall Lilja dance, we could use a few more photos for the yearbook.

The photos must be submitted before Wednesday, April 25th!

Please email your photos to [me](#).

Thanks!
Liz

ASAP New Family Registration

New Family Registration for Early Risers and ASAP 18-19 begins online on April 11 at 5PM

The ASAP and Early Risers programs offer safe, enriching before and after school programs at all five NPS elementary schools and after school programs at Kennedy and Wilson middle schools. Enrollment takes place on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't wait!

For more information about our programs, online registration, and more, please click [HERE](#).

Transportation Registration

2018-2019 Bus Transportation Registration Information

REGISTRATION BEGINS 4/2/18
REGISTRATION DEADLINE 6/1/18

1. As mandated by State Law, only students in grades K-6 who reside in excess of two (2) miles from their districted school are entitled to free transportation. All other students may register for transportation for a fee if they are in grades 7-12, (regardless of mileage to their assigned school), or are in grades K-6 and live 2 miles or less from their assigned school. The updated 2018-2019 Eligible Rider Street Listing and the Transportation Information and FAQs manual will be available on the district website at www.natickps.org on 4/2/2018.
2. Registration for Transportation for the 2018-2019 school year will begin on Monday, April 2, 2018, with a registration deadline of 6/1/2018. **STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER FOR THE BUS EACH YEAR.** The transportation fee for the 2018-2019 school year is \$150 per student with a family cap of \$300. All updated transportation information and the 2018-2019 online registration form will be available on 4/2/2018 at www.natickps.org. ALL STUDENTS may be registered by using the online form, and parents are encouraged to use this online form to meet the registration deadline of 6/1/2018. A printable registration form is also available on the district website that can be mailed to or dropped off at the Natick Public Schools, 13 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760 Attn: Transportation Office. If your registration is mailed to the Natick Public Schools using the printed form, the postmark date will determine the registration date. If students are not registered by the 6/1/2018 deadline, they may not be included in the bus counts, and may be placed on a waiting list.
3. Please note that if your child is not registered by the 6/1/2018 deadline, late fees will be assessed as follows:

2018-2019 LATE FEES SCHEDULE

Registered by 6/1/2018 NO LATE FEE
Registered from 6/2/2018-6/30/2018 LATE FEE IS \$30 per family*
Registered from 7/1/2018-7/31/2018 LATE FEE IS \$60 per family*
Registered after 7/31/2018 LATE FEE IS \$90 per family*
* For families with extenuating circumstances, a written request to waive a late fee may be submitted to the Director of Finance.

4. The transportation payment of \$150 per student with a family cap of \$300 can be made online at www.natickps.org using the NPS online payment option or the online payment link on the transportation page, or by dropping off or mailing a check payable to the Natick Public Schools, 13 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760, Attn: TransportationDepartment. Late fees and second bus pass fees will not be included when determining the family cap. The family cap is for transportation fees only.
5. The transportation fee is waived for students who are approved for the Free/Reduced Lunch benefit in Natick. If your child was approved for Free/Reduced lunch for the 2017-2018 school year, the fee of \$150 will be waived at the time of registration, however, if your child no longer qualifies for the Free/Reduced lunch benefit after the 2018-2019 applications have been processed, they will be required to pay the transportation fee of \$150.
6. Bus routes will be posted by school on the district website at least one week prior to the beginning of school.
7. Bus passes will be distributed prior to the start of school. All fees must be paid in full before a bus pass is issued.
8. Please thoroughly review the Transportation Information and FAQs manual located at www.natickps.org. There is bus safety information contained in the manual that is important to review with your child.
9. If you have any transportation questions, including specific questions regarding the registration and payment processes, please email the Transportation Coordinator at ppaine@natickps.org.

Student Services

Coffee with Student Services Team: Topic Inclusion

FRIDAY, April 6, 2018
at Bennett-Hemenway School
8:15-8:40 am Meet the Team
8:40-9:00am Presentation

The Student Services Department and Natick SEPAC are hosting monthly coffees where parents have the opportunity for coffee and conversation with the student services staff at each school in our district. This month's coffee will start with an opportunity to learn more about the Student Services Team including staff providing IEP/504 support to Bennett Hemenway School students. This month's topic presentation will be on Inclusion. Everyone is invited to attend!

Natick SEPAC: Get Involved by becoming a 2018-2019 School Liaisons! **If your child has a 504 or IEP please consider volunteering for Natick SEPAC**

No experience necessary!! You don't need to know all the answers, just be willing to ask questions. Natick SEPAC volunteers work together to help answer questions and a majority of communication is done via email or phone. Time commitment can be as much or as little as you can provide. We welcome and encourage having more than one representative at each school. As a SEPAC School Liaison you will:

- Act as liaison between his/her school and SEPAC
- Connect with school's PTO and share SEPAC info
- Build awareness at his/her school of SEPAC and SEPAC events
- Attend SEPAC meetings and provide status updates and feedback to SEPAC Board

The **Natick Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)** is an all-volunteer organization of parents and caregivers of children receiving support services in the Natick public schools and private school settings. We are dedicated in building a network for families whose children are receiving support services through an IEP/504 as well as for families considering requesting an IEP/504 evaluation. SEPAC provides a parents perspective of information, support and recommendations. If interested or for more information, **please reach out by May 11** to naticksepac@gmail.com or visit our website at: <http://www.sepacnatick.org/connect-with-u>

Increasing Your Child's Self-Determination and Positive Outcomes Tuesday, May 22, 7 – 9 pm Natick High School, Lecture Hall -2nd Floor

**Would you like to increase your child's likelihood of success by
supporting the development of self-determination skills?**

Self-Determination: you may have heard of it, but why is it important to your child's success, and what can you do to support your child's development of these skills? This session with Dr. Lori Peterson will include a **panel of our champion Natick teachers** who will explore these questions and provide evidence-based strategies to increase opportunities to support the development of your child's self-determination skills. You will walk away with tools, techniques, and resources you can use immediately.

Takeaways:

- Describe self-determination and its impact on success.
- Describe strategies aimed to increase your child's self-determination skills and provide opportunities for your child to practice these skills.
- Locate resources available for additional support with promoting self-determination skills.

Dr. Lori Peterson is Assistant Professor of Special Education at the University of Northern Colorado. She is currently working with Natick teachers and staff on developing Self-Determination skills in students.

In order to prepare the correct amount of handouts, we would appreciate RSVPs to naticksepac@gmail.com, but please know you can also come last minute!

www.naticksepac.org

Camp Invention

Camp Invention is a program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the future of innovation and Stem. Please click [here](#) for the brochure.



Camp Invention®

Note from Nursing

After a long, cold winter, many of us look forward to the rising temperatures and blooming plants and trees that come with Spring. However, if you have asthma, allergies, or both, the pollen that comes with the season can be problematic. Many people are confused by the differences between asthma and seasonal allergies. The two conditions are often related. The primary difference between an allergy attack and an asthma attack is the location in the body of the reaction.

In the case of **seasonal allergies**, pollen triggers the allergic reaction commonly resulting in symptoms such as sneezing, congestion, itching, watery eyes, hives, headaches, or irritated skin. Asthma is a

more serious condition and happens to be the most common chronic disease found among children.

With **asthma**, the allergic reaction is located in the lungs, resulting in inflammation of the airway.

Increased mucus production further limits the flow of air. The child may experience coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and in most severe cases, the inability to breathe.

The two conditions are related when a child experiences **allergic asthma**. Allergic asthma is triggered by the presence of allergens in the environment - oftentimes pollen, dust and mold.

Seasonal allergies can be alleviated by medications such as antihistamines. There are many options for over-the-counter medications that the pediatrician may recommend to relieve symptoms. In more severe cases, an allergist can perform tests to determine what specifically your child is allergic to.

There are also several options for prescription medications to control asthma. Some may be used daily and other medications are used as needed when a child is experiencing symptoms.

Simple strategies can help keep seasonal allergies and allergic asthma under control.

- *Check your local news or the internet for pollen forecasts and current levels.
- *Remove clothing worn outside and shower to remove pollen from skin and hair.
- *Close doors and windows as much as possible, especially when pollen counts are high.
- *Vacuum and dust your home regularly, to keep it free from allergens.
- *Use air conditioning in the house and car.
- *If you have forced air heating or air conditioning in your house, change filters and follow regular maintenance schedules.
- *Avoid outdoor activity in the early morning, when pollen counts are the highest.
- *Do not use outdoor clotheslines to dry sheets or clothes.
- *Keep grass short and keep your child inside while mowing the lawn.
- *Stay ahead of pollen! Begin your child's medication regimen (asthma medicine and/or allergy relief) before nature blooms.
- *Wearing sunglasses when outside may protect your child's eyes from being irritated by pollen.

Both seasonal allergies and asthma can be unpleasant, but both can be managed. It is best to see the pediatrician first for accurate diagnosis and a treatment plan that is best for your child.

Attention 4th Grade Parents....if you have not sent in your child's updated physical exam, please send it in as soon as possible. This is a State Mandated requirement and we need to have them on file before the end of the school year. Thank you for your cooperation!!



A Discussion for Middle Schoolers & their Parents

Monday, April 2 from 6:45–8:45pm at Morse Institute Library (Lebowitz Room)

For students, parents and caregivers (grades 6-8)

This interactive workshop and discussion will use the Drugs: True Stories DVD series to foster dialogue and provide tips about how to recognize substance use in a young person and how to respond and prevent substance abuse disorder. Register [HERE](#) or here: <https://tinyurl.com/yd2mexoc>

— Lead Sponsors: Natick Opioid Task Force, Natick Together for Youth, Natick Health Department, SOAR Natick, Town of Natick, Natick Public Schools, SPARK Kindness

Elementary School Parent Workshops: Hot Topics

Thursday, April 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 at Wilson Middle School

For parents and caregivers (preschool and elementary school). Elementary educators and administrators will conduct workshops sharing some of their personal expertise and tips on hot topics on navigating the elementary years. (Childcare will be provided.)

Thank you!

The SPARK Kindness Team

Middle School Parent Workshops: Hot Topics

Thursday, May 10 from 6:30 to 8:30pm at Wilson Middle School

(**This program has been rescheduled due to holiday weekend conflicts. There will be NO program on March 29.)

For parents and caregivers (grades 4-8)

Join middle school educators and administrators for an evening of workshops on different topics to help parents navigate the middle school years. (Childcare will be provided.) Registration will be open on SPARK's website in the coming weeks.

— Lead Sponsors: Natick Public Schools, SPARK Kindness

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