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## Notes From the Office

### Looking Ahead:

No School - Monday, May 28th  
Early Release on Thursday, May 31st



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## Lilja PTO



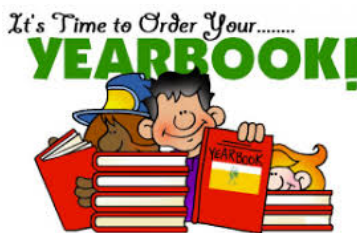
### News & Events Snapshot

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](#)

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## Lilja Yearbooks



Please log into [www.coffeepond.com](http://www.coffeepond.com)

Click on the Order Yearbooks button, and enter the password: **lions**

Yearbooks are \$25. Please order your book soon.  
Orders must be received by May 7th.

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## Katie V 5K

Katie V 5K Color Run/Walk  
\*May 20 – 8:30 am Johnson School\*  
99 South Main St., Natick, MA



Katie von der Leith aka "Mrs. V"  
 Katie was a teacher at Johnson School for 15 yrs. She had an amazing gift for making every child feel special. Known for her chocolate chip pancakes, vibrant personality and spirit. Especially when she ran in her colorful out fits. If you didn't see her outside running, you may have seen her riding her crazy duck taped bike to school. She was an avid Red Sox and Big Papi fan who probably took better stats than they did.

All proceeds will be donated to Dana Farber Cancer Institute  
 Gynecologic Research Fund & Student Scholarships  
 Post-race pancake breakfast \* suggested \$10 donations per family  
<https://racewire.com/register.php?id-9296>

## Metrowest Symphony Orchestra

The Natick Schools has an emerging partnership with the MetroWest Symphony Orchestra that emerged from our arts audit last year.

This partnership, in its infancy, currently allows secondary Natick students to participate in their ensembles and appoints mentor professional musicians to the participating students. We continue to explore additional partnerships for younger students.

For their upcoming concert information please click [here](#).

## 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.

## Student Services

**Coffee with Student Services**  
**Friday, May 4: 8:15 – 9 am Johnson Elementary School**  
**Topic: Social Skills**

The Student Services Department and 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.

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**Natick Parent Connections: A Parent Network Navigating Special Education**  
**Tuesday, May 15: 7pm Natick Morse Library – Community Room**

Natick Parent Connections is for parents/caregivers of children with developmental, learning, social/ emotional disabilities and other special education needs. This group is committed to providing a welcoming space for parents and caregivers to:

- share resources and experiences
- ask questions
- network with other families

If you have questions or need more information please  
 email: [natickparentconnections@gmail.com](mailto:natickparentconnections@gmail.com)

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**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](mailto:naticksepac@gmail.com) or visit our website at: <http://www.sepacnatick.org/connect-with-u>

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**Increasing Your Child's  
Self-Determination and  
Positive Outcomes  
Tuesday, May 22, 7 – 9 pm  
Natick High School, Lecture Hall -2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:naticksepac@gmail.com), but please know you can also come last minute!

[www.naticksepac.org](http://www.naticksepac.org)

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## Camp Invention

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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.

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Camp Invention®



## 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

[SPARKKindness.org](http://SPARKKindness.org)

Twitter = @SPARKKindness

SPARK = Successful Positive Authentic Resilient Kids

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STAY CONNECTED

