

Telephone
508-835-4461

Fax
508-835-4119



Alex Audette
Principal

Michelle Anzelmo
Assistant Principal

Major Victor E. Edwards Elementary School
70 Crescent Street
West Boylston, MA 01583

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) requires all schools to perform mandated health screenings. These screenings will be done during the school day requiring your child(ren) to be pulled from class for a short period of time.

All parents and Guardians have the right to opt their child(ren) out of any of the following screenings by signing the form below.

- Vision (Grades PK-5)
- Hearing (Grades K-3)
- Height, Weight, BMI/Body Mass Index (Grade 1 and 4)
- Postural (Scoliosis) Grade 5

If you wish to opt your child(ren) out of any of the mandated screenings please check the appropriate box that pertains to your child(ren). This form only needs to be returned if you are **OPTING OUT** of screenings. As always do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Child's Name : _____. Grade: _____

_____ : I do NOT wish for my child to participate in the School Health Screenings listed above

Sincerely,

Sarah Severance, RN
Major Edwards Nurse
70 Crescent St
West Boylston, MA 01583
508-835-4461 ext. 2162
sarahseverance@wbschools.com

The West Boylston Public Schools does not discriminate based upon age, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, color, homelessness, disability, national origin, religion, race, or sexual orientation.

Pre School Newsletter

CLASSROOM NEWS PRESCHOOL

CLASS Updates

During these busy months, we will kick things off by talking about homes, friends and family, and holidays – things to celebrate and be thankful for! We will also dedicate our few days in the week of Thanksgiving to talking all things turkey. In December, we will learn about various traditions and celebrations, as well as discuss the tale of The Nutcracker, and how stories can be told not only through words and pictures, but through song and dance, as well. Finally, we will celebrate all things gingerbread, such as people, homes, and of course... cookies!

Our younger groups are continuing to work on name recognition, counting, matching, and identifying colors and shapes, while our older groups are working on letter formation and name writing. Both classes are continuing to work on letter and number recognition, letter-sound correspondence, and early phonological awareness skills, such as rhyming, blending, and phoneme isolation.

UPCOMING Events

- November 5th - Book orders due
- November 18th - Family Visit (Miss G's Class)
- November 22nd and 23rd - Parent Teacher Conferences
 - No PM preschool
- December 3rd - Book orders due
- December 7th - Professional development day
 - No PM preschool
- December 22nd - Pajama Day

Contact

Miss G - haleygaughan@wbschools.com

Mrs. Russell - jodirussell@wbschools.com



Kindergarten

Newsletter



Hello Kindergarten Families,

In October we will be discussing all things Fall! In November, a few of our themes include families, Thanksgiving, and what it means to be grateful. We will incorporate these themes into Literacy and Math activities. In Math, we will be comparing, writing, and ordering numbers up to 10. Be on the lookout for the weekly home-school connection for each topic.

In Literacy, we will continue with Reader's Workshop. We will be learning about what makes a good reader? Why do we read? We will also learn about book handling and directionality when reading. Kindergarten has also kicked off the Foundations program which includes letter recognition, sounds, formation, and sight words. Our writing will include interactive writing, shared writing and writing in our journals. Please continue to read every night with your child!

Happy Fall,

The Kindergarten Team



First Grade

Newsletter



The First Grade students have settled into our schedule, and they have been working very hard. We enjoyed the October family projects very much. The pumpkin characters were a hit and enjoyed by all, and the scarecrow parade was a huge success! Our next family project packet, "Decorate the Turkey," will be trotting home soon. We are looking forward to meeting with you in a few weeks for parent teacher conferences, and we will be happy to share your child's progress with you at that time. A separate letter will be sent home to confirm conference meeting dates and times. In our phonics curriculum, we have introduced "trick words" (as, has, to, into, the, and, a, of, is, his, to). These are words that cannot be sounded out and serve as anchors to fluent reading. We have also introduced new phonemes. Digraphs are the newest addition to our repertoire of skills. Your child knows how to use wh, th, ch, sh, and ck in both reading and writing. Looking ahead, we will be learning about double letters and blends. These are powerful tools for learners to use in both reading and writing. For reading we have been learning about how to make connections as we think about stories. Your child can make a text to text connection, text to self connection, or text to world connection. Soon we'll be discussing the elements of a story. These skills support comprehension as your child becomes a more independent reader. During our math lessons, students have worked hard to try different strategies for addition and subtraction. We have used parts and total diagrams, number lines and ten frames to model the relationship between addition and subtraction. Your child has also worked to apply these math strategies to many different number stories. Overall we are so proud of our first graders! Thank you again for your support!



Second Grade newsletter

Grade Two November / December News

November and December are extremely busy months at Major Edwards! Second Grade is preparing for Parent-Teacher Conferences which will be held on Monday, November 21st and Tuesday, November 22nd.

Our Readers' Workshop lessons will continue to focus on story structure, including the identification of characters, setting, problems, and solutions. In addition, we will begin our character traits unit. We start by determining the difference between outside traits (things you can see) and inside traits (feelings and actions). During focus lessons we will describe and analyze the way characters think and behave in Stories.

In math we will complete Unit 7, Understanding Place Value to 1, 000. Then, we will begin focusing on learning strategies for adding fluently within 100. Strategies include adding with partial sums, using models (base-10 blocks and pictures), mental math, and breaking apart numbers. We will also continue to work on solving one and two-step word problems.

Our social studies lessons will focus on the Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving Holidays.

We will also begin an exciting science unit on animals and their habitats. This fun unit is always a big hit with our second graders! We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

Sincerely,
The Second Grade Team

Third Grade Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The third grade team is looking forward to meeting with all of you during the month of November for conferences. Open communication between home and school is a wonderful opportunity for students to get the support that they need. We continue to work very hard to ensure success for all students.

Encourage your child to READ, READ, READ, and of course, READ at home! Studies show, the more a child reads for pleasure at home, the better he/she will do in school in ALL subjects. Of course, it is important for your child to read text on his/her reading level. How can parents make sure their child is reading a book on the right level? First, make sure the reading material is something your child enjoys. Next, ask your child to read the second page of the book. If your child is able to read that page on his/her own without making more than five mistakes, the book is JUST RIGHT. If he/she makes more than five mistakes, the book is TOO HARD. Parents can read with and to their child text ABOVE their child's reading level to build a great parent/child bonding experience, to monitor comprehension, to model good fluency and to introduce new vocabulary.

Literacy



In Language Arts we will switch gears and begin to focus on the genre of fiction. We will begin to study plot and review the elements of fiction including character, setting, problem, and resolution. We will talk about story structure and recognize the climax of a story.

We will be making a change in our writing as well. We will be moving away from writing a research based paragraph or essay and begin to write narratives. Our narratives will include a retelling of a story we have read from a different character's point of view or be a continuation of a story we read. We will continue to revise our writing for content and edit for capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and spelling as well as build our typing skills.

In phonics we are working on spelling multisyllabic words with closed and vowel-consonant-e syllable types and changing words by adding a suffix. In the upcoming weeks we will be learning about the tricky schwa sound of vowels.

Third Grade Newsletter

Math



Students are finishing up their study of multiplication and division in school. Now that they have a good background in how to solve multiplication facts, it's time to build automaticity. Please have your child practice their multiplication facts each night for about 5 minutes. Practice can be done on flashcards, on a website, on an app on your phone, or by playing a game. After finishing multiplication and division we will be moving on to solving problems related to area.

Social Studies



In Social Studies we have been learning all about the great state of Massachusetts! We have located New England on a map of the United States and found Massachusetts on our map of New England. We've also been practicing locating West Boylston on a map of Massachusetts. Most recently we have begun learning about the diverse Native Tribes who lived and still live here in Massachusetts.

Wrapping Up!



A friendly reminder to have your children bring in jackets and sweatshirts as the weather gets colder as we will have the windows open in the classroom when possible and will be heading outside for recess every day we are able to. Best Wishes for a happy and healthy Thanksgiving season and as strange as this is to type already, happy holidays!

Sincerely,

The Third Grade Team

Fourth Grade

Newsletter

Fourth Grade Gazette
November/December 2022



Language Arts



During the months of November and December, students will continue to work on reading and writing narrative stories. Our writing focus will shift to story development in response to literature. We will also continue to develop and practice reading skills such as determining themes, character traits and points of view within a story. To support this work, students will review the W-W-W, What 2, How 2 mnemonic device to examine texts and to assist them in writing stories that include all of the important elements necessary for good story development. We will continue to concentrate on developing detailed setting and character descriptions using rich verbs and descriptive adjectives to effectively help our readers visualize the story better. In our Megawords workbook, our word work lessons will focus on spelling rules when adding vowel suffixes. We will also discuss the three sounds of -ed.



This festive time of year provides a wonderful opportunity for family and friends to gather together to celebrate many things. Please take a few moments to read together as a family, and build memories that will last a lifetime.

Fourth Grade

Newsletter



As we begin the new trimester, our focus is on everything Multiplication. Students will be able to recognize multiplication as repeated addition of equal groups. To show their understanding and how to solve multiplication problems. They will be asked to use and draw models (arrays). We will review strategies for solving the facts such as finding number patterns (multiples) and using the multiplication properties (Commutative, Zero, Identity, and Distributive) to simplify problems.

We are very excited to start multiplying multi-digit numbers! Students will learn both the breaking apart method of multiplication and the traditional method. Be sure to ask your child how it's going! Each night, students should be practicing multiplication facts through the 12's until they are mastered. Quick recall of basic math facts is necessary to keep up with the pace of the class. Help your child to be successful! Practice! Practice! Practice!

Enjoy your Holiday Break!

Fourth Grade

Newsletter



Science

Fourth grade Scientists have been working in our Life Science Unit with Animal Structures and Behavior. We have focused on vertebrates and invertebrates, and the differences between terrestrial animals, aquatic animals and amphibians. Students are completing a Digital Research Project on an animal that is native to Massachusetts.

Be sure and ask your student which animal they researched! I am sure that their presentations will be outstanding. A highlight in November will be a visit from Wingmasters about Birds of Prey. We will meet in the gym to see approximately five different raptors in person! These are hunting birds characterized by hooked beaks and powerful grabbing feet armed with sharp talons. We will learn about their incredible eyesight and hearing, and learn why some of these magnificent creatures are facing an uncertain future in our region.

We will also have a special visit from the MA Audubon Society. They will introduce us to birding around the school grounds. What different birds can we identify? For our next Science topic we will look at Plant Structures before getting into our Earth Science Unit.

Fourth Grade

Newsletter



Social Studies

In Social Studies students have been working more on Map Skills and Geography. Soon we will start into our History books, where we will be learning more about the Regions of the United States. We will take a special focus on the New England Region, our home region. Students will complete a short project on this subject. Our next topic of study will be Native Peoples of North America. Students will learn about the lives and cultures of Native Americans in different geographic regions of North America, and understand how each culture was influenced by the environment in which they lived.

Have a fabulous Holiday Break!



Fifth Grade

Newsletter

Grade 5 Newsletter

November and December 2022



LANGUAGE ARTS

- Word Study – multiple meaning words and analogies
- Reading – analyzing fictional texts to follow character development and determine theme
- Writing – analysis of characters and theme after reading a fictional text

MATH

- Continuing to focus on how to solve word problems
- Next Unit: Multiplying and dividing whole numbers
- Recalling math facts is extremely important for upcoming units. If your child's math facts are not automatic, please have your 5th grader practice their facts at home.

SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES

- Plant poster projects looked amazing!
- Next Unit: How energy moves throughout an ecosystem?
- In December: We will begin our water cycle unit.
- Social Studies: We are finishing up branches of government and will spend time discussing early colonization.



Upcoming

- No School– Friday, Nov. 11th
- Parent/teacher conferences – Nov. 21 & 22
- Soles4Souls shoe drive – after Thanksgiving (more info to come)
- 1/2 Day– Wednesday, Dec. 7th

For More Information

[Grade 5 website](#)



Reading newsletter

Reading Corner



November/December

BOOK GENRES



Just like there are many shades and types of leaves your child may enjoy observing and playing in during the fall, there are also many different types of books they may appreciate.

In school students will be introduced to the word genre or types of books that "fall into a category." The two main branches of genre are fiction and non-fiction, and each category branches off into many different layers such as fantasy, and tall tales under fiction, and biographies and informational text under nonfiction.

Help your child explore a variety of genres to discover books and styles that they will love for a lifetime!

Reading newsletter

Check out the genre links below as well as an informative link about helping your child to VISUALIZE what they are reading, because READING IS THINKING!

Explore Nonfiction:

https://readingpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ExploringNonfiction_1126.pdf

https://readingpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ExploringNonfiction_Spanish.pdf

Explore Fiction:

<https://readingpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/WorldofFiction.pdf>

https://readingpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/WorldofFiction_Spanish.pdf

Let's Visualize:

<https://readingpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/VisualizingBringingBooksFinal.pdf>

https://readingpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/VisualizingBringingBookstoLife_Spanish.pdf

**Reading Room Fun with Mrs.
Bokankowitz & Mrs. Gangai**



Please donate any gently used children's books to our school! Send them in with your child, and they can be dropped in the collection box by the front office.

Specials

Newsletter

Happenings during Major Edwards Specials

November/December 2022

A Message from Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Brainard, and Mr. Cyr

Hello Major Edwards Families!!! Wow, this month has flown by and November is already on the horizon. Since we are not in the classroom with our students it is wonderful to see a few of the projects everyone has been working hard on. To name a few, 1st grade pumpkins are lighting up the hallway while 5th grade science projects are being presented with confidence! In specials however, our students have really stepped up the game with lessons that challenge them on the daily. We hope you take the time to read up on the activities the students are loving when they come to see our team of specialists.

Art

Hello,

The creativity is soaring in the art room. Ms. Tammy Hubbard has done an incredible job filling in and teaching the students some fun art projects.

The artists at Major Edwards have been working together to create beautiful leaves to decorate a gratitude tree that will be on display at the International Celebration of Gratitude on November 10th. Please be sure to check it out.

Music

Hello Families! We have had a spooktacular October here in our music room! We started the month off with a bang playing spooky tunes on the bookwackers! Then we focused on learning rhythms by playing "Hidden Rhythm". The students had to search for spooky rhythms hidden all around our music room. The students then took turns presenting different rhythms and then we discussed how many beats were in each measure. We also went on two music adventures. On our first adventure we assisted the Ghostbusters while learning about the symbol for repeat as well as first ending and second ending. Our final adventure was to Hogwarts where we learned about time signatures on Platform 9 and ¾'s.

Physical Education

Hi families! This month in the gym has been FULL of adventure. Students in grades 3 through 5 were taught exciting games that produced safe, good fun in PE. "Jellyfish Tag" allowed the students to work in small teams that carried parachutes, while others maneuvered around the gym either on foot or while riding scooters. 1st, 2nd, spent a few days with the giant parachute, working as an entire class to lift, move, and spin the parachute. Other days we did obstacle courses mixed in with some halloween tag games. Kindergarten students have really enjoyed our "Trick or Treaters" game that works on catching and throwing skills, either with a partner or on their own. We also spent time with obstacle courses. All students work towards earning 4 points for their class each PE day. Getting enough points earns the students Free Activity Time or Student Choice days!

Important Dates and Events

Keep your eyes open for upcoming after-school opportunities and winter events.

Please email any of us with any questions:

Physical Education:

tylercyr@wbschools.com

Music:

amandabrainard@wbschools.com

Art:

leiaroberts@wbschools.com



Major Edwards Beginning Band Newsletter November-December

4th grade has done a great job working on the first few notes of our instrument. We've started learning some simple folk melodies and practiced safe instrument care. We continue to work on reading music, which has been reinforced in general music class.

5th grade has been practicing new holiday songs and learning about playing melodies, harmonies and bass lines. We have some new friends in the 5th grade band who continue to do a great job learning about the instrument.

Extra Help

I offer extra help on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school by appointment. Please feel free to send an email to me if your child would like to stay after.

Winter Concert

Our 4th and 5th grade band students are hard at work learning new songs for our holiday concert.

Our concert is currently scheduled for Wednesday, December 21 at 6pm. We have scheduled a snow date for Monday, December 19. Due to the large size of our performing groups, we have elected to have the concert at the Middle High School in the auditorium!

Participating band students should report to the MHS cafeteria at 5:45pm (I will put out stands pointing the way). This will give us time to assemble instruments before the start of the concert. The concert will start at 6:00pm. Participation is highly encouraged!

We are so excited to share our concert with you. Thank you again for your support of the arts.

Concert Date: December 21
Concert Start Time: 6:00pm
Concert Location: WBMHS Auditorium
Report Time: 5:45pm
Report Location: WBMHS Cafeteria

Sincerely,
Brian Stefanelli
Band Director
West Boylston Public Schools

Specials Newsletter





MLL



Newsletter

Culture and Diversity



International Festival of Gratitude
November 10, 2022, 4-6 PM

Please join us for an evening of food and fun as we celebrate our families' favorite holiday and cultural traditions!

Bring a food dish, set up a cultural display, sing a song, present a dance, bring a game to play-or share any other ideas you may have.

We hope to see the variety of food and cultural traditions that make up our community and get to know each other a little better.

Please contact Karla Okala at
karlaokala@wbschools.com or



As we enter this holiday season, if you or a family you know of in our West Boylston School Community could use some assistance with food or winter clothing, please have them contact:

*Kate O'Rourke
Major Edwards' School Counselor
508 835-4461, ext. 2107
kaitrinorourke@wbschools.com*

*Rebecca LaRoche
West Boylston High School Guidance Counselor
508 835-4475
rebeccalaroche@wbschools.com*



Major Edwards



Backpack Thursday Pictures
Week of 10/31





Major Edwards



Fun in Gym!





Major Edwards



Fun in Gym!





Major Edwards



Fun in Gym!



First Grade

Pumpkin

Book Projects



First Grade

Pumpkin

Book Projects



First Grade

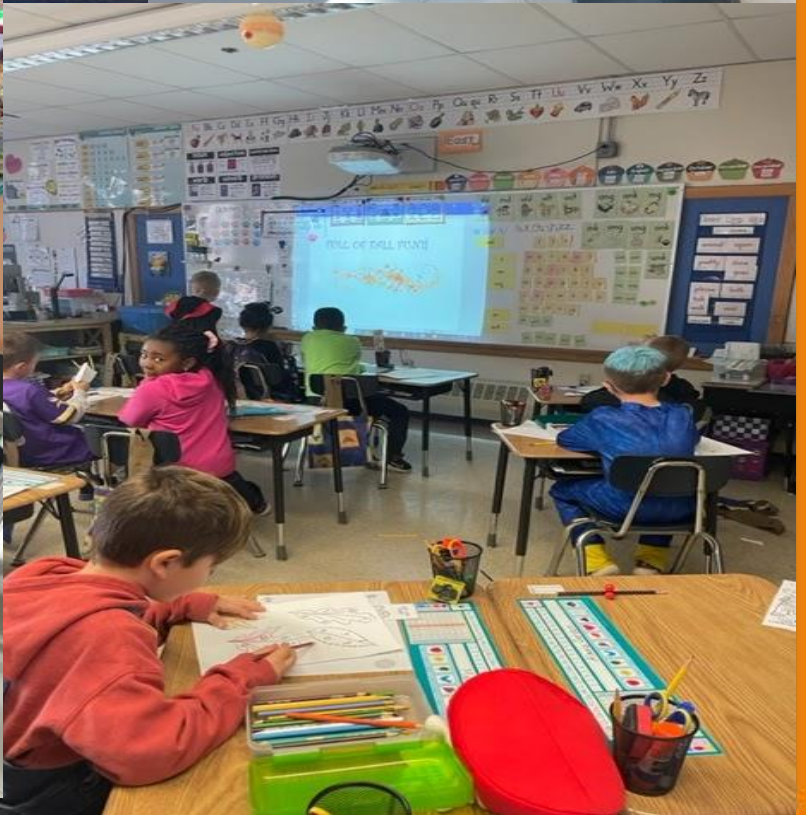
Pumpkin

Book Projects



Halloween Learning

K & 2 Switch Classes
to Complete Projects



Halloween Learning

K & 2 Switch Classes
to Complete Projects



Halloween Learning

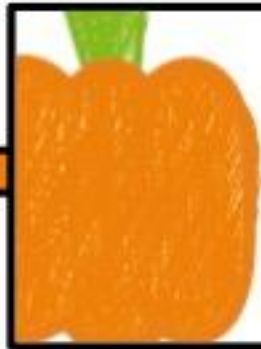
K & 2 Switch Classes
to Complete Projects



Halloween Parade

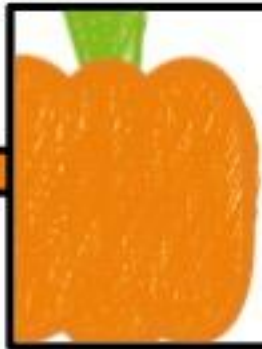
Am Pre School





Halloween Parade





Halloween Parade



Dear Parents and Caretakers,

We would like to invite you and your family to our **International Festival of Gratitude**, taking place in the Major Edwards gym, on November 10, from 4-6 pm.

This festival is a chance to come together as a school community and share our favorite family holidays, our favorite foods, and our family traditions. This time is also a chance for us to enjoy the wonderful diversity that makes up our community.



There are many ways that you can participate in this event:

- bring a food dish and recipe to share,
- set up a display of your family's favorite holiday or tradition and how you celebrate,
- showcase a song or dance from your favorite holiday or tradition,
- dress in holiday or traditional attire,
- bring your family's favorite holiday or traditional game to play, or
- just bring the family to enjoy the food and fun.

If you will be able to bring a dish or a game or create a display, please fill out the form below and return it to your child's homeroom teacher. You can also use the link or QR code given below to complete the form electronically.

We hope that all of you will join us for this fun and tasty event!

Cut and return this bottom portion to your child's homeroom teacher or complete the electronic form at this link: <https://forms.gle/c1JvzbHxuFZLjXL5A> or scan the QR code:



SCAN ME

Yes! I would like to participate in this festival! I will (check all that apply):

- ☐ Prepare a dish to share (Name of dish: _____)
- ☐ Bring a game to play (Name of game: _____)
- ☐ Set up a display of my family's tradition (Name of holiday/tradition; _____)
- ☐ Showcase a song or dance (Name of dance/song: _____)
- ☐ Other (Describe: _____)
- ☐ Come and enjoy some food and fun!

Parent/Caretaker Name _____ Student Name: _____

Best phone number/email to reach you: _____



Do you want a great way to get rid of all that extra Halloween candy?

The Major Edwards PTA will be collecting your unwanted bags of Halloween candy and distributing it to the local Veteran's Shelter in Worcester.

You can drop off your candy donations in the Halloween Collection Boxes in the front lobby at Major Edwards from *Tuesday November 1st through Thursday November 10th.*

If you have any questions, please contact Moira Johnson at moshwalker@hotmail.com or 978-423-4037.

Thank You!



West Boylston School District



THANKSGIVING COLLECTION 2022

*The students at Major Edwards are asked to donate specific items to make up a "Turkey Feast" basket. To start us off, turkeys have already been donated by **Fidelity Bank** and the **West Boylston Police Department** and we just need the fixings!*

Turkey Feasts will be given to families in need in the West Boylston School District and to Joseph's Project.

*Food items can be brought to Major Edwards Elementary School
Monday, November 7- Friday, November 18, 2022.*

*Please send in an item listed by your child's grade or use the [link below](#) to send **cash** which will be used to purchase food items/ gift certificates.*

PRESCHOOL:

Gaughan	Pudding Mix/ Pudding Cups
Russell	Pudding Mix/ Pudding Cups

KINDERGARTEN:

Boudreau	Pumpkin Bread Mix
Foster	Blueberry/Corn muffin mix
Yasick	Pumpkin Bread Mix

GRADE 1:

Campbell	Boxed/Bagged Stuffing
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Hughes
Londergan
Widing

Blueberry/Corn muffin mix
Boxed/Bagged Stuffing
Boxed/Bag Rice

GRADE 2:

Johnston
Murphy
Wawrzynaik

Canned Corn
Canned Green Beans
Cranberry Sauce

GRADE 3:

Connors
Penney
Stratton

Turkey Gravy
Turkey Gravy
Canned/Box Soup

GRADE 4:

Avery
Lemay
Miller

Mac N Cheese
Canned Potatoes
Canned Chili/Soups

GRADE 5:

Conway
Bjorklund
Brancaleone

Shampoo, Soap, Toothpaste
Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Tissues
Cleaning Products, Dish Soap

This is the link if you'd like to make a cash donation to Major Edwards'
Thanksgiving Food Drive: <https://majoredwardspta.memberhub.com/store>

Thank you for all of your help!!

*Kaitrin O'Rourke, School Counselor &
Tracey Frohock, 504 Liaison/Student Support*

Upcoming Events from Beaman Memorial Public Library

-ASLDeafined Program tonight, November 3 at 7 p.m.

Join the people from American Sign Language Deafined, a database that is available on the Beaman Memorial Public Library's website will put on a live zoom program to show you around this database, teach you a few signs, talk with a panel of people from the deaf community, and answer questions. **Please contact the Library for the Zoom code to attend this meeting.**

-Veteran's Day Craft and Story Time, Wednesday, November 9 at 4 p.m.

Join Ms. Sandie for a special Veteran's Day event. Hear some stories read by real American veterans and make a simple craft. There are only a few spots left for this program, so please call the Library or send an email to skelly@cwmars.org to reserve your spot.

-MEM Dance Theatre Company will present the Nutcracker Story Time on Saturday, November 12 at 10:30 a.m. Hear the story read by dancers dressed in their costumes and see a brief dance. There will be a photo opportunity when finished! Please send an email with Nutcracker in the subject field to skelly@cwmars.org to reserve your spot!

-Turtle Rescue League, Saturday, November 19th, at 11:00 a.m. The staff of the Turtle Rescue League of Southbridge will provide a very special program about turtles. You will meet several varieties of turtles, learn about caring for them if you find them crossing the roads, and tell you all about various rescues they have made. We are so grateful to this group for helping us set up our new tank in the Story Hour Room. Please send an email to beaman@cwmars.org with Turtle in the subject field to reserve your spot for this program.

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Sue Smith
Children's Librarian
Beaman Memorial Public Library
West Boylston MA 01583

ssmith@cwmars.org
508-835-3711 Press 229