

Newton Nation Quarterly

Ulis Newton Elementary School
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Ms. Jorie DiCamillo Principal
Mr. Shelby Jones, Asst. Principal
Ms. Diana McCoy, Office Manager

January 2021

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

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 create resolutions that we want to change about ourselves or our mindset in 2021.

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 people 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 and neuroplasticity 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. 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.

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.

As we move into 2021, I look forward to the many changes that will come and am appreciative of the growth that we all have experienced over the last year. Thank you for everything that you have done in 2020 and we look forward to partnering again with you this semester.

Upcoming Events:

Jan. 18th
MLK Day
School Closed

Jan. 27th
Packet Pick up

Feb. 10th
No School

Feb. 15th
President's Day
School Closed

Feb. 17th
Packet Pick up

March 1st
Career Week

March 29th-April 5th
Spring Break
No School for Students

How can we assist you?

Our Office is open.
Email us below:

Diana McCoy,
Office Manager
mccoydl@nv.ccsd.net

Debra Kohley,
Registrar
kohleda@nv.ccsd.net

Peggy Roblin,
Office Aide
roblip@nv.ccsd.net



Counselor's Corner- Ms. Bitar

Hello!

This week I am teaching our students that we often feel many feelings at once. For example, we may feel happy to learn new lessons but sad that we are doing so virtually. We may feel shy and confident when answering a question posed by our teacher. I will be working with students to encourage self-regulation this semester. This awareness helps students recognize and manage their emotions. Parents are powerful role models. Students benefit by seeing parents practicing gratitude, kindness and accepting imperfection. Children learn that it is okay to make mistakes and to look for opportunities to practice gratitude and kindness in their own lives. If your child says negative things about themselves, encourage self-kindness by asking them what they would say to a friend in the same situation. Try creating a gratitude list together to give you and your child a fresh perspective and focus. We will be celebrating Peace Week January 18th. Look for more details coming home soon!

Take care, Katie Bitar
Newton Elementary School Counselor
702-799-0500 Ext. 4301
bitarkl@nv.ccsd.net



Health Office Memo

"The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of both physical and mental wellness for everyone in our community, including for our students. Students have experienced a great deal of change in their daily routines due to the pandemic and school closures. Research shows the importance of daily routines that provide physical activity opportunities and regulated sleep schedules. It can be helpful to set specific times for these activities daily and develop a routine with your students.



The CDC recommends that all children aged 5 to 17 years old participate in 1 hour of moderate to vigorous physical activity each day, with an emphasis on aerobic activities such as walking, running, or biking, and that all children 3 to 5 years old participate in 3 hours of physical activity daily, through activities spread over the course of the day.

The following are some great resources to help increase your students' activity levels at home:

<https://www.gonoodle.com/>

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Getting-Children-and-Teens-Outside-While-Social-Distancing.aspx>

<https://openphysed.org/activeschools/activehome>

As always, if your student is symptomatic for COVID-19 or has had an exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual, you can contact the school nurse for assistance in scheduling testing or with questions. Please also contact the school nurse if you have concerns with your student's vision or hearing or would like to hear about what resources are available.

Mrs. Gasque, RN, Newton Elementary School Nurse (Gasque@nv.ccsd.net (702) 799-0500 ex. 4020),

Mrs. Zemska, Newton Elementary FASA (Zemska@nv.ccsd.net (702) 799-0500 ex. 4022)"

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GATE

Happy New Year! This semester our GATE classes will begin our Bridge Building unit. Students will explore how forces act on bridges, and how different types of bridges are designed and constructed. All students will design their own bridge that meets given specifications, and construct it out of only wood and glue! Fifth grade GATE students will take their bridges to the UNLV Bridge Building Competition in late February. Bridges will be evaluated and tested to determine their efficiency. Be on the lookout - both UNLV and Newton's 3rd-5th grade Bridge Building results will be sent home as soon as all results are finalized!

Mrs. Grijalva, GATE Teacher

News from the Grade Levels

Kindergarten

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to a great second half of kindergarten with you and your student. We are continuing to work on blends and adding new sight words weekly. It is important that your student is practicing sight words daily as this will help them learn to read and write sentences. Sentence writing is also very important during this time of the year. Students should be able to write a complete sentence starting with a capital letter, space between words, sight words spelled correctly, and ending punctuation. Please encourage your student to practice this daily. In math we are continuing addition and subtraction along with measurement. We will provide many different strategies to help them with these concepts. As we progress toward the end of the year, it is important that we start to allow students to complete all of their work on their own as much as possible. Our goal is to help build independent workers to help prepare them for first grade. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to your student's teacher. Thank you, Kindergarten Team

First Grade

Hello families! We did it! We finished semester one. Great work! It is now time to focus and work just as hard putting forth effort to complete the daily requirements such as 20 minutes of Lexia, 1 Zearn lesson a day, take weekly AR tests, and complete all assignments daily. These requirements are meant to help your child get the sufficient practice needed to learn as much as they can so they are ready for 2nd grade in only 4 months. Can you believe the year is almost over? The goal for the end of the year is for students to be able to read a 1st grade passage at 62 words per minute. Students can reach this goal by reading daily and by practicing their sight word booklets. Students can also practice writing by writing in a journal. Make sure to have an opening sentence to introduce the topic, 3 details that begin with transition words such as first, next, and last, and end the story with a closing sentence that sums up the story or tells a thought or opinion. And don't forget math! Students can practice their addition and subtraction facts with sums of 10 to become fluent. Practice strengthens those neural connections in the brain so remember, students must practice, practice, practice to make that learning stick! We've said it before, but it is just as true now as it was then, thank you, we couldn't do this without your support! We look forward to learning about our spinning sky and animals as we hone in on those reading, writing, and math skills this quarter.

Second Grade

Happy New Years families! In second grade, we have been working hard this past semester. In math, we are focusing on showing work to solve our problems. This is especially important as we will be moving into addition and subtraction within 1000 with Mission 5. As we begin Mission 5, please remind students that it is imperative that they keep up on Zearn digital assignments by completing a minimum of 4 per week. In writing, we have focused hard on topic sentences, details and closing sentences. We are beginning to work on writing Narrative pieces now. Students will be writing stories and making them better by adding adjectives and adverbs which they have been working on as well. In reading, we will be moving into our Better Together unit in Reach for Reading. We will be learning about friendship, cooperation, and how things are accomplished as we work together. Please encourage students to continue doing their Lexia everyday as this will help them become better readers. Students should also be taking a minimum of two AR quizzes weekly as well. We are looking forward to learning many new and exciting things in semester 2!

Third Grade

Welcome back to 2021! Hopefully your family is healthy and ready to finish out the year strong. We are reading a novel about the Children's Blizzard of 1888 and then comparing it to another account of the event. We are working on writing 5 paragraph opinion essays. Please have your child complete the four required Zearn lessons per week so they will be on track to finish third grade math standards. Your child should have reached 50% of their AR reading goal by now. You can have your child login and show you their percentage. Please continue to have them read daily for 30 minutes and complete their required Lexia minutes. Lexia strengthens their reading ability.

To reach your child's individual abilities in math they should be completing 30 minutes of MAP Accelerator per week.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to continuing our partnership with you in regards to your child's education.

Fourth Grade

Hello families! We have had a busy first semester of the school year with distance education filled with much learning. In math, we have been working on solving multi-digit multiplication and division equations using place value strategies. We are building a strong conceptual understanding of how multiplication and division works. You can support your child at home by having them practice their math facts on Xtra Math daily, so they can efficiently and accurately solve problems. In the upcoming months, we will be drawing lines and angles, following with fractions, 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 for 30 minutes. We finished up our earth science unit in science, and learned a few of the major body systems. We will be starting our life science and environments unit. Additionally, in social studies students are learning about Nevada's history and symbols.

Fifth Grade

Happy New Year from the fifth grade team! This semester, we are working to prepare our students for middle school. Students should be working more independently during this time. Please try to attend all class meetings possible, ask questions when you have them, and complete your assignments as they are assigned. We will be working on the following skills: multiplying and dividing fractions, writing essays, figurative language, and several interesting science topics. S

tudents can also look forward to completing some long-term projects this semester. Please remember to read each day!

Highlights from our Talented Specialists

Art

Albert Einstein once said "Creativity is contagious, pass it on." Thank you for providing your children with the opportunity to develop their creativity by participating in art. They have the opportunity to learn new techniques and develop creativity each week. Thank you for providing your children with crayons, paints, clay and other art tools as Christmas gifts this year. They have been excited to show me all of them. I would like to announce the winners of the Yearbook Cover Art contest. The first place winner will have her art displayed on the front cover of the yearbook. All other winners will have their art displayed on the back cover of the yearbook and also receive a free yearbook. Congratulations to:

1st place winner Agnes Malwane - Honorable mention goes to each of the following grade level winners:

5th grade winner Victoria Hamilton - 4th grade winner Ariyah Johnson - 3rd grade winner June Willis

2nd grade winner Zane Urich - Remember, you miss 100% of all shots not taken. Thank you to all students who participated in the contest. You are also winners because you tried!

Library

In technology, we are starting a unit on Digital Citizenship. We will be discussing what it means to be a digital citizen and the importance of staying safe while on the internet. Over the next few weeks, ask your child what it means to be a digital citizen and what they should do if something on the internet makes them feel scared, confused or uncomfortable.

Nevada Reading Week is March 1-5th. The theme is Change Your World-Read! We will be doing a variety of activities throughout the week. More information about the week's activities will be sent home as we get closer to the date.

Something else to look forward to is the Spring Book Fair. It will be held March 18th-26th.

Music

Hello Newton Navigators, and welcome back to music for 2021. We had a great start to the year and will continue working on melody, rhythm, form, harmony, and expressive qualities throughout the remainder of the school year. 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade make sure to bring your recorders to music class every week. Some of you may have received musical instruments during break and are at a loss for where to start. During this crazy time taking lessons online can be an inexpensive way to learn your new instrument. You can even find videos online for free. Looking forward to another great year in music.

Physical Education

Happy New Year 2021!! As we continue with distance learning this winter, I encourage all of you to keep active by participating in P.E. activities online! This month, students enrolled in the Greater Youth Sports Association's Soccer Ball and a Plan program will begin their online lessons on January 11th!

If you did not register for the Soccer program, the Football registration begins on January 25th and Football lessons will begin on February 22nd. I will provide you with information on how you can register your child in this program in the upcoming weeks. The program is only \$5.00 per child, and each student registered will receive their own football and a plan! Basketball registration will begin in February and the Basketball program will begin in March.

We are tentatively planning on continuing our efforts to fight heart disease and stroke by participating in the Kids Heart challenge, (formerly known as Jump Rope for Heart) in February.

This will look different this year, as all activities will be online! Stay tuned for more information!!

As always, I hope you all are staying safe, healthy, and remain physically active and positive as we all navigate our way through these difficult times!!

Ms. Cyndi Eagleson, P.E. Instructor

Ms. Danielle Perez, P.E. Instructional Assistant

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.