

# Newton Nation Quarterly

Ulis Newton Elementary School  
571 Greenway Rd.  
Henderson, NV 89074  
702-799-0500  
www.ulisnewton.com

Ms. Jorie DiCamillo Principal  
Mr. Shelby Jones, Asst. Principal  
Diana McCoy, Office Manager  
Debbie Kohley, School Clerk  
Peggy Roblin, School Aide

Fall 2019

**MISSION-** Our mission at Newton Elementary School is to foster an environment, consisting of students, parents, staff, and community, who will work cooperatively to create a positive, goal-oriented atmosphere that results in students reaching their full potential as lifelong learners.



## A Message from Ms. DiCamillo

Dear Newton Community,

We are having parent teacher conferences the evening of November 14th. Please make sure to schedule a time to talk to your child's teacher. The conference can take place via telephone, if needed. During the conference, teachers will share an overview of beginning of year assessments, where your child is performing now, and the academic goals your child is working toward. Our goal is to hold a conference with the family of every student. We appreciate your ongoing support of your child's educational progress and look forward to meeting with you.

Newton Elementary is proud to be part of OneHill. OneHill is a community of Teachers, Parents, Students and Schools, committed to coming together to bring unity, foster values, and shape the future. The overall vision is to create unity / values for parents, teachers and students that impacts our **community**, demonstrates **care** and pursues a **cause**.

Please complete the survey about our school for CCSD. We are hoping to continue our growth of parents feeling engaged with the school community, being happy with our school, and believing our school is safe. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to submit their Districtwide Parent Survey online, using a computer, laptop, or other mobile device. The survey will be available at <https://ccsd.net/survey>.

**Please start using the infinite campus parent portal to check classroom assignments, missing work, and attendance. We will discontinue sending paper progress reports in January. Add the campus parent app.**

Please link into our wonderful Newton PTA on our website and Facebook. Our school is amazing because of the wonderful families and volunteers here.

If you have had a wonderful experience at Newton Elementary School, please tell everyone, if not, set up a meeting with me.

Connected. Caring. Committed.

## Upcoming Events:

**Nov 8th**  
DiCamillo Donut Awards  
(Accepting Classroom Award)

**Nov 11th and Nov 15th**  
No School

**Nov 14th**  
Evening Conferences

**Nov 18th**  
SOT Meeting @ 3:30

**Nov 25th-29th**  
National Family Week  
No School

**Dec 5th**  
Book Fair Begins

**Dec 9th**  
Story and Surprise

**Dec 10th**  
Licorice and Laugh  
(Oct/ Nov perfect attendance)

**Dec 13th**  
DiCamillo Donut Awards  
(Responsible Classroom Award)

**Dec 12th**  
Math Masters  
Problem of the Month

**Dec 25th-Jan 6th**  
Winter Break- No School

**Jan 9th**  
Report Cards Sent Home

**Jan 28th**  
Lemonade Day

The safety and protection of students is very important to us here at Newton Elementary. Please remember that adult supervision is provided from 8:50a.m. until the bell rings at 9:05 a.m. **STUDENTS ARE NOT TO ARRIVE AT SCHOOL BEFORE 8:50 a.m.** unless they are enrolled in Safe-key.

# Counselor's Corner- Ms. Bitar

## A checklist of Responsibilities Promotes Independence

Whether it's keeping track of textbooks or remembering to turn in homework, responsible behavior is a must for school success. And the best way to teach your child responsibility is to give her responsibilities. Today is the perfect time to sit down with your child and decide on a few tasks she's ready to handle on her own. Then make a checklist of everything you expect her to do. Agree on small rewards for a job well done, and consequences for times your child shirks responsibility.

Here is a starter checklist of responsibilities you can adapt:

- Going to bed on time.
- Getting up on time.
- Fixing breakfast.
- Selecting an outfit.
- Packing lunch.
- Completing homework.
- Returning signed forms.
- Maintaining grades.
- Getting along with siblings.
- Keeping room clean.
- Completing assigned chores.
- Reading at least 15 minutes a day.
- Taking care of personal hygiene.
- Feeding/caring for pets.



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In order to become a better steward of our resources we will be emailing many papers home and utilizing our Website, Facebook and Twitter this year? Please bookmark our website at [www.ulisnewton.com](http://www.ulisnewton.com). Update your email on Infinite Campus or stop by the office as we don't want you to miss important information.

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## Health Office Memo

The tips and resources below will help you learn about steps you can take to protect yourself and others from flu and help stop the spread of germs. **Avoid close contact.** Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too. **Stay home when you are sick.** If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others. **Cover your mouth and nose.** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Flu and other serious respiratory illnesses, like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), whooping cough, and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), are spread by cough, sneezing, or unclean hands. **Clean your hands.** Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.



## FROM THE DESK OF MS. GRIJALVA:

Our 3rd grade GATE students are taking on the role of engineers as they plan, create, evaluate and test their paper roller coasters. After studying Newton's Laws of Motion, students are also analyzing how to best manipulate the forces of friction and gravity. Fourth grade GATE students have been using the Engineering Design Process to build robots and program them to complete challenges. In addition, students are exploring how robots are used in our real-world. Their final challenges will be "The Green City Challenge," which will allow students to apply and adapt all their programming and problem-solving skills by making their robots solve challenges related to renewable energy. Fifth grade GATE students just completed their stop motion animations that teach others about positive character traits. They will now begin a LEGO EV3 Robotics unit!

# News from the Grade Levels

## **Kindergarten**

Thank you for signing up for your Parent Teacher Conferences. We are looking forward to discussing your child's progress with you. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so as soon as possible, as they are required for all families. We are coming close to finishing teaching all of the letters of the alphabet. If your child is struggling please work on letters and sounds at home with them. You can make flash cards, draw them in the sand at the park or use magnetic letters. This is the foundation of students being able to read and write independently. In math we are working on counting objects. There are many strategies to complete this concept. You can practice at home by having your child count things around the house or items on their plate while eating. Thank you for your continued support in your child's education. It is a team effort and we could not do it without you! Kindergarten Team

## **First Grade**

Dear families, we have a busy winter season planned as we move into working with long vowels and focusing on comprehension strategies within our Reach for Reading curriculum with the themes growing and changing and creature features. We encourage you to read nightly and ask your child who are the characters, what is the setting (when and where), and have them tell you about the plot in order from the beginning to the end. When reading nonfiction, have your child tell you what the book is about and details from the text that support their main idea. Keep practicing sight words nightly. We are writing pieces that include an opening, transition words, details, and a closing. Students can practice writing stories at home with complete sentences that follow this organization. In math, we are working on adding and subtracting larger numbers and understanding place value. Students can work on math facts at home using drawings, the counting-on strategy, counting their fingers, or another strategy such as making a 10 or using doubles facts. Thank you for all you do. We appreciate your support at home and your generosity in donating to our classrooms!

## **Second Grade**

In second grade, we have begun our new National Geographic's Reach for Reading unit on water. Students will learn about the water cycle, how water is used, and why it is important to survival. Our objective is to learn how things follow a cycle or sequence. You can help your child with this by having them repeat the steps (in sequence) for the things they do at home. Some ideas might be following a recipe, doing a science experiment, or simply writing about their morning routine. We are starting Mission 4 in math this week, where students will dive into decomposing and composing in addition and subtraction for numbers up to 200. Please have your students continue math fact practice at home to develop fact fluency. As a reminder, students should be reading 20 minutes each night, and recording their reading on Apple Core bookmarks. These bookmarks are to be returned to school, and become evidence of homework turned in.

## **Third Grade**

Third grade has moved onto Mission 3 in our math program! We are diving deeper into understanding the meaning of multiplication and division strategies using 6's, 7's, 8's and 9's. Our Zearn party to celebrate student's completion of Missions 1-3 will be on December 12th. In reading, we are ending our unit of study on ecosystems and plants. We hope all the third graders enjoyed discovering the characteristics that make plants so amazing. Our next reading unit will help us understand how a community can work together to help others. Get ready for an exciting new at home project where students will create an invention that could help others. The idea for this project is inspired by the TV show Shark Tank in which hopeful entrepreneurs (your child) will try to sell or "pitch" inventions to a panel of judges. Be on the look out for more information in the coming weeks.

## **Fourth Grade**

Divisors, dividends and quotients are what 4th grade is exploring in math. We are very excited to start learning about the amazing state of Nevada.

In reading we have been working hard on context clues and Greek mythology with our novel. We have also incorporated setting, character traits and building overall comprehension and vocabulary. We finished informative writing and now started persuasive writing.

## **Fifth Grade**

Fifth graders are working through Zearn and Reach for Reading at a rapid pace! We have also been studying ecosystems, developing business plans, and completing Lexia. Please be sure that students are reading each night for 30 minutes, practicing their spelling words and math facts, and completing all assigned math problems. We would like to see an increase in students taking AR tests each week. Students should be at 25% of their goal for the year. We will share this information in detail at conferences. The teachers are excited for conferences and will meet with you as a teaching team to address your child's strengths and needs. Please be sure you've signed up for your conference! Our Pali group is working on fundraising by selling Smencils and Newton Nation decals – and there is an upcoming Nothing Bundt Cakes fundraiser also. Please contribute by making a purchase! We appreciate all you do to make our partnership in education successful!

# Highlights from our Talented Specialists

## Art

Thank you Parents, Students and Faculty for your continued support as we have launched off our Art Fundraiser. This is a great opportunity to preserve your child's art and financially support our art program. In October students integrated their reading, writing, speaking and art skills as they perform chalk talks and wrote stories with art depicting characters, problems and solutions. We learned about the Day of the Dead, painted by mixing colors, and have now started our weaving projects. I am continually amazed at the growth and talent the students of Newton present in art each week. Thank you for encouraging them to use their art talents at home and in public!

## Physical Education

Fall is such a special time of the year!! The cooler weather provides our families with more opportunities to get outdoors and participate in recreational sports, going out for a family walk, bicycle riding, hiking, or playing in the park. Get outside and enjoy this beautiful time of year!!! Students in P.E. have been enjoying the weather outdoors and participating in a variety of games and activities. We recently finished up with our FitnessGram physical fitness assessments. Newton students will also be participating in the World Speed Stack Guinness World Records Day, by joining students from all over the world to set the goal of 695,000 stackers on the same day. Please encourage your children to participate in our morning J.A.W.S. program!! Studies show that students who are active in the morning by walking to school, riding a bike or running in JAWS are better learners and are more productive throughout the day!

## Technology

In technology, we just finished a unit on Digital Citizenship. Ask your child what it means to be a digital citizen. We are now focusing on word processing skills. The library is open every morning before school starts. Students may come in at 8:50 a.m. to work on Zearn, Lexia, Ar or return and renew books. Please continue to encourage your child to read every night. By now, every student should have turned in at least one Apple Core bookmark. The fall book fair will be here Thursday, December 5th through Friday, December 13th. It will be open during Dads and Donuts on Friday, December 6th. More information will be sent out as it gets closer to the book fair.

## Music

Music classes are going wonderfully this year. We are continuing to work on theory in the primary classes and recorder in the intermediate classes. A note for those students in choir, recorder club, or steel drums. Our concert will be Thursday November 21<sup>st</sup> in the multipurpose room. This concert will be happening with PTA's ornament night. Students are asked to arrive at 4:45 pm and dress in holiday attire. More information will be coming next week.

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## LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

We care about our Newton Community. Please let us know how we're doing. If you have a comment, praise, concern, or issue you would like to have addressed either in person or in a newsletter, please take a few moments to write it down. Return this form or a separate note to the school office and we'll be happy to respond.

Child's Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like a personal response.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not require a personal response.