



WHEELOCK NEWSFLASH 2025



January 16, 2025 to January 23, 2025

Message from the Principal

Greetings Wheelock families! Can you believe we are approaching the half-way mark of the school year? It seems surreal! To me, this year is flying by. We are very excited to have our Hero Day assembly at Wheelock School tomorrow. As you know, we do not have school on Monday in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Boy, has the weather been chilly lately. On particularly cold days, please encourage your child to wear clothing that will keep them warm at recess. We have noticed many students coming to school in shorts and T-shirts. Your assistance and support with this would be greatly appreciated.

Have a great week!



Dates to Remember: Upcoming Weeks at a Glance

- 1/17 - Wheelock PTO Meeting at 8:45am (New Time!) & Hero Day Spirit Day!
 - 1/20 - No School; MLK, Jr. Day Observance
- 1/29 - District Wide Early Release Day; Wheelock Dismissal at 11:45am

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1/10 - Owen L.
1/11 - Ella G.
1/12 - Brayden B., Vince C. & Merryn D.
1/14 - Madeline R.
1/15 - Ella O.
1/17 - Owen E.
1/18 - Bria B., Rosie B. & Juliette F.
1/19 - Rhys L. & Maddox W.
1/20 - Mia S.

*****"CURRENT NEWS"*****



3rd Grade MCAS

Mark Your Calendars!

What Are MCAS Tests? The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) is a summative testing system that measures students' progress toward mastering the skills and concepts described in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. 3rd graders will take both ELA (English Language Arts) and Math tests.

Below are the dates for the 2025 MCAS test for Wheelock 3rd graders:

ELA: Wednesday, April 9th and Thursday, April 10th

Math: Monday, May 12th and Tuesday, May 13th

Please make every effort to have your child arrive at school on time and avoid planning any travel or appointments on the above dates/times. Thank you.



Help Us Reach Our Goal for the Blake Blood Drive!

When: Monday, January 20th from 8am to 2pm

The Blake Blood Drive, hosted by the American Red Cross, is in full swing, and we're grateful for the donors who have already signed up. However, we're still a bit short of our goal.

The morning slots have filled up nicely, with only 10 openings remaining from 8:00 AM to 11:45 AM. But we still have 29 available slots in the afternoon, from 12:00 PM to 1:45 PM, and we need your help to fill them.

Our students have been working hard to make this donation experience as smooth and enjoyable as possible. They've baked delicious goods for the recovery table and are hosting a "Mother's Helper" room in a classroom next to the gym.

This room is designed for busy parents who want to donate but need someone to watch their children while they do so.

Not all heroes wear capes, but many of them live in Medfield.

Let's come together and make this the biggest blood drive yet!

Please consider donating – every donation makes a difference.

Thank you for your support! If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to Cynthia McClelland at cmcclelland@email.medfield.net

Check out the [link here](#).



Recess Appropriate Clothing

Now that we are in the throes of winter, we want to remind you of our policies for outdoor recess. We strive to get outdoors as many days as possible. We will hold outdoor recess as long as the “feels like” temperature is 20 degrees or higher. We encourage the students to play in the snow, but we require them to wear boots and snow pants. If a student does not have their winter gear with them they will have to stay on the blacktop during recess.

Please, please, please try to label all of your student's belongings.

We have a lost and found already full of coats, sweatshirts, hats and gloves and it only increases during the winter months.

If you are unable to provide your child with appropriate winter gear, please let Mrs.Caulfield know and we will get you some.



Please join us for Wheelock's next PTO Meeting on Friday, January 17th

****Please note that the time has been changed from 9:15 to 8:45 am****

We hope to see you there!



Take a Look at What's to Come in 2025:

- 3rd Grade Variety Show
- Irish Step Dance Performance
- Ice Cream Social
- Kindness Rocks
- Community Day
- 3rd Grade Glow Party



Ongoing Minted Fundraiser

Minted is continuing to partner with Wheelock past the holiday season. Lucky us! You will receive 20% off of your order and Minted will donate 15% to Wheelock PTO! Be sure to share this great fundraiser with friends and family. Anyone can utilize this promo code for a discount and more money goes back to our kids and teachers!

When ordering, be sure to use the promo code **FUNDRAISEWHEELock** at checkout.

❄️ Happy Shopping ❄️

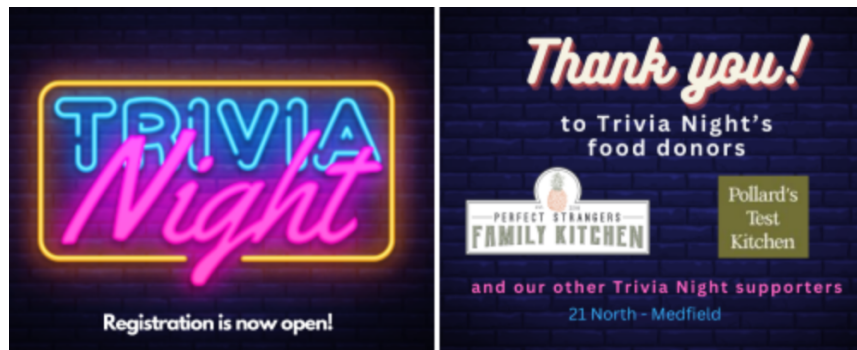
Click [here](#) for more information.



Recess Duty! Can You Help?

Attached is the [Recess duty sign-up](#). This is such a fun way to see what your kids are up to during their recess breaks! Slots are open to volunteer through December. Please ensure that you have a valid Cori on file to volunteer for recess duty (see below). Thank you!

Finally, please be on the lookout for all that is to come this year through weekly PTO communications here in the Newsflash, through emails and on class pages on Facebook. Have a great weekend!



 **Trivia Night registration is now open on the [MCPE website!](#)**

This popular MCPE event will take place Thursday January 30th at the American Legion in Dover, from 7:30-9:30pm with doors opening at 7pm. Tickets are \$50/person , for teams of 4 to 6 members. Have your team members and team name handy to sign up! Space is limited so make sure to [register soon!](#)



Interested in Volunteering in the Library?

Please [see here](#) to find your child's classroom teacher and sign up!



Grade 3 Video

It's TIME.....

To start adding your pictures and videos for the third grade video! This video will document your third grader's journey this year, but we need your help to do it. Please submit any photos/videos from your child's first day, first school year activities, sports events, time with friends, etc. THINK: anything to document the start of the school year. Group and individual photos welcome. Please email your contributions to thirdgradevideo@gmail.com. Be on the lookout for more requests throughout the year. Thank you!



Math Enrichment Program for Wheelock!

Math Challenge is designed to give elementary students opportunities to sharpen their mathematical problem-solving skills at home. There will be sets of challenges posted every other week throughout the school year.

Throughout the challenges, the program covers problem solving strategies such as drawing a picture or model, making an organized list, looking for a pattern, working backward, and guessing and checking.

Here is how to participate:

1. Go to our school's Math Challenge page at <https://www.mathinaction.org/wheelock.html> . Print out the current Math Challenge.
2. Solve as many problems as you can. We encourage you to discuss strategies and solutions with your parents and siblings.
3. Submit your solutions by the due date. Bring your solution to Mrs. Marci Murphy or Ms. Simonds or pass it on to your teacher.

The program is completely free and no sign-up is necessary. This is a great opportunity for families to be involved and enjoy math through fun and engaging math problems. We encourage parents and siblings to get involved in discussing and solving them.



*****SPECIALIST SPOTLIGHT*****

Music!

Greetings from the music room! December was a fun-filled month in which both 2nd and 3rd graders experienced Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* through listening, instrument playing, and movement activities. One musical highlight was getting to hear the high school band, chorus and orchestra students perform some festive tunes for us the day before school vacation. We had fun surprising the high school musicians and teachers with a school-wide performance of our December warm-up song "Knock No More."

January is already off to a great start! Our warm-up song this month is a song called "Bim Bum," which is a challenging song that uses body percussion. Our goal is to increase our tempo throughout the month.

2nd graders have started our Instrument Families unit, in which students will learn all about the instruments of the orchestra and how they are categorized. We also started our folk dancing unit which is great for practicing our steady beat skills and really requires the class to carefully follow directions and work as a team. Ask your student about our first dance, "Seven Jumps."

3rd graders are thrilled that the time has finally come to start playing recorders! Students will leave their recorders at school for 2-3 weeks and then they will be coming home when they can demonstrate good hand position and tone production. Once they come home, please make sure that your student comes prepared with their recorder for each music class. I recommend that students keep their recorders in their backpacks at all times so that it doesn't get lost at home or forgotten.

[Here is a link to a song](#) I created to help students remember some helpful recorder hints!

We would love for you to follow [@mrstowermusic](#) on Instagram so that you can see and hear all the cool things happening in the music room. Wishing all Wheelock students and families a happy, healthy, and productive January!

Jen Tower
Music Teacher
Wheelock School
[Wheelock Music Website](#)





Wheelock's Lunch Menu

Due to a federal funding grant from the USDA, all breakfasts and lunches served are free of charge for the 2024-2025 school year.

Wheelock's lunch menu is updated and complete for [January](#) (subject to change).



2024-2025 MPS School Calendar

Be sure to take a few minutes to check out the school calendar for conference dates, holidays, early release dates, etc. You may find it [here](#).



Interested in Knowing What's Going On In Our Community?

Check [here](#) for our Community Notices and for information about MPS's website flier posting Process.



Take Note! Valid Cori forms Required to Volunteer

Please take note that you must have a [valid Cori on file](#) to volunteer at Wheelock School. Wheelock offers many wonderful opportunities so don't miss out! If you are unsure if your Cori is valid please contact the office. All Cori's must be brought directly to the office so that we may take a copy of your license or passport (this must be done in person). We will then send it to Human Resources for processing.

Please allow one week of processing time.

Cori forms are valid for three years across all Medfield public schools.



1/23/25 Update from Nurse

Keigan

If You are Ill . . .

With the onset of winter, there has been an increase in illnesses, such as colds, influenza, strep throat, pneumonia, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), COVID, as well as norovirus (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) throughout the state. In order to keep our school environment healthy and minimize the spread of viruses, please keep your child(ren) home from school if they are not feeling well and contact their health care provider if needed.

If your child tests positive for and/or has been diagnosed with COVID, influenza, strep throat, RSV, or pneumonia, please be sure to let us know in the school health office. In addition, please let us know if your child is home sick with a fever, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

Your child may return to school when they feel well enough to be in school for full day days AND

- After being fever-free for 24 hours without any fever/pain-reducing medication;
- After they have resumed eating normally and have not had any recurrence of vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours if they have had a gastrointestinal virus (norovirus);
- After they have been on an antibiotic for 24 hours if they have tested positive for strep

throat or another type of bacterial infection.

Please reach out at 508-242-8577 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Aimie Keigan BSN,RN

Wheelock School Nurse

akeigan@email.medfield.net 508-242-8577