



# Newsletter

125 Meadowbrook Rd., Newton, MA 02459  
Telephone 617-559-6900, Absentee Call-In 617-559-6980

Vol. VII, No. 20 June 15, 2007  
<http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/brown>

## Dates to Remember

---

June		
Monday	18	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Rehearsal during the day and Party at night
Tuesday	19	Newton School Committee Meeting, Education Center 7pm
Tuesday	19	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Canobie Lake Park Trip
Wednesday	20	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation – NSHS Field House, 9:30am
Wednesday	20	Last day of school for Students – 11:30 release
Monday	25	Newton School Committee Meeting, Education Center 7pm
July/August		Continue to collect: Box Top\$ For Education, Shaws/Star Market receipts and printer cartridges
September 2007		
Wednesday	5	School Store Pre-Sale more information to come
Thursday	6	First Day of School for students
Thursday	13	NO SCHOOL – Rosh Hashanah
Thursday	20	Back-To-School Night
TBA		Welcome Back Picnic – date and venue to change

## Brown News

---

### THE 2007 SUMMER READING LISTS

Everyone should have received the summer reading list e-mails listing great titles for students to read during the summer vacation. Take a book on vacation, to camp, to the book or in your backyard - - READ!

#### **Incoming Brown 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

All students need to read at least one book from the middle school list at [http://www2.newton.k12.ma.us/~lauren\\_italiano/pdf/2007Summer.pdf](http://www2.newton.k12.ma.us/~lauren_italiano/pdf/2007Summer.pdf), and one other book of choice. In September students should be prepared to speak and/or write about the books they read.

#### **Incoming NSHS 9<sup>th</sup> Graders**

- Curriculum I English class students are required to read The House of the Scorpion, by Nancy Farmer, and one book of their choice from the list NSHS list at <http://www.newton.mec.edu/NSHS/Library/>
- Curriculum II English class students are required to read 47, by Walter Mosley, and one book of choice from the NSHS list.

All students should be prepared to bring either the books or detailed notes, or both, to class during the first weeks of school. Students will be asked to consider, discuss, and respond to the books verbally and in written form.

### THE COMMUNITY EXPLORERS AIDS WALK A HUGE SUCCESS

The Community Explorers would like to thank all members of the Brown community for helping make this year's AIDS Walk a huge success! On Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, over 200 people from Team Brown participated in the walk. It was our biggest team ever! We had students, parents, faculty, as well as friends and family with us. Although there still is some money to be counted, we are extremely pleased and proud to report that we raised more than \$13,000! The final tally will be complete in a few weeks. Thank you for making out 8<sup>th</sup> year our best one yet!

### BROWN BALDIES

Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported the 3rd Annual Brown Baldies. This fun event not only has many of our Brown students sporting new summer "buzz cuts" but over \$1000 was raised for Leukemia and Lymphoma research at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

## From the PTO

---

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Believe it or not, summer is almost here! And it has been a great year at Brown Middle School. We are closing in on completion of the technology drive and purchase of 35 new iMac computers for the writing lab and library. To date, we have raised \$5,043 through the Honor Your Teacher drive. We are hoping to have the new computers installed and ready to go for next September. You can still contribute. Click on [http://www.newton.mec.edu/brown/200607\\_Honor\\_Your\\_Teacher.pdf](http://www.newton.mec.edu/brown/200607_Honor_Your_Teacher.pdf) to access the form.

But technology is not the only way to improve our school. As a quick review, here are some of the ways that we parents, through the PTO, have contributed to the vitality of our children's middle school experience.

Student enrichment activities involved support from active library volunteers, parents running the school store both year round and September Pre-Sale, a parent support committee for the Music and Drama groups, School Pictures and coordination and planning of Eight Grade Activities. The Creative Arts and Sciences committee brought in many great programs involving math, physics, weather, music and storytelling to enhance and enrich what are children are learning in the classroom. And introduced this year was the 6<sup>th</sup> grade book club where parents, teachers and students could gather together as peers to discuss a book.

To "Keep Brown Cruisin' Along" we had a great group on the Environmental Management Team to help identify building deficiencies and work with city groups to advocate for their repair. We had parent volunteers create the school directory, manage email communications, send out a biweekly newsletter to keep us all informed and up to date on Brown happenings and keep the PTO web page up to date.

In support of our wonder faculty and staff, we instituted a grant program to give teachers access to additional financial resources to enrich their classrooms activities; we hosted two scrumptious Faculty Appreciation Luncheons, and spruced up and supplied lovely soaps for the faculty bathrooms.

On the social side, parent volunteers hosted the school picnic, welcome coffees, evening meetings, a really fun and entertaining "Ladies Night Out", and a wonderful, thought provoking panel discussion from the Respect for Human Differences committee.

All of these activities were made possible by your support of fundraisers such as the Magazine Drive, purchase of delicious cookie dough, sponsorship of teachers for Faculty Foul-Ups and support of Box Tops, recycling initiatives and Music and Library donations.

It wouldn't happen without a large group of volunteers. A huge thanks to all the volunteers that supported the above mentioned activities. All of these things help to make a better learning experience for our children. Please consider getting involved next year. We are still looking for a Vice President and volunteer for the Magazine Drive. Please contact us before school ends!

Have a great summer.

Sincerely,  
Karen Spier (617-965-0742) and Mimi Karys (617-964-2908), [brownpto@brownpto.org](mailto:brownpto@brownpto.org)  
PTO Co-Presidents

## From Newton Publics Schools

---

### **NEWTON'S CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION (CAP) PROGRAM IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS**

*We can't do it without you.* Each year CAP volunteer Prevention Specialists present 125 workshops to students in Newton's kindergarten, second and fifth grade classrooms. Working in teams of 3, we teach Newton children that they have the right to be Safe, Strong and Free with their friends and peers, with adult strangers, and with those who are trusted to take care of them. Using simple and age appropriate language we address bullying, stranger safety, and sexual assault by known persons.

We are looking for parents who are interested in becoming volunteer Prevention Specialists. Please join us. The next training will begin in October. We will be offering a series of 3- hour morning and evening training sessions. CAP volunteers include parents and other community members who are interested in child safety, and who can contribute 6 hours per month for one school year, October - May.

### **SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS THROUGH NEWTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

It's not too late to sign up for summer programs with Newton Community Education. There are still openings in Clay Workshop the week of July 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Girls-Only Soccer the weeks of July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. And you can still volunteer to be a CIT at our Club Invention program the weeks of July 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Call our office at 617-559-6999 or visit our website at [www.newtoncommunityed.org](http://www.newtoncommunityed.org) for more info or to register.

### **UPCOMING SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

All meetings held at 100 Walnut Street.

**June 18<sup>th</sup>, 9pm** - Board of Alderman, Committee of the Whole. Briefing on the needs assessment portion of the Long Range Facilities Study

**June 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm** - Special meeting of the School Committee with public comment about the building needs assessment and presentation of options.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>, 7pm** - Joint meeting of Programs and Services and Public Facilities Committees of the Board of Alderman with presentation of options and discussion on submission of a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

**June 25<sup>th</sup>, 7pm** - Regular meeting of the School Committee begins early to finish year end business and allow additional time for public comment and further discussion of building options.

## **Community News**

---

### **RAFFLE FOR THE GREEN DECADE COALITION**

1st Prize: 2007 Computerized Cruise Control Raleigh Bicycle; 2nd Prize: \$300 Whole Foods Gift Certificate; 3rd prize: one month free Clean Air Lawn Care. More prizes listed on-line. Tickets are only \$10 or 3 for \$20 available on-line at [www.greendecade.org](http://www.greendecade.org). GDC/Newton is a volunteer non-profit organization whose mission is to create an environment in better balance with the natural world by making significant, measurable improvements in the way we use resources. For more information contact [info@greendecade.org](mailto:info@greendecade.org) or 617-965-1995.

### **RHYTHMIC DREAMS SUMMER CAMP**

Looking for an exciting way to spend your summer? Join the Rhythmic Dreams camp for a summer of fun and learning. Children will participate in a variety of activities including: outdoor games, soccer, tennis, gymnastics, stretching, photography, ballet, math, science, art and music. Intensive programs are available for those interested in rhythmic gymnastics, photography or soccer. Three 2 week sessions are available, starting on June 25<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup>. Children participating in camp will perform in a show on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each session, highlighting what they've created and learned during the camp. For more information, please call 617-233-4493 or visit [www.rhythmicdreams.com](http://www.rhythmicdreams.com)

### **RHYTHMIC DREAMS SUMMER GALA**

Rhythmic Dreams, New England's largest non-profit rhythmic gymnastics program, will present its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Gala on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at the Newton Armory, 1137 Washington St. Come and watch the amazing display of talent of over 70 girls and boys, including national and international champions! Admission is \$5 for adults & children under 18 are free. For more information, please visit [www.rhythmicdreams.com](http://www.rhythmicdreams.com) or call 617-233-4493

### **NEWTON GIRLS INTRAMURAL SOCCER**

Registration for the upcoming fall season of Newton Girls Intramural Soccer is currently underway for Newton girls currently in grades Kindergarten-8. Games are played on Saturdays, starting September 8<sup>th</sup> and continue until November 10<sup>th</sup>. Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade practices/games take place on Saturdays. For grades 2-8, in addition to the games on Saturdays, there is also generally one practice per week. Registration deadline for grades 1-8 is June 15<sup>th</sup>; Kindergarten registration deadline is July 31<sup>st</sup>. The goals of the NGS Intramural Program are for the girls to learn soccer skills, have fun and be part of a team. To register, or to find out more information about the NGS IM Program, please visit our website at [www.newtongirlsoccer.org](http://www.newtongirlsoccer.org). Scholarships are available based on need.

### **FREE CONCERT BY THE RENOWNED FRENCH BOYS' CHOIR**

Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm at the St. Bernard's Church, 1529 Washington Street/Route 16, West Newton. Parking is available behind the Church and across the street in Church lot. Church is handicapped accessible. We hope you'll join us! All are welcome! The 18 member choir ranging in ages from 9 to young adult has been likened to the Vienna Boys Choir but their style is very English – pure, clear and perfect. This summer we are fortunate to be included on their tour. A free will offering will be taken. The boys will spend time before the concert, and at intermission, selling programs, CD's and cassettes featuring the choir. The choir's web site: [asso.nordnet.fr/frenchboyschoir/](http://asso.nordnet.fr/frenchboyschoir/)

### **MUSIC FOR MIDDLESEX V FESTIVAL**

The all day festival will be held outdoors at Bentley College, Waltham, on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 12 noon to 8pm. Over 35 bands on three stages, plus non-stop food, music, and activities for all ages. \$10 general admission. Children under 12 get in

free. At night, there's a special indoor performance from 8 to 11pm in the Bentley Theatre. Visit [www.musicformiddlesex.com](http://www.musicformiddlesex.com) for complete concert and ticket information.

### **SUMMER TENNIS IN NEWTON**

Making summer plans? Check out Newton Parks & Rec. tennis classes beginning in late June and continuing into August. Kids may attend for one week or several, morning or afternoon or both! Please check out [www.newtontennis.com](http://www.newtontennis.com) for our summer schedule. Adults, there are also clinics and round robins for you. Have fun!!!

### **PIANO INSTRUCTION**

Flexible summer scheduling makes now an ideal time to try piano lessons. Berklee & New England Conservatory graduate with 25 years teaching experience. Beginners welcome. Build a high quality musical foundation with a patient, caring teacher. Gloria Jasinski 617-566-9704 [piano566@comcast.net](mailto:piano566@comcast.net)

### **ACTIVEMINDS TUTORING, LLC**

Summer is a great time to catch up or get ahead! We provide IN-HOME Tutoring for ALL GRADES/SUBJECTS as well as STANDARDIZED TEST PREPARATION. Contact us today for a complimentary consultation and to learn about our SPECIAL SUMMER PROMOTION! 617-663-5700 or 617-227-2225 Eve/Wknds. Please visit our web site at [www.activemindstutoring.com](http://www.activemindstutoring.com).

### **PRIVATE MATH SUMMER ENRICHMENT TUTORING**

Private math summer enrichment tutoring for grades 1-8. Lessons taught by Sara Mushlin, an 11th grade student at Gann Academy. Contact by phone: 617-965-5164 or e-mail: [mmushlin@gmail.com](mailto:mmushlin@gmail.com).

BROWN PTO NEWSLETTER. The newsletter will publish, at the sole discretion of the PTO, articles and other information of interest to the Brown Middle School Community. SUBMISSIONS: by email to [editor@brownpto.org](mailto:editor@brownpto.org), by US mail to Brown Middle School PTO, Newsletter Editor, 125 Meadowbrook Road, Newton, MA 02459, or by drop off in the Brown Office Mailroom. Deadline Saturday evenings. See the latest newsletter at [www.brownpto.org](http://www.brownpto.org)