



LILJA LIONS

Weekly Update: March 11, 2022

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Important Events/Dates

Event/Topic	Description								
Principal's Contact Information	Please contact me at swasik@natickps.org or by calling 508-647-6570 Ext. 6575 Have a question? Please reach out anytime!								
School Hours	Doors open at 8:20 AM. Students are expected to be in classrooms and ready to learn at 8:30 AM. Dismissal is at 2:56 PM.								
Upcoming Events and Important Dates	Early Release Day, Wednesday, April 6th, Dismissal at 12:15 p.m. Early Release Day, Wednesday, April 13th, Dismissal at 12:15 p.m. No School - Friday, April 15th - Good Friday No School - April 18-22 - School Vacation Week								
MCAS Dates	<table><tr><td>Tues. April 5th - 4th Grade ELA</td><td>Tues. May 10th - 4th Grade Math</td></tr><tr><td>Thurs. April 7th - 4th Grade ELA</td><td>Wed. May 11th - 4th Grade Math</td></tr><tr><td>Mon. April 11th - 3rd Grade ELA</td><td>Tues. May 17th - 3rd Grade Math</td></tr><tr><td>Tue. April 12th - 3rd Grade ELA</td><td>Thurs. May 19th - 3rd Grade Math</td></tr></table>	Tues. April 5th - 4th Grade ELA	Tues. May 10th - 4th Grade Math	Thurs. April 7th - 4th Grade ELA	Wed. May 11th - 4th Grade Math	Mon. April 11th - 3rd Grade ELA	Tues. May 17th - 3rd Grade Math	Tue. April 12th - 3rd Grade ELA	Thurs. May 19th - 3rd Grade Math
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NPS Calendar	Link to NPS Calendar and Lilja's Calendar
Natick Public Schools does not discriminate in employment nor in its educational programs, services and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, age, sex, gender identity, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions, physical and intellectual differences, immigration status, homeless status, or any other basis prohibited by law. Title IX Coordinator: Suzanne Kenny suzkenny@natickps.org. 504 Coordinator: Tim Luff tluff@natickps.org.	

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

We had another wonderful week here at Lilja! As you know, starting Monday, students and staff were able to choose whether to wear masks at school. In anticipation of this shift, the following slideshow was created by Dr. Marscher, School Psychologist, and Ms. Simoni, Adjustment Counselor, and was shared with students last Friday and early this week:

[A Change is Coming!](#)

Our emphasis here at school has been on personal choice and respecting our own and each others' decisions on what feels healthy, safe, and comfortable. I am thrilled to share that, as I greeted students and visited classrooms this week, this is exactly what was being "lived" around the school. Some students (and staff) continue to wear masks except when eating, some have been fully unmasked since Monday, and some make flexible decisions throughout the day. What was most palpable this week, though, was a sense of appreciation for each others' individual and family choices. I am thankful for the conversations that families engaged in over the weekend and so very proud of our Lilja Lions for navigating this change as a respectful, responsible, and engaged school community!

Best,

Stefani Wasik, Principal



Students in 4T and 4Q had a virtual talk with an archaeologist on Friday! Ask your 4th grader about this engaging visit!

Note: Please [use this link](#) to receive Dr. Nolin's NPS Engage email by selecting DISTRICTWIDE. These weekly emails (which are sent on Fridays) will have a link to our Lilja Weekly Newsletters!

Updates



Week of March 21 - 25:

Natick Public Schools prides itself on its ability to support all learners. March is Disability Awareness Month and the elementary schools have planned the following spirit days to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of our community.

Please join us in having fun and celebrating our community of learners!

- Monday, March 21: **Wacky Socks Day:**
Show your favorite, mismatched, wacky socks!
- Tuesday, March 22: **Sports Day:**
Represent your favorite hometown, college, or professional sports team!
- Wednesday, March 23: **Lion Pride Day:**
Show your pride in being a Lilja Lion! Wear your Lilja gear,

- Thursday, March 24: red/black/white colors, come as a lion...the opportunities are endless!
Backwards Day:
Sometimes we just need to think outside the box - join us for backward day and show us how silly you can be.
- Friday, March 25: **Beach Day:**
Spring is here! Bring a beach vibe (no swimsuits, please) and help celebrate warmer weather ahead.

Kindergarten Registration for 22-23: Kindergarten registration for the 22-23 school year is well underway! If you, or someone you know, has a child who will be 5 years old by August 31, 2022, lives in the Lilja district and is planning to attend Kindergarten in the fall, please contact us at the Lilja main office by calling 508-647-6570. The registration period is through **Friday, March 18th!**

SEPAC: Please join us for the next in our learning series for families of students receiving special education services. This series is hosted by Natick SEPAC and developed cooperatively with NPS office of Student Services. Erin Miller and Timothy Luff will be discussing:

Executive Functioning and Social Emotional Learning - the impact on students with IEPs.

There will also be a general special education program update

Wednesday March 30th 6:30-8pm

Join the meeting: <https://meet.google.com/kfv-kysy-dhvDial> in (audio only): (US) +1 515-518-1789 PIN: 560 348 227#

Nurse's Notes

Dear Lilja Families,

Students in grades 1-3 are currently having vision and hearing screening done. You will be notified by the nurse if your child does not pass the school screening. Please be sure to send your child with their glasses everyday!

Barbara Naser RN

bnaser@natickps.org

508-647-6571

Ongoing Reminders and Information

Mask Mandate Information: As you know, the Natick Board of Health rescinded their prior mask mandates for schools and busing effective Monday, March 7th. **Natick Public Schools has moved to a “Mask Flexible Culture.”** Please see [this link](#) from Dr. Nolin for more information and note that staff has previewed the information with students this afternoon using [this slideshow](#).

Per this new guidance, everyone will have a choice about if and when they want to wear a mask at school and on buses. As a school community, we will respect those choices and honor each family’s and student’s decision and levels of comfort with this change. That leads us to a flexible masking environment, described below:

What is Flexible Masking?

- Students and staff may or may not wear a mask to school, depending on their own preferences, personal health choices, and family values.
- We will not be taking note of which parents and children prefer masking and which do not. Families will need to guide their children.
- Masking will be required for all staff and students when in the Nursing Office. Please send your child to school with a mask in case they need to visit the nurse.
- Any unvaccinated individuals across the district are “strongly encouraged” per DESE/DPH to wear a mask but are no longer required by state guidelines.
- Staff and students who have health needs that require additional supports (504s, health care plans, etc.) will continue to be given support and accommodations through those means and through interactive dialogues with Human Resources for staff.
- Students or staff returning from Days 1-5 of COVID isolation must wear a mask for Days 6-10 except at lunch, snack, and/or outdoor recess.
- Students feeling unwell or displaying COVID symptoms should always remain home.

How are we preparing for this shift?

- All students and faculty will encourage a school culture supportive and respectful of flexible masking.
 - We will not comment on whether students choose to wear a mask or not. This includes well-meaning comments like “It’s so wonderful to see your smile!” or “I love being able to hear you without a mask!” as it could inadvertently persuade or shame those who choose to continue to wear masks.
 - We will model respect for the personal choices of students and teachers.
 - We acknowledge that many reasons exist for why a person selects to wear a mask and we will be respectful of their privacy in making this decision.

- Teachers will, according to choice, also be flexibly masked and unmasked, modeling both options as part of our school culture.
- Parents are expected to provide masks for their children if that is their choice but extra masks will be available in the office should a student ask for one.

Please know that we are committed to supporting students, families, and staff through this next transition and will continue to teach and model respect for students' and families' individual and private choices and levels of comfort in wearing masks or not.

March Book Madness: Let the madness begin! In March, students will engage in a March-Madness-style tournament of reading! This year's theme is Turning Points: "Books Always Win!" During their library classes, students will narrow the field down from Sweet 16, to Elite 8, to Fantastic 4, to Top 2! Which book will win the championship? Check out the trailer [here](#)! Many thanks to Ms. Moss for organizing this again this year!

At-Home Antigen Testing Program: Currently, 85% of Lilja students have opted in to the new at-home antigen testing! Read all about this program and Frequently asked Questions by clicking [HERE](#). for English. As a reminder, At-Home Antigen tests will be distributed to students every other Tuesday. Each kit contains two tests, enough for two weeks of at-home testing. Tests should be administered on Wednesday mornings and any positive results should be reported to Nurse Naser at bnaser@natickps.org.

Band Schedule



Hello Band Families,

First, I want to thank you for your understanding of the challenges that this year has placed on us all and to thank you for your patience as we've tried to continue with a 4th grade instrumental music program. Second, I'm happy to let you know that after February vacation, we will begin having all students attend band every week.

At this time our current masking plan will stay in place (all students will be using district provided KN95 masks) purifiers will still be on, and bell covers will still be required.

Drop off procedures will remain the same (you will continue to see me standing outside greeting students). Please do not drop off students earlier than your scheduled time because if you don't see me, I may not be there yet.

I know that for some of you this will be a sigh of relief for a more consistent schedule but for others it may come with some anxiety. Please know that I will do my best to spread kids out as much as we are able in the spaces that we have available to help keep us all safe.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Best,

Tom Rice

ASAP: ASAP/Early Risers 2022-2023 Registration Information

Here is a flyer with details: [22-23 ASAP & Early Risers New Family Registration](#)

Between March 14 and April 8, 2022, new families may register online for [ASAP and Early Risers 2022-23](#).

For more information about our programs, go to www.natickps.org/programs/asap

For details about the registration process, see the Registration tab on our web page or [click here](#). If applications exceed space available, placement will be determined by lottery. All registrations received between March 14 and midnight on April 8 will be entered into the lottery.

Please note:

- ASAP (after school) is offered at all five elementary and both middle schools in Natick Public Schools.
- Early Risers (before school) is offered at elementary schools only.

Questions? Check out our general information, frequently asked questions, family handbook, and activity calendars on our [web page](#).

Still no luck? Email us at asap@natickps.org.

Caring for Our Community

Our current landscape has been challenging, and this time of year can be hard for many on top of it all. To that end, we wanted to remind the community of two resources for counseling and emotional support. Both of these resources are free to you.

Interface Counseling Referral Services

The District is in partnership with [William James College and shares these resources](#) for your family if you need support.

Community Hub & Care Navigator

Provided by Behavioral Health Partners of MetroWest (BHPMW)

Our knowledgeable and compassionate Care Navigators are here to listen and then to match you to the best services for yourself, your family member, or—if you are a health care or other service provider—a person in your care. There is no charge for this service.

The Navigation Line supports the following languages:

Arabic, English, French, Moroccan, Portuguese, Spanish

How to Request Services or Make a Referral

1-844-528-6800

Call our toll- free number Monday-Friday for a free consultation with one of our Care Navigators.

(a Care Navigator will return your call within 24 hours, Monday through Friday)

Or visit the [Care Connection Referral website](#).

A Sneaker Reminder from Mr. DeMayo:

This is just a reminder about our sneaker policy during physical education class. In order to fully participate in all activities, your child/children must wear appropriate footwear to all P.E. classes. Please be sure your child has sneakers on their P.E. days!

Physical Education Schedule:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4T, 3M, 2C, 1JB, & 1/2M	4O, 3N, 2B, 2Cr, 1AB, KR, 1/2M & 1/2A	3W, 4Q, 3S, 2C, 1JB, KK & 1/2A	EB, 4Q, 3W, 2B, 3M, 1P, 4T, 3N, 1AB, KG, & 4S	EB, 4O, 3S, 2Cr, 1P, KM & 4S

ELPAC: Please [click here](#) for information about our English Learners Parent Advisory Council!



Please be sure that you have entered default dismissal plans into

Pick Up Patrol for your child and that any daily changes are made as early in the day as possible. These details help to ensure that your child gets home safely each day and also helps to reduce office traffic at the end of the day.

Lilja PTO



Please visit our Lilja PTO website at liljapto.org!