

Newton Nation Quarterly

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Winter 2018

VISION- Newton is a place where ALL members are
Connected through **Caring** interactions and **Committed** to
High Achievement.



A Message from Ms. DiCamillo

On behalf of the entire staff at Newton, I want to wish you all a Happy New Year. I hope that your holiday break was great and that you were able to take advantage of the time by spending it together as a family.

With the New Year, it is only natural to do some reflection and come up with some resolutions that will tackle things that we want to change about ourselves or our mindset in 2018. A growth mindset sees talent, learning, and potential as unlimited. Through challenge and struggle, individuals with a growth mindset believe that they can learn new things, develop talent and skills, and change. On the other hand, there are individuals out there with "fixed mindsets". These individuals believe that talent, intellect, and potential are fixed and pre-determined. You either have it or you don't. It either comes easy to you and you understand because you are smart or you don't get it and maybe never will. When individuals with a fixed mindset run into something that is hard, they give up. Growth mindset individuals react to challenge with excitement, seeing it as an opportunity to learn new things.

As a parent, wife, teacher, and administrator, I find the work that is being done on mindsets fascinating. I see it as a lever to make significant changes in my life and the lives of those that I work with each day. Over the break I was reading a book called "Mindsets in the Classroom" for our staff wide book study. I would highly recommend all growth mindset articles/books to any parent out there interested in unlocking your child's potential through changing their mindset. Here is one quote that I underlined:

"Parents should not shield their children from challenges, mistakes, and struggles. Instead, parents should teach children to love challenges. They can say things like 'This is hard. What fun!' or 'This is too easy, It's no fun.' They should teach their children to embrace mistakes...and they should teach them to love effort: 'That was a fantastic struggle. You really stuck to it and made great progress' or 'This will take a lot of effort—boy, will it be fun.'" (Mindsets in the classroom, pg. 165)

I am excited about learning and I love helping staff, parents, and students learn and develop. I love what I do and I want to thank you for helping us at home as you support your student's learning. Ask your child's teacher, if you would like to learn more about mindsets.

Upcoming Events:

Jan 17th
DiCamillo Donut Awards
(Responsible Classroom Award)

Jan 22th
100 Day Dress Up

Jan 26th
Jump Rope for Heart Assembly

Feb 1st
Positive Praise Day
Breakfast Bookroom
PTA Meeting/ Parent Meeting

Feb 2nd
Licorice and Laughs
(Perfect Attendance Dec/Jan)

Feb 7th
DiCamillo Donut Awards
(Thoughtful Classroom Award)

Feb 15th- Feb 19th
Extended Weekend— No School

Feb 26th— March 2nd
Nevada Reading Week
Career Week

March 1st
Positive Praise Day
Breakfast Bookroom
PTA Meeting/ Parent Meeting

March 2nd
Classroom Photos

March 9th
2nd Annual Newton Picnic

Good attendance

is vital for school success!
Please ensure your child is
here everyday. Students
are marked as having
chronic absenteeism from
the state when they have
excessive absences. ALL
absences whether they are
excused or unexcused
count against your child's
attendance percentage.

Counselor's Corner-Ms. Dupuis

Be Kind...

Newton Elementary is joining forces with Josh Steven's Foundation again this year to recognize and promote acts of kindness. We want our students to know we really do appreciate their kind actions, and don't want them to go unnoticed. Starting November 7, students who are "caught" being kind by a peer or staff member will be acknowledged with a Kindness Note. Every Thursday, two exceptional heartfelt acts will be announced and the winners will receive a Be Kind shirt or other special prize. We hope to instill positive habits in the students at Newton that will make our school a more compassionate place and develop behaviors that will last a lifetime.



Be Kind shirts will be available for purchase during the week of conferences. Stop by the front office to purchase a shirt. The shirts are \$12 and students are encouraged to wear them every Thursday.

OUR SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS- Our resource programs are working on decoding and comprehension skills, as well as math composition skills. Additionally, we are establishing positive work and study habits. In our Primary and Intermediate Autism programs we are continuing to develop social and communication skills and school safety routines. The Foundations in Life skills class is working diligently on increasing independence and communication skills. In PreK, we are working on identifying letters of their name in order and in environmental print. Play a game of "I Spy" with the letters of your child's name when you're reading a book or when you're out and about!



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

Health Office Memo

The single best way to protect your children from the flu is to get them vaccinated each year.



Seasonal outbreaks can happen as early as October, most of the time influenza activity peaks between December and February. The seasonal flu vaccine protects against the influenza viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming season. Traditional flu vaccines (called "trivalent" vaccines) are made to protect against three flu viruses; an influenza A (H1N1) virus, an influenza A (H3N2) virus, and an influenza B virus. In addition, there are flu vaccines made to protect against four flu viruses (called "quadrivalent" vaccines). These vaccines protect against the same three viruses as the trivalent vaccine and an additional B virus.

News from the Grade Levels

Kindergarten

We have had some exciting things happening in kindergarten. For Halloween we did rotations in our room where we graphed candy, wrote about Halloween, made a candy corn person and a spider. We have been learning about spiders, weather, pumpkins, and Thanksgiving. Students have been introduced to all letters of the alphabet. Please continue to work with your student if they are struggling with this. We look forward to conferences where we can discuss your student's academic and behavior in school. December will be filled with fun Polar Express activities. Watch for various projects coming home.

First Grade

In October, our grade level was so excited to celebrate Pumpkin Day! Our students were able to rotate through all First grade classrooms as they engaged in a variety of pumpkin activities! We made pumpkin muffins, pumpkin fluff, conducted a sink or float experiment, created graphs, documented circumference and height of pumpkins and more! It was a fun, learning filled day for all involved! We look forward to creating Stone Soup in November and studying Holidays Around the World in December! We thank all our parents for sending in items and volunteering to make these special days possible! We appreciate each and every one of you! Please make sure your child reads every night! Remember that your child can go onto Lexia Reading and Prodigy math games from home! Thank you families for working with your students! Together, we are making this a wonderful year!

Second Grade

We look forward to meeting our families during Parent/Teacher/Student conferences. The second grade has been working hard on our reading strategies and applying them to the books that we read. We are focusing on writing complete sentences and adding descriptive words. In math we are working on mastering our math facts and understanding the value of numbers. Please continue to read nightly and sign your child's Apple Core. We earn \$7000 if our school has the most Apple Core bookmarks turned in at the end of the year. If you have not yet discussed the Bullying Contract with your child please do so and return the signed paperwork. Thank you for an amazing first quarter of the school year. Here's looking forward to our continued success.

Third Grade

In the upcoming months we are planning two field trips. In November, we will be attending the Money Tree at the Smith Center. In December, we are hoping to visit the Wetlands Park. This is the time of year when we begin reading the novel, Sarah, Plain and Tall. We will talk about how the weather plays a part in our setting. In math we are studying the commutative and distributive property in multiplication. We are using arrays to help us. We finished up our pumpkin character trait projects. They were awesome. Thank you for supporting us with all the supplies

Fourth Grade

Hello families! We have had a busy start to the school year filled with much learning. In math, we have been working on solving multi-digit multiplication equations using place value strategies. Students do not learn the traditional algorithm until 5th grade. We are building a strong conceptual understanding of how multiplication works. You can support your child at home by having them practice their math facts so they can efficiently and accurately solve problems. In the upcoming months, we will be solving multi-step word problems following the order of operations and beginning geometry. In reading, the students have been working on point of view and how it is important to know how the narrator is writing. They have also been working on inferencing and the importance of not adding anything to the story that the text does not already provide. Students should continue reading daily. We are finishing up our life science and environments unit in science. In social studies, students are learning about Nevada's history and symbols

Fifth Grade

"Your deeds are your monuments." That's our favorite precept from the book we are currently reading. We are finishing up the novel, *Wonder*. We have been working on finding evidence to support our opinions, inferences, and ideas; analyzing and comparing characters along with their point of view; studying new words from the text; and stopping to discuss and understand the wealth of figurative language in the book. On November 17th, 5th grade will be walking to the Cinedome to see the movie on opening day!

In math, we are continuing to work with place value and number sense, We have also moved into dividing by 2-digits using strategies such as the distributive property, area model, and partial quotient. This fall we have been busy writing true stories about our lives and just celebrated the end of our personal narrative unit by making handmade paper book covers and reading to grades K-3. The stories turned out way beyond what Ms. Scaccia could have ever imagined! We also paired up with third grade to help them edit their narratives.

Highlights from our Talented Specialists

Art

Be sure to come to the PTA Fall Fundraiser where you can purchase art made by Newton's children. You will be able to select from dream catchers, quilts, vases and Anime. In October all students developed their talents as Chalk Talk Artists. This ancient form of communication has been shared in all cultures throughout time. Students used the technique of collage as they made cards for our soldiers overseas. In November students will be learning about world famous artist Frank Lloyd Wright as they begin their units on architecture

Library

During the next few months, students in the intermediate grades will continue to learn how to be more proficient with the Chrome books. They are using them weekly to access the computer catalog as well as complete assignments in google classroom. Please encourage them to memorize their username so they can quickly log into their chrome books each time they come to library. Students in second grade will be learning how to use the computers to access the card catalog independently so they can find books that are at their level. Students in kindergarten and first grade will be listening and comparing stories from other cultures. Our annual fall book fair will be November 29th-December 8th. It will be open before, during and after school. Be sure to mark your calendar and I look forward to seeing you there.

Music

In music class students will continue working on singing, dancing, and instrument playing. 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will continue working on playing the recorder. Thank you to all those who came to choir it was a great success. Continue bringing in box tops for the music department as well as the courtyard garden.

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 Frisbee skills in the 3rd grade. 4th & 5th graders have been learning Tinikling (a Filipino dance), with Jump Bands. Kindergarten will be playing large group games, while 1st and 2nd graders are finishing up with the Fitness Gram 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 635,000 stackers on the same day. Any parents or family members that are interested in participating in our Morning J.A.W.S. program, are welcome to join us Monday through Friday from 8:50 to 9:05 a.m. out on the P.E. Field with our students who are running in the morning.

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.