

# ANGIER SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2025 – 2026



**Angier Elementary School**  
**1697 Beacon Street**  
**Waban, MA 02468**

School Office: 617-559-9300

School Nurse: 617-559-9312

Angier After School Program: 781-514-0757

Countryside Children's Center: 617-964-6958

Rec Place After School: 617-332-7327

<https://angier.newton.k12.ma.us/>

[www.angierpto.org](http://www.angierpto.org)

***Front cover artwork by Ava O'Connor***

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## SECTION A: ALL ABOUT ANGIER



Artwork by Penny Ducoff (top) and Elle Zhu (bottom)

## Greetings from the Angier Faculty!



Welcome to Angier School!

I am delighted to welcome you to a new school year. Angier is a place where all children are nurtured, affirmed, and are encouraged to become the best versions of themselves. Angier is also a magical place. It is a special community where families, teachers, and children work together, have fun, support each other and make memories and friendships that last a lifetime.

At Angier children blossom into capable learners as we prepare them for their future. Our teachers embrace the whole child and realize that the social emotional life of our students is as important as their academic growth.

As each child is an individual, our approach to teaching is individualized. We differentiate our best teaching practices while following the Newton Public Schools' excellent curriculum to make sure each child gets what they need to succeed.

To help you and your child have a productive year at Angier, we publish this handbook filled with important information. We hope each family will keep it handy and use it as a reference.

The faculty and staff welcome you to the new school year. We hope to see you often. Remember, ***"You're Never a Stranger at Angier."*** We'll all work together to make it a joyful year!

Warmly,

Orla Higgins Averill  
*Principal*



## Welcome from your Angier PTO

Dear Angier Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the Angier community. Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning for another year, we extend our warm greetings.

This handbook is designed to address your questions regarding our school and community. We encourage you to review it thoroughly and consult the Angier PTO website ([www.angierpto.org](http://www.angierpto.org)) for the latest information pertaining to Angier throughout the academic year.

The Angier Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) comprises all parents, guardians, and teachers at Angier and is dedicated to fostering excellence within our school. We work to organize and support a variety of activities and events for families and teachers, as well as provide financial resources that supplement those available to the school and faculty.

Membership in the PTO is inclusive; all members of our community are part of this organization. The PTO operates through volunteer engagement and fundraising efforts. For further details regarding the PTO and available volunteer opportunities, please visit <https://angierpto.org/your-ptu/our-committees/>.

To stay informed about current events at Angier, please register through the Angier PTO website (<https://angierpto.org/3414-2/>). You will receive our weekly newsletter, the Greensheet, which provides updates on all school happenings.

If you have suggestions for new programs or possess expertise you wish to contribute, we invite you to share your ideas. Please contact [copresidents@angierpto.org](mailto:copresidents@angierpto.org), and we will assist you in becoming involved.

We look forward to a successful and productive school year with you.

Warmly,

Katherine Biotti, Jessica Shahda & Michelle Sandals  
Angier PTO Co-Presidents  
[copresidents@angierpto.org](mailto:copresidents@angierpto.org)



**PLEASE NOTE:**

For the safety of our children, any adult who plans to volunteer in school and/or chaperone Angier students on a field trip **MUST** complete CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) and SORI (Sexual Offender Registry Information) background checks.

You may access the CORI and SORI forms online through the Angier PTO website (<http://angierpto.org/support-your-pto/volunteer/>) or pick them up from the School Office. Bring the completed forms in person to the Angier School Office, along with a valid photo ID. Please allow at least two weeks for the background checks to be processed.

CORI and SORI background checks are valid for three years from the date of approval and are valid across all Newton Public Schools. If you are not sure whether yours is still valid, please call or email Claudia Rossi in the Angier School Office.



**Artwork by Sameera Kovela**

# INTRODUCTION TO ANGIER

## Getting in touch with the Angier Main Office

The Angier main office staff are here to help you! Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have. The office is open from 8:00AM-3:30PM. Below are the names and contact information of our main office personnel:



Orla Higgins Averill, Principal  
email: [higginsaverillo@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:higginsaverillo@newton.k12.ma.us)  
phone: 617-559-9301



Claudia Rossi, Executive Assistant  
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phone: 617-559-9300



Anu Upneja, Building Aide  
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Ava Mahoney, Interim School Nurse  
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phone: 617-559-9312

Cornelia Culici, School Nurse  
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phone: 617-559-9312

## Angier School History

The Angier Elementary School has a rich and interesting history. Ground was broken for the Angier School in 1919 to replace the four-room Wolcott School that had served Waban's children for almost thirty years. Students moved in during November 1921. The school was described at the time as a spacious, modern, twelve-room structure and named in honor of Albert Edgar Angier, a young Waban aviator who was killed in World War I.

- In 1936, six more rooms were added to the back of the building, two on each floor. Since that time, changes have often been made within the walls of the building, always in an effort to best serve the needs of the Angier student body.
- During the summer of 2014, Angier was the first Newton elementary school to be demolished. Over the next 18 months, Angier students were bussed to the Carr School in Newtonville as our new school was being built.
- Staff and children moved into the new building on January 6, 2016. The building is designed to host up to 24 classrooms.
- In June of 2022, the Angier community came together to celebrate Angier's centennial - 100 years of Angier. Our celebration was one year late, due to the Covid pandemic, and it was especially meaningful to gather together after such a challenging time.

Our current school building was designed to accommodate the many learning styles and needs of all our students. As you travel through the school and grounds, you will notice spacious, air-conditioned classrooms, flexible learning areas, state of the art technology and facilities, playgrounds for younger and older children, and beautiful displays of artifacts related to Angier's rich history. In our lobby, you will find a magnificent mural which was created over the course of three years. The mural pays tribute to our beloved old school and links the old to the new. Children, parents/caregivers, staff and community members had the opportunity to help design and build the mural under the guidance of our retired art teacher Deborah Kramer and mural artist, David Fitcher. It is our masterpiece and has become part of Angier's history.

## Angier Vision & Core Outcomes

At Angier School, everyone feels valued, cared for, challenged, brave and joyful. With the guidance of the whole community, students are developing the flexibility, critical thinking skills, confidence and responsibility to meet challenging academic and social and emotional goals. Angier students fully participate in all aspects of their learning, showing pride in the new knowledge that they obtain each day. They show kindness and gratitude and are proud to be part of the Angier community. Angier students are full of promise, and they know that they can make the world a better place.

Several years ago, in collaboration with parents/caregivers, we developed the following core outcomes:

- Children acquire the skills and knowledge essential to successful intellectual and social development.
- Children learn the connection between effort and achievement.
- Children demonstrate that they respect and value all people.
- Children learn to approach social and educational challenges with confidence and a positive attitude.



Each day in our classrooms, children engage in rich academic and social-emotional learning opportunities that help them achieve these outcomes. Our curriculum provides students with opportunities for taking risks, learning from mistakes, persevering, collaborating, making choices, and challenging themselves. Our compassionate and highly skilled teaching faculty is dedicated to meeting the unique needs and interests of every child.

Our goal is to nurture confident, inquisitive children who will be life-long learners and who care about their surrounding environment and the people beyond the walls of Angier. Through our ongoing work toward antiracism and equity, we hope that all children feel safe, valued, and included in our community.

It is our great pleasure to partner with families. We hope to see you often. Remember, "You're Never a Stranger at Angier!"



**Artwork by Zoe Zannis (top) and William Barbier (bottom)**

# Newton Public Schools Statement of Values & Commitment to Racial Equity

The Newton Public Schools are deeply committed to improving equity of opportunity and access for every student in our district. The NPS Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) was created in July 2020 to support this vision.

All NPS students have the right to thrive in a culture of equity. All members of the NPS community must actively dismantle structures rooted in racism and replace them with systems and structures that lead to more equitable outcomes for all students. We recognize that this work is critical and ongoing and requires an unyielding financial, structural, and emotional investment for years to come. NPS is committed to working tirelessly to ensure that we propel our community forward into an antiracist future.

| <div>  <div> <b>NEWTON</b><br/>           PUBLIC SCHOOLS<br/> <i>Equity &amp; Excellence</i> </div> </div> <div> <b>Statement of Values and Commitment to Racial Equity</b> </div> <div>           Revised January 2022         </div>  |   |
|--|---|
| All Newton Public Schools students have the right to thrive in a culture of racial equity. All members of the NPS community must actively dismantle structures rooted in racism and replace them with systems and structures that lead to more equitable outcomes for all students. We recognize that this work is critical and ongoing and requires an unyielding financial, structural, and emotional investment for years to come. NPS is committed to working tirelessly to ensure that we propel our community forward into an antiracist future. |   |
| At Newton Public Schools, we believe:  | Therefore, we will:   |
| We have a responsibility to ensure that our students, staff and families of color feel seen and heard.   | Honor the diverse identities and experiences of our students, staff, and families of color to move toward a more just and inclusive community through representative leadership, curriculum, activities, celebrations, and more.  |
| It is essential to give voice to those who have traditionally been underrepresented and historically marginalized.   | Provide affinity spaces for our students and families of color to engage in dialogue about their shared experiences and invite feedback to support positive change.   |
| Reflecting on one's own racial identity and unconscious bias strengthens and positively impacts our interactions with students, colleagues, and families.  | Engage our district and staff in self-reflection, self-education, and self-improvement on our antiracist trajectory.  |
| Each educator has a shared responsibility for building their capacity to implement antiracist and culturally responsive practices through professional learning and dialogue.  | Apply our learning to our interactions with students and staff, curriculum choices, employment practices, structures and systems, and decision making.  |
| A diverse faculty and staff is essential in creating a sense of connectedness and belonging for all students and can encourage increased success among groups that have been traditionally underrepresented.   | Review and revise our hiring practices to be more inclusive and accessible to candidates of color, and support retention with ongoing administrative and structural support, including investing in mentorship, affinity spaces, and leadership opportunities to enhance success. |
| Culturally responsive instruction with a universally designed foundation, flexible tiered support, and an antiracist curriculum benefits all students.   | Analyze the systems and practices of our classrooms, schools, and offices to root-out institutional and internalized racism and bias and strive to constantly improve and refine our instructional practice.  |
| The work of antiracism requires a commitment to be actively conscious about race and racism and to take actions to end racial inequities in our daily lives.   | Take immediate and sustained action to dismantle racism in our schools and communities and commit to constant work of learning, growing, reflecting on our progress and shortcomings in our changing world.   |

# Angier School Agreements

At Angier, we strive to be champions for all students and believe children do well when they can. We use proactive, positive practices to build relationships with our students, teach self-discipline, and cultivate learning communities where exploration and curiosity thrive. We are committed to holding all students to the same high standards and giving all children the support they need to succeed at school and in life. Throughout the day, we explicitly teach and interactively model positive expectations. We have three overarching school agreements:

- Take Care of Yourself
- Take Care of Others
- Take Care of our Environment

While our three overarching agreements are consistent throughout the school, following them can look different in different spaces.

|                                     | Recess   | Hallway  | Lunchroom  | Bathrooms  | Gymnasium   | Assemblies  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Take Care of Yourself</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show your best self</li> <li>• Keep trying</li> <li>• Have fun</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show your best self</li> <li>• Move safely</li> <li>• Listen to teachers</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show your best self</li> <li>• Eat your own food</li> <li>• Pick a smart seat</li> </ul>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show your best self</li> <li>• Do your business and leave</li> <li>• Wash your hands</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show your best self</li> <li>• Wear sneakers</li> <li>• Keep trying</li> <li>• Have fun</li> </ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show your best self</li> <li>• Use strategies to focus on the presenter</li> </ul>                     |
| <b>Take Care of Others</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a good sport</li> <li>• Use kind words</li> <li>• Follow the rules of any games</li> <li>• Share equipment and take turns</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hands and feet to yourself</li> <li>• Voice volume 0-2</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hands and feet to yourself</li> <li>• Use kind and caring language</li> <li>• Voice volume 0-2</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give other people privacy</li> <li>• Wait your turn</li> <li>• Voice volume 0-2</li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a good sport</li> <li>• Use kind words</li> <li>• Follow the rules of the game</li> <li>• Share equipment and take turns</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be kind</li> <li>• Show listening</li> <li>• Stay in your space</li> <li>• Voice volume 0-2</li> </ul> |
| <b>Take Care of our Environment</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move safely</li> <li>• Use equipment safely</li> <li>• Clean up</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay in line</li> <li>• Wipe feet on mats when you are coming inside</li> <li>• Hands and feet to yourself</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throw trash in barrels</li> <li>• Leave a clean eating area</li> </ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flush the toilet</li> <li>• Keep bathroom clean</li> </ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move safely</li> <li>• Use equipment safely</li> <li>• Clean up</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move safely in and out of the gym</li> </ul>   |



## Newton Public Schools Calendar

This calendar is determined by the Newton School Committee each Fall, and is published on the NPS website ([www.newton.k12.ma.us](http://www.newton.k12.ma.us)). It can also be found in Section B of this Handbook and on the Angier PTO website ([www.angierpto.org](http://www.angierpto.org)).

- The state-mandated school year consists of 180 days. The school calendar also provides for "inclement weather days" in case school must be canceled. If these days are not used, they are subtracted from the end of the school year. In the event of a "delayed opening" on a given school day, that day counts for attendance.

## Angier Calendar of Events

Please refer to the PTO Calendar in Section B and the PTO Calendar-at-a-Glance on the back cover of this Handbook for a snapshot of our 2025-26 school events. Note that the most up-to-date event information will always be available on the Angier PTO website ([www.angierpto.org](http://www.angierpto.org)), in PTO email blasts, in ParentSquare posts from the principal, and via your child's classroom notices.



Artwork by Veery Barber

# ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

## School Hours

The school day runs from 8:10AM until 2:50PM. The exception is Wednesday. We always have an early release at 12:20PM on Wednesdays.

### On Time

Students must be on the plaza by 8:05 (Please do not drop off children before 8:00, as there are no adults on the plaza to supervise). The bell rings at 8:10. We expect all children to be in their classrooms by 8:20.

### Late Arrival

Children who arrive late must go to the main office to fill out a late slip, which they bring to their teacher. Children who enter the classroom late consistently miss valuable learning time. Please ensure your children are at school on time by 8:10AM.

Additional Early Dismissal Days for 2025-26 (dismissal at 12:10PM)

- Thursday, September 25
- Tuesday, October 28
- Thursday, December 4
- Thursday, February 5
- Thursday, March 19
- Thursday, May 7

The building is open after regular school hours until 6PM for the Angier After School Program, and for meetings, conferences, and community education classes. The school office “officially” closes at 3:30PM.

## Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

### Arrival & Dismissal System: PickUp Patrol

PickUp Patrol (<https://www.pickuppatrol.net/>) is our online system for managing arrival and dismissal plans. All families receive an email from PickUp Patrol during the week before school begins with directions to set up and log into PickUp Patrol. You will have a few days to set your transportation defaults. **Please make sure to attend to this very important task.**

- Using the PickUp Patrol website, you can establish your child’s default dismissal instructions and on a daily basis change your child’s dismissal up until 2:15PM (or 11:45AM on early release days).
- When a caregiver logs into the system to make a change, an email is generated and sent to the main office, the child’s teacher(s), the caregiver/parent, and the new authorized pick-up adult. You can also use PickUp Patrol to notify the school when a child will be tardy, absent, or leaving school early.

Please call the office at 617-559-9300 if you have not received a password or have questions.

### Arrival & Dismissal Locations

We have **arrival and dismissal locations** for each grade level, as follows:

- Front plaza: Kindergarten & Grade 1
- Back plaza by the cafeteria: Grades 2 & 3
- Side door by the library: Grade 4
- Side door by the faculty parking lot: Grade 5

## Arrival Procedures

- **During the first two days of school (9/2 & 9/3)**, all teachers come out to meet their students in the grade-level arrival location at 8:05AM. Parents/caretakers may wait with their children or leave once they are with their teacher. When teachers have their entire class, they will escort the students to their classrooms. We ask that parents/caretakers say goodbye outside and do not come into the school. **\*\*Note that Kindergarten teachers will meet their students on the plaza through Friday, September 5th**
- **Beginning on Thursday, September 4th, all grade 1-5 teachers** will remain in their classrooms, and students in grades 1-5 will wait at their arrival location with or without their parents/caregivers. The first bell rings at 8:10AM. At that time, all children will walk into the school independently. Teachers will greet their students in their classrooms.
- **Beginning on Monday, September 8th, Kindergarten teachers** will remain in their classrooms. Kindergarten students will wait at their arrival location with or without their parents/caregivers. The first bell rings at 8:10AM. At that time, all children will walk into the school independently. Teachers will greet their students in their classrooms.
- **Bus & Van Riders:** Children who ride the bus will exit the bus at 8:05AM and wait in their arrival location with the other children. Vans pull into the back lot where staff members greet and escort children to their classrooms.
- **Car Line/Live Drop-Off:** Live drop-off through our car line is an arrival option we offer to help parents/caregivers get on their way quickly. If you choose to drop your child off by car, you may pull up between 8:05-8:20AM. Interns will be available to assist children out of the car on the right side, by the sidewalk. Please do not get out of your car. If your child is unable to independently exit the car, please park nearby and walk your child to school. We appreciate your cooperation.
- **Morning Staff:** All year long, there are additional staff members in arrival locations and in the school lobby to help children get to their classrooms. Staff hold the doors open as we welcome children to school. If you or your child needs any assistance, we are here to help.

## Dismissal Procedures

- **Parent/Caregiver Pick-Up:** Children are escorted outside by classroom teachers at 2:50PM and wait at their grade-level dismissal location. Parents/caregivers may pick up their child at that time. Please make sure the teacher sees you before dismissing your child.
- **Bus & Van Riders:** Children who ride the bus or van head to those areas (Bus- front plaza; van- side of school in faculty lot) at dismissal and meet another teacher waiting by the bus or van. The teacher has a clipboard with the children's names, which are checked off each afternoon. Children must have a bus pass to ride the bus. \*Note that Kindergartners are escorted to the bus/van by teaching assistants.
- **Dismissal Changes:** All changes regarding dismissal MUST go through PickUp Patrol. This is extremely important so that we know where your child is supposed to go at the end of the day. Thank you for your help!
- **Late Pick Up:** When parents/caregivers are late, your child will wait in the main lobby under adult supervision. Please buzz at the main door when you arrive to take your child.
- **Dismissal Parking:** Please park in the neighborhood and walk to pick up your child(ren) at dismissal. There is no live parking at dismissal time. Please do not drive into the school driveway, or use the visitor spots or faculty lot for parking at dismissal time.

Finally, it is important that all adult designees (grandparents, nannies, neighbors) who drop off and pick up your children know about and follow these arrival and dismissal procedures.



## Absence & Lateness

If your child will be absent or late, you must notify the school through PickUp Patrol. You will mark your child absent then give a short description of the reason. PickUp Patrol is the best way for you to notify the school and your child's teacher that they will be absent/late. If you do not have access to a computer, you may call the Angier School Office number (617-559-9300) before the opening bell. When calling, leave the following information:

- Name of your child's teacher
- Your child's name
- Dates/times of absence or lateness

A child who is late to school must sign in to the Sign-In Log kept in the office before going to their classroom. Attendance is taken in each classroom at 8:20am.

- If your child is not in school and you have not updated PickUp Patrol or called the office, you will receive a phone message to ask for an explanation of the absence. If the child cannot be located or accounted for, the school will contact the Newton Police immediately.
- In the case of an anticipated absence, such as for an appointment or vacation, please notify your child's teacher in writing in advance, in addition to updating PickUp Patrol.
- Children arriving after 8:20 am are marked tardy. Following a period of marked absence or tardiness, the Principal may send a letter home and to the Assistant Superintendent of Newton Public Schools.

## Early Dismissal

If you need to dismiss your child early, please visit PickUp Patrol and change your child's dismissal information to early pick-up. Your child will be called down when you arrive. Make an entry in the Sign-Out Log when your child leaves the building.

As part of Angier's Safe Dismissal program, the school will not release children during the school day except to a parent/guardian or to another adult designated by the parent/guardian in writing or by a call to the office. The school cannot release your child to another adult unless we have a note (physical or through PickUp Patrol).



**Artwork by Myla Bayegan**

## School Buses

If your child is eligible to ride the bus, please go to <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/214> for more information and to apply for a bus pass. Angrier students who reside more than two miles from the school do not pay a bus fee to ride the bus. Students who reside less than two miles from their school and wish to ride the bus must pay a bus fee of \$415 per student with a family cap of two passes (\$830).

If a child is on crutches and has no way to get to school, or if a child has a severe physical handicap, an application can be made for transportation to be supplied by the City. A physician's statement must accompany the application. For details, call the school office.

Please notify the office via PickUp Patrol of any changes in your child's routine bus schedule:

- giving permission for your child to ride a different bus on a particular day
- getting off at a different stop that is not your child's usual stop
- a friend is visiting and riding the same bus home with your child

If your child has invited a friend home from school, the guest may ride the bus with your child only if the school receives notice from parents/guardians. Please know that it is very difficult for the office staff to make last minute changes.

- If at all possible, make changes on PickUp Patrol **before 2:15PM**. Please call the office with any emergency changes at 617-559-9300.
- If you send a teacher an email regarding a change in your child's dismissal schedule for that day, they will **not** receive it in a timely manner; please contact the office.

### Bus Behavioral Expectations

Families should discuss with their children the need to cooperate with the bus driver for the safety of all concerned. Please refer to the Students' Rights and Responsibilities Handbook (<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/2915>) for specific information on expected behavior and consequences. In the event of a Discipline Code violation, a student's bus privileges may be revoked.

Whether your child takes the bus daily or occasionally for school trips, it makes a difference when families talk with their children about the importance of following the expectations below. We take the safety of all children very seriously.

- Remain in your seat while the bus is in motion
- Always use your seatbelt
- Use only appropriate language
- Use an indoor talking voice
- Be friendly and help each other

## Early Morning Program

The Newton Public Schools offer an Early Morning Drop-Off program for students in grades K through 5 in each of the elementary schools. The program is designed to provide a needed service by giving families the opportunity to bring their children to school prior to the beginning of the regularly scheduled school day. You may choose a single day of the week, multiple days, or all of the days of the week. Once you have chosen your days, you may not change them without the consent of your school principal and program directors.

- The Angier Early Morning program runs from 7:20AM to 8:10AM, when the first bell rings. The program meets in the Angier library. The Early Morning teacher, Ms. Lucia Wolfe, will buzz your child in using the main entrance. Your child will then walk to the library.
- All information about the Early Morning program, including how to register, can be found at <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/our-schools/elementary-early-morning-program>.

## After School Care

There are three after school options for Angier families. One is the **Angier After School Program** (AASP), a private, non-profit corporation organized by parents to provide professional after-school care and supervision to enrolled Angier students as an extension of the school day. It is administered by an elected Board of Directors who have children in the program and is run by a salaried program director working with a professional staff. The program derives its income from fees and tuition. It uses the buildings and grounds of Angier and provides an enjoyable, educational, safe, and socially enriching experience. A variety of activities are offered, and parental involvement with the program is encouraged. For more information, check out the AASP website (<http://www.angierafterschool.com>) or contact the AASP Program Director, Katie Crowe at [katie@angierafterschool.com](mailto:katie@angierafterschool.com) or (781) 514-0757.

Another option is the **Rec Place Afterschool, Inc.**, located at 545 Grove Street in Newton Lower Falls. Children enrolled in the Rec Place take the Yellow Duck bus from Angier at dismissal. The Rec Place Afterschool provides excellent, affordable care for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. The center has a kitchen, a gym, an art room, a homework room, and other rooms available on a daily basis. There is a playground, field, and basketball court outside. The Rec Place creates a comfortable atmosphere in which children feel secure, respected and involved. For more information, visit the Rec Place website ([www.recplace.org](http://www.recplace.org)) or contact the Rec Place Program Director, Shannon Whigham, at [recplaceafterschool@gmail.com](mailto:recplaceafterschool@gmail.com) or 617-332-7327.

The third option is **Countryside Children's Center** (CCC), located in Newton Upper Falls. CCC is an afterschool program serving children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. Children enrolled in the CCC take the Pink Parrot bus from Angier at dismissal. Established in 1977, CCC is one of the longest-running after school programs in the country, and its staff is dedicated to ensuring a safe, nurturing environment for the children. They pride themselves on meeting each child's social, intellectual, physical and emotional needs through a great variety of play and social interaction. For more information, visit the website ([www.cccnewton.org](http://www.cccnewton.org)) or contact the Executive Director, Glenn MacEachern, at [gmaceachern@cccnewton.org](mailto:gmaceachern@cccnewton.org) or 617-964-6958.

# COMMUNICATION

## School Communication

Angier prides itself on having a great deal of communication with families. Teachers are always willing to discuss your child's progress. If you wish to talk with a teacher, simply send them a ParentSquare direct message or email to arrange a time to talk. Do not hesitate to talk about your child's education with their teacher. Orla is also always available to address any questions or concerns. Honest, open communication will enhance your child's learning experience. Angier staff are always happy to hear from you.

- You can expect to receive regular email communication from Orla and the Angier PTO about school events, important information and updates. Orla sends family email messages several times per month using ParentSquare.
- **Claudia Rossi** is our executive secretary and an invaluable resource for all families. Please reach out to Claudia with questions about student records, registration, arrival/dismissal, bus and general school information. She can be reached at 617-559-9300 or [rossicl@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:rossicl@newton.k12.ma.us).
- Classroom teachers send classroom updates through ParentSquare. Teachers respond to email within 48 hours on weekdays. Please remember that during the school day, teachers are teaching and thus unavailable by email.
- We have an Instagram page! Follow us at [@angier\\_nps](https://www.instagram.com/angier_nps). Note that you do not need to have an Instagram account to view the page. We hope that this will provide you with a window into some of the awesome things happening in our Angier classrooms.
- Our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) sends a weekly informative newsletter called the **Greensheet**, with the latest school news, preview of upcoming events, important dates, etc. Submissions for the Greensheet should be e-mailed to [AngierGreensheet@gmail.com](mailto:AngierGreensheet@gmail.com). If you do not receive the Greensheet and would like to, please subscribe via the PTO website at <http://angierpto.org/> on the right-hand sidebar, or email [AngierGreensheet@gmail.com](mailto:AngierGreensheet@gmail.com).
- PTO volunteers also maintain an Instagram account where you can see all the happenings at school [@angier\\_pto](https://www.instagram.com/angier_pto). Additionally, request to join our closed Facebook group called "Angier PTO Connection," to connect with and get questions answered by fellow Angier parents/caregivers.
- The **Aspen** parent portal allows families and students to view important student and school information anytime. Please be sure your information is up-to-date in Aspen.

## No School Announcements

- When school sessions are canceled or delayed, you will receive an automated phone call early in the morning and an email from the Newton Public Schools. You may also log on to [www.newton.k12.ma.us](http://www.newton.k12.ma.us) or call 617-559-9699 for a recorded message.
- If a "delayed opening" is announced, normal school procedures apply, allowing for the one- or two-hour delay. Although schools may be open on days following snow or ice storms, families should use their own judgment in determining whether road conditions in their area permit children to proceed safely to school. The judgment of the parent/guardian is accepted as a legitimate reason for student absence in such cases.

## Curriculum Night

- Each fall, parents/guardians are invited to their child's classroom to hear the teachers discuss the curriculum for the year. Teachers also use this opportunity to inform parents/guardians of expectations, policies, and procedures that are unique to their individual classrooms. Parents/guardians may ask questions and look at materials in the room as well as at their child's work.
- Curriculum nights are not intended for discussion of individual children or their progress. These evenings are designed for parents/guardians to attend without their children.

## Progress Reports & Conferences

- Teachers write two reports about each child's progress yearly, in January and June. These progress reports become part of the child's cumulative record and are available online via the NPS Aspen Parent Portal. Parents/guardians will receive information on how to access their child's report during the school year.
- In addition, parent/teacher conferences take place in October/November and March/April. At these conferences, parents/guardians discuss how their child is doing, set goals for the months ahead, and get to know their child's teacher.



*Artwork by Angelyn Tran*

# SAFETY & SECURITY

## Building Security & Visitors

All doors at Angier are locked and secured to the public 24/7. During school hours, the main entrance of the school should be used. If you notice that one of the other entrances is left open, please let the office know.

- To enter the building, visitors must ring the buzzer. The office staff will be able to view and buzz visitors into the building.
- Once buzzed in, **ALL visitors MUST stop at the window/desk between the outer and inner main doors to sign-in and MUST wear a visitor's sticker.** It is school policy for staff members to approach anyone without a visitor name tag and direct them to the office.
- Children who are late must also buzz in, come to the office and sign in as tardy.
- All staff members are required to wear ID badges/swipe cards, which allow them to enter the secured doors throughout the school day.
- All entrances at Angier are handicap accessible. Access to the elevator is inside the main lobby to the right across from the mural.

Please remember that the office closes at 3:30PM each afternoon, which means that entering the building after that time will be a challenge. AASP and the Newton Community Education (NCE) staff will have instructions for pick-up as well as ID badges/swipe cards.

Parents/caregivers picking up children from AASP may park in the staff parking lot and pick up at the rear cafeteria doors. Parents/caregivers picking up after an NCE class should wait in the plaza for their children to be escorted out.

## School Safety & Emergency Response

The Newton Public Schools have robust safety and security systems and protocols in place to maintain secure buildings and safe school communities. The district has established protocols for addressing a range of crises and emergencies. Each year, staff are trained in emergency procedures to ensure that new staff, as well as veteran staff, are prepared to handle any emergency.

- Angier has an emergency operations plan with step-by-step directions for responding to a variety of situations. An emergency procedures poster is also posted in every classroom.
- Every year at Angier staff and students practice emergency response procedures. **Our practice is tailored to grade levels, using developmentally appropriate language and discussion topics.** We want children to know that the adults at Angier care very much about them and will do everything in their power to keep them safe. Recently, we have used a "Safety Day" format where we practice several drills in one morning in the fall with the partnership of Newton Police and Fire Departments. Families will receive additional information about Safety Day early in the school year.

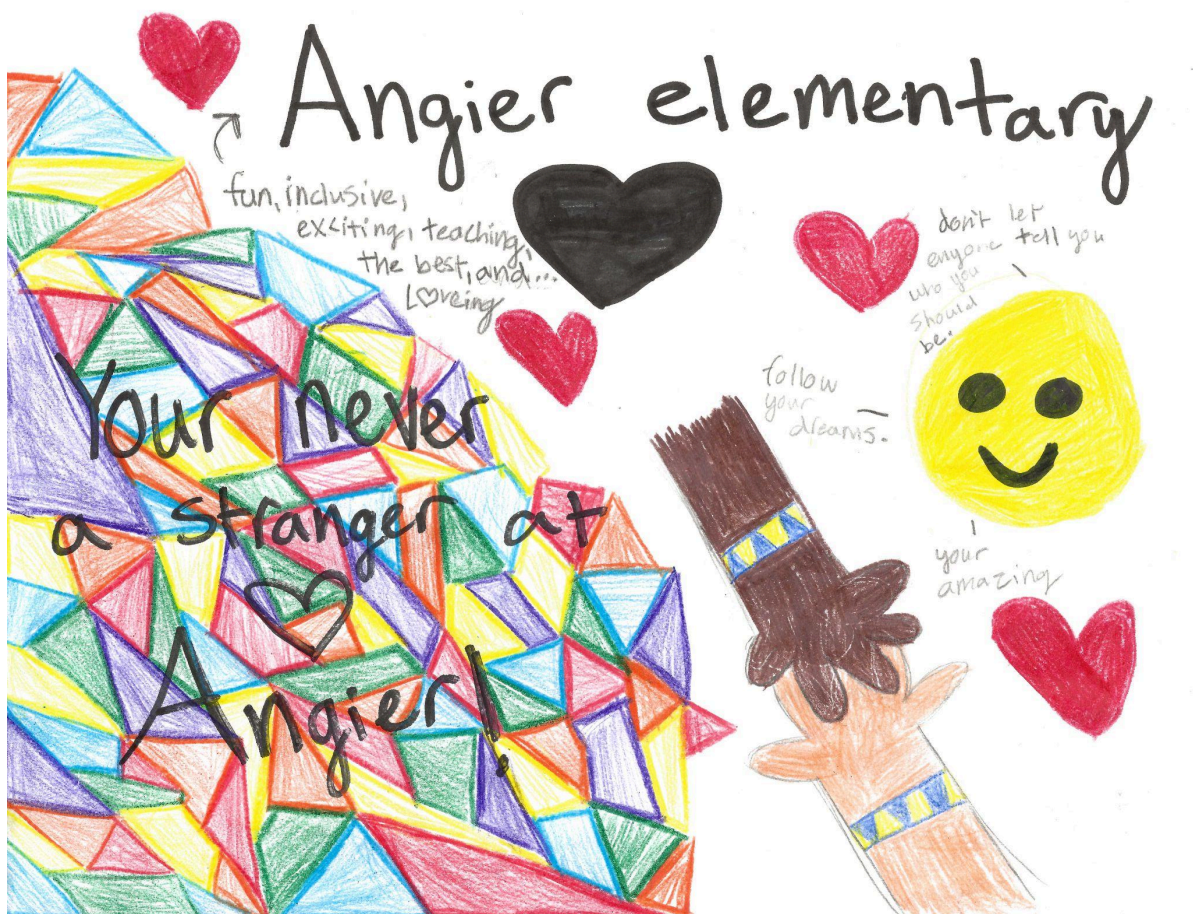
There are terms that you may hear from your students as they practice the safety drills at school. Below we have provided definitions of the words most frequently used in an emergency. These words help to communicate the specific nature of the emergency and the actions that should be taken. **Again, please remember that when discussing these with students, our practice is tailored to grade levels, using developmentally appropriate language and topics.**



- **Evacuation** "*Get out, stay out*" - This response is used when there is a fire or other internal unsafe condition. Students and staff evacuate to a designated assembly area. For Angier, this is the Windsor Club.
- **Shelter in Place** "*Stay inside, stay safe*" - This response is used when there is an external security threat, severe weather, or an airborne hazard. **It is also used when there is a medical emergency.** Students and staff stay inside classrooms with little or no use of hallways or common areas. External doors may be locked based upon the specific situation. Instruction can continue.
- **Lockdown** "*Silent and invisible*" - This response is used when there is an internal security threat. Students and staff are hidden and quiet in locked and darkened classrooms.
- **Hostile event response** "*Run and hide*" - This response is used when there is an active shooter or other act of violence in progress. Students and staff assess the situation and determine the best course of action. They may evacuate immediately or they may follow lockdown procedures described above. The situation is assessed continuously and staff/students may change course as events unfold.

## Emergency Alerts

The City of Newton and the Newton Public Schools have an instant emergency notification system in place to notify parents/guardians. In the event of an emergency (power outage, evacuation, etc.), a series of parent/guardian phone numbers are called. Parents or guardians provide these numbers via the Aspen parent portal.



Artwork by Miriam Sanky, Kaya Stein and Kavya Patel-Modi

## **Live Drop-Off (aka “Blue Lane”)**

Live Drop-Off is an option that Angier offers to help caregivers get on their way quickly and efficiently. The Live Drop-Off Zone is not a good fit for all families. Please consider the following questions to decide if the Live Drop-Off Zone is a fit for your family.

- Does your child require help to open and shut the curbside car door?
- Does your child need “one last hug” before going into the building?
- Does your child resist exiting the car quickly at live drop-off?
- Does your child need help to unload and/or carry belongings into the building? (backpack, musical instruments, snow gear, etc.)
- Are your child’s belongings easily accessible in the backseat (not the trunk)?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, or if you find yourself getting out of your car for any reason during live drop-off, the Live Drop-Off Zone is probably not right for you.

Each of the above scenarios causes congestion, which then backs up traffic flow on Beacon Street and increases the potential for an accident or someone getting hurt. Parking on neighboring roads, utilizing the school bus, or walking to school may better allow you to address your child’s needs and maintain safety for all children and drivers.

Interns are at the Live Drop-Off Zone to assist from 8:10 to 8:20 by guiding you to pull up. It is an expectation that children exit cars independently; the interns do not open car doors. Again, we ask that you do not get out of your car.

If you choose to use Live Drop-Off Zone, the following rules apply:

- Pull vehicle up as far as possible along the blue curb, without blocking buses or crosswalk
- Adults must remain in vehicle – no exceptions
- Children open the car door unaided, and exit quickly and independently on the passenger/curb side of the vehicle
- Once your child is out of the car, immediately follow the line of cars exiting – please do not wait to watch your child make their way into the school
- Never leave a car unattended – live or not – in the blue zone
- Do not use the Visitor Parking spots for live drop-off (or afternoon pick-up)

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping to keep everyone safe!

## **Parking**

The Parking lot located in the rear of the building is for staff ONLY. Do not enter this lot unless you or your child has a physical disability and you have permission from the principal to use the accessible parking space in the lot.

## Dogs

Dogs are not allowed on school property unless they are properly identified therapy dogs. Below is a plan that should work for all.

- If you choose to walk your dog to school at arrival and dismissal times, you and your dog must wait on the grassy area across from the school. The area has benches, which creates a lovely space for adults and dogs to gather.
- Your child can walk safely across the street on the crosswalks while you stay on the grassy area with your dog; there is also a crossing guard on duty.
- Make sure to inform your child's teacher that you give permission for your child to walk to the grassy area on their own. It is imperative that you talk with your child to create a plan in case you are late. Make sure to communicate that plan to your child's teacher.

## Valuables

The school is not responsible for any valuables, although reasonable care is taken to protect children's belongings. If your child brings money, toys, iPods, phones or other such valuables to school, they should entrust them to the care of the teacher until the end of the day.

## Lost & Found

All students' clothing and personal items should be labeled, and children are responsible for their own possessions. The lost and found is located near the school office. Small items such as glasses or jewelry are given to the school office staff for safekeeping. Unclaimed clothing is donated to charitable organizations at the end of each term or if the lost and found gets too full!



**Artwork by Emma Levy (left) and Anya Switkowski (right).**



# LUNCH, SNACK & RECESS

## Lunch at School

All children in grades K-5 eat lunch at school every day, except Wednesdays. Students have the option of bringing a **nut-free** lunch from home or receiving lunch at school.

- All students across the state of Massachusetts can participate in the school lunch program free of charge.
  - FIRST meals are free for all students. However, SECOND meals must be paid for through the MySchoolBucks account. Please create or check your family MySchoolBucks lunch account at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) to ensure there are funds available if your child purchases a second meal.
- Lunch menus can be accessed at <https://newtonk12.nutrislice.com/>.
- A Lunch Manager and three attendants administer the lunch program. The attendants supervise children in grades K-5 while they eat in the cafeteria.
- For more information, visit <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/page/799> or call the Food Service Director at 617-559-6319.

## Lunch Rules

- Children sit in the cafetorium with their classmates. During mealtime, children should remain in their seats. When finished, children clean up their area, dispose of wrappers and recycle or compost appropriate items.
- Children are expected to be polite and well-mannered. We expect students to use an indoor voice, to help one another, and to only eat their own food. Children must always obtain permission from the lunchroom monitor to leave the cafetorium.
- After eating is complete, children head outside to recess.
- Angier supports a full recycling and composting program at lunch.
- Healthy food is encouraged – no gum, candy, or soda.
- Angier is a peanut and tree-nut free school – no nuts allowed at any time.

## Snacks

We encourage students to bring in a substantial healthy snack to sustain them until lunch or until school dismissal. Sodas and candy are not allowed. Make sure the snack contains no nuts.

## Daily Recess

The benefits of recess are well documented, and Angier supports daily recess as part of its curriculum.

- In good weather, children normally have an outdoor recess period each day. Children with snow pants and boots will be allowed in the snow, conditions permitting.
- If physical activity should be limited, for example, due to illness or injury, you must write a note to the nurse or office with an explanation.
- At Angier, recess is not taken away or used as a punishment unless it is the result of a logical consequence. For example: if a child breaks a recess rule the logical consequence is for the child to lose a portion of recess on that day.

## Sneakers

In order to protect themselves and the gymnasium floor, children should either wear sneakers to school on gym days or should keep a pair of sneakers at school. "Wheelie" sneakers are not allowed in school. Clogs, flip flops and sandals are sometimes unsafe on outside equipment. Please use your judgment as to whether they are suitable for school.

## Recess Guidelines

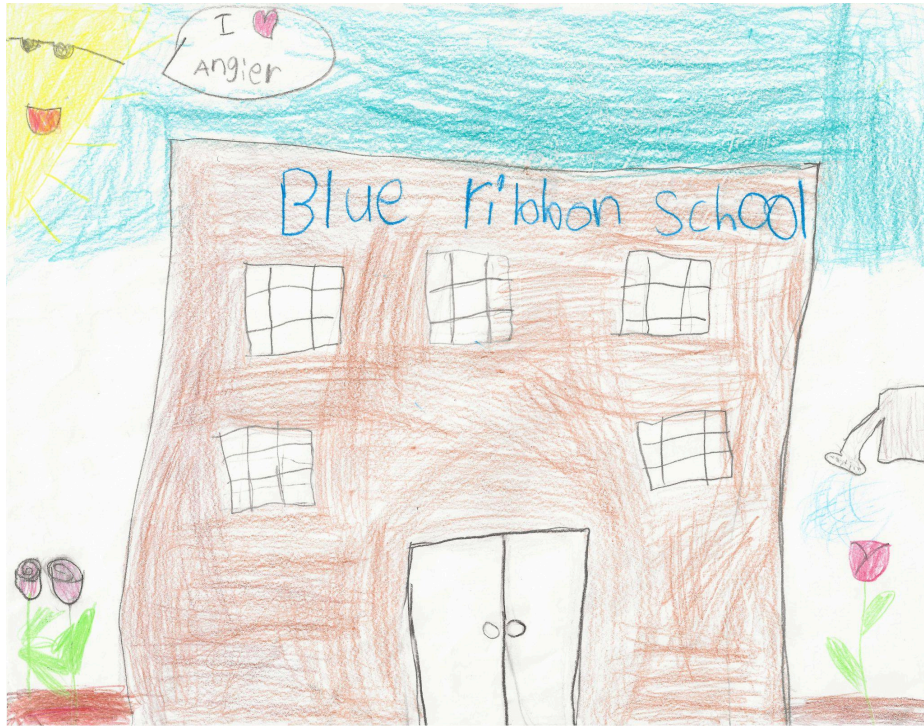
1. Children should travel carefully under playground structures and should not stand up too quickly. They should look for students dismounting the structure above.
2. Equipment can be slippery when wet or when footwear is muddy or sandy. When the ground is snowy or wet, teachers may ask students not to climb the equipment in order to prevent accidents due to slippery conditions.
3. Climbing activities:
  - Children should keep a strong hand grip in the middle of the bars.
  - Bars could be wet in the morning and very slippery.
  - Children should not climb when hands are tired and sore.
  - No climbing on top of the structures.
  - Children should give the child in front a head start.
  - Children should carry the tongue behind teeth.
4. Slides:
  - No pushing on the platform on top of the slide.
  - Children should give the person in front a head start.
  - Children may not form trains. One at a time, please!
  - Children should slide down feet first, and always be seated.
  - No standing at the bottom of the slide and/or walking up the tunnel or blocking the exit.
5. Circular Swings:
  - Children should walk around the arc of the swing.
  - No jumping off the swing.
  - Children must take a short turn and share.
  - These swings are designed for several children to ride at once.
6. Children are not allowed to perform inverted activities on the equipment. Hanging from their legs can lead to serious head and neck injuries.
7. Children must not touch, interfere with, or distract another child when they are on the equipment.
8. Children must always remain in sight of the recess supervisor. Once outside, children must stay outside unless given permission to go in.
9. Children should dress appropriately for the weather.
10. Hockey sticks, baseballs and hard balls are not allowed.
11. Children may not interfere with the play activities of other children. Any problems should be reported to a teacher. Children must not say "you can't play." Everyone needs to have a happy recess time.
12. Children are expected to line up when signaled.
13. If you are standing with Angier to your back the playground on the left is designed for K-2 and the playground on the right is designed for 3-5.

**Please go over these guidelines with your child, and feel free to come to the playground after hours to practice with them.**



## Litter

A lot of people help to keep our school clean. Children can help too! Nothing is easier than picking up old papers and placing them in the recycling bins. Help keep our school attractive and pleasant inside and out.



**Artwork by Elle Matos (top) and Lily Otremba and Sofia Kuksin (bottom)**

# CURRICULAR RESOURCES & PROGRAMMING

## NPS Curriculum

Newton Public Schools actively cultivate a culture of equity and excellence by creating and sustaining curriculum and instructional practices that lead to high quality learning for each and every student. We intend to provide curriculum and instruction that inspires and engages students, and ensures that all students become knowledgeable, responsible, caring and contributing members of society. **For additional information on the NPS curriculum, you can visit: <https://sites.google.com/newton.k12.ma.us/nps-curriculum-website-k-8/home>**

- Parents/guardians have an opportunity to learn about grade-level curriculum at Curriculum Night, which happens in September each year.
- We are fortunate to have curriculum specialists who support classroom teachers and students:
  - **Literacy specialists.** The Angier School literacy team helps oversee the program in reading and writing, providing coaching and support to classroom teachers. Student progress is monitored through frequent assessment, and children who might be having difficulty are provided with intervention.
  - **Math specialists.** The Angier School math team helps oversee the mathematics program, providing coaching and support to classroom teachers. Student progress is monitored through frequent assessment, and children who might be having difficulty are provided with intervention.

## Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Support

At Angier we are fortunate to have a school psychologist, a social worker, and two SEL interventionists. The Angier School SEL team helps oversee students' social and emotional learning. If a student is struggling emotionally or behaviorally, a member of our SEL team is available to support them and determine what additional interventions might be needed.

- **The School Psychologist** is involved with children who may have special educational needs and helps in responding to children's developmental issues. These issues may include entry to school, making and keeping friends, dealing with conflicts, family stress, or coping with a difficult event in the news. Sometimes the psychologist is called upon to help when children are dealing with a special life situation, such as a loss or a serious illness, or when a child is having behavioral difficulties at school.
- **The School Social Worker** is available to parents/guardians for consultation on family issues, especially those that affect a child's learning, and is knowledgeable about community resources that can be helpful to children and families. The social worker may also be available to families for short-term counseling, groups, and collaboration with community agencies.
- **The SEL Interventionists** provide flexible, short-term support to students who may be experiencing behavioral or social challenges.

## Special Area Classes

- **Barbara Feldstein Library.** Students have library classes for at least 30 minutes each week. The curriculum includes research skills, exploration and appreciation of literature, and use of educational technology. Students also use the library to browse for independent reading material and to work on independent research projects.
  - The Library welcomes a small number of family volunteers to help with circulation and re-shelving books. If you are interested in working in the Library, please contact our Library Volunteer Coordinators at [librarycoordinator@angierpto.org](mailto:librarycoordinator@angierpto.org).
- **Music.** Angier offers a rich variety of instrumental opportunities in addition to the general music curriculum.
  - Students in grades K-5 participate in **general music class** once a week. This includes singing, playing various classroom instruments, moving, reading, responding to, and creating music.
  - Grade 3 students also participate in an additional music class each week dedicated to learning to play the **recorder instrument**.
  - In grade 4, **small group instrument classes** are offered using a variety of options that include woodwind, brass, percussion, and string instruments. Newton Public Schools charges an annual participation fee for this class. These classes are optional and students will leave their normal classroom schedule once a week for 30 minutes to attend instrument classes. In addition, students may also pursue individual lessons outside of school. Private lessons are not expected. Of course, if you find that your child is very enthusiastic about playing, private lessons are encouraged. For example, private lessons can either be taken through the Newton Music Lesson Extension Program (which offers lessons from private teachers selected by the music department), through the All Newton Music School, through other local music schools, or from private teachers within the community.
  - Fifth grade students who have completed instrument classes in grade 4 (woodwind, brass, percussion, or string) may join the **5th grade Band or Orchestra**. Newton Public Schools charges an annual participation fee for this class. These ensembles are large groups with mixed instrumentation, requiring students to already know how to play their instrument. Band and Orchestra each practice once a week during scheduled school hours. Also, there are performances for Band and Orchestra that occur during the school day.
  - In addition to the general music curriculum, fourth and fifth grade students participate in **Chorus**. There is a Spring Chorus Concert for the fifth grade Chorus. Additional performances for both grades are held during the school day.
- **Visual Art.** Elementary students receive visual art instruction from visual art specialists who are assigned to each school. Visual art instruction is focused on providing students with experiences in a variety of visual art media and techniques while developing artistic skills. Students are also given learning experiences which are designed to increase their knowledge of art history and to develop art appreciation.
- **Physical Education, Health and Wellness (PEHW).** Our PEHW program aims to enhance the wellbeing of the school community by creating a culture that integrates six dimensions of wellness: social/environmental, physical, intellectual, career/occupational, emotional and spiritual. Our PE teachers encourage an active, healthy lifestyle, positive choices and student centeredness, which will provide each student with a diverse education in a safe supportive environment.



## What I Need (WIN)/Tiered Intervention

Angier School operates as a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). MTSS is a way of organizing the academic, behavioral and social-emotional (SEL) support we provide to students.

- At Angier, all students receive a rich and engaging Newton Public Schools grade level curriculum. This is our Tier 1 curriculum and instruction.
- We regularly assess students to ensure that they are making progress. If our assessment data show that they may need some additional support or teaching in a particular area(s), we provide that Tiered Intervention during our What I Need (WIN) block, which occurs 4x per week at each grade level.
- During WIN, students get what they need. Our teachers and interventionists provide opportunities for students to review and practice skills in small groups in both academics and SEL, depending upon what they need. We regularly monitor their progress to determine if they have mastered the skill or if they should continue to receive Tiered Intervention support.



**Artwork by Margot De Chant (top) and Isabella Melamed (bottom)**

## Special Education

At Angier and throughout the Newton Public Schools, we respect and celebrate the differences in our abilities and our different ways of being in the world. No one way of being or learning is better than another.

Special Education programming assists children with special needs, in accordance with state law and Federal Law 94-142, IDEA, which guarantees all children an equal right to an appropriate educational experience. Whenever possible, this education should be provided in the local public school with as much integration as possible into the regular classroom.

- The law provides for a thorough evaluation of the child, parent/guardian involvement in the development of an educational plan that addresses identified special needs and the right of review and appeal for parents/guardians who feel that the plan does not meet their child's needs.

The children who receive services are referred through the school psychologist, the classroom teacher, or a parent/guardian. Assessments of the child's needs are made by the appropriate specialists. If necessary, individualized educational plans are then developed based on these assessments. The children can receive a variety of services for academic, behavioral and social/emotional needs.

An essential element of the Special Education programs is the close communication among the specialists, the classroom teacher, and parents/guardians. If you have any questions or wish to refer your child for a special education evaluation, talk with your child's classroom teacher, then the school principal or school psychologist if necessary.

- Related services students may receive include:
  - Speech and Language Therapy
  - Occupational Therapy
  - Physical Therapy
  - Adaptive Physical Education
  - Psychology/Social Work
  - Orientation and Mobility Training
  - Vision Services
  - Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services
  - Specialized Curriculum
- **Inclusion.** In 1990, Newton Public Schools established the Neighborhood Inclusion program, designed to integrate students with significant special needs in the neighborhood schools. Since that time, students with a wide range of abilities are members of all of our classrooms.
- **ACHIEVE Program in Grades 2-5.** The ACHIEVE program is a district-wide program that supports students in grade 2-5 with language-based learning disabilities. One classroom in grades 2-5 is an ACHIEVE classroom, meaning that it is staffed with a general educator, an Orton Gillingham-certified special educator and full-time graduate intern studying moderate disabilities. Up to one-third of the students in the classroom have a language-based learning disability. Instruction is highly differentiated to meet the needs of all students.
- There are Angier PTO representatives to the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) and to the ACHIEVE program (volunteer positions).



## English Language Learners (ELL)

English language instruction is tailored to the individual linguistic, cultural, and educational needs of the student.

- In addition to regular instruction in the mainstream classroom, all English Language Learners receive instruction by specialized ELL teachers and instructional aides.
- Newton's ELL Program is designed to create an interactive setting where students are taught strategies to help them master English as quickly as possible, develop appropriate academic and social skills, and progress in content areas without loss of achievement due to English proficiency level. Instruction integrates skills and concepts of the mainstream curriculum in the belief that language learning best occurs when the content is meaningful and useful to students.
- Each year students enrolled in the ELL program take an assessment called ACCESS. The dates for this test are January 5- February 8. For more information or to register, please call 617-559-6045.

## METCO Program

The Newton Public Schools have participated in the **MET**ropolitan **C**ouncil for Educational Opportunity (METCO) program since its inception in 1966. METCO is a school integration program that enrolls Boston students in grades K-10 in participating suburban public schools to reduce racial isolation. At Angier, we believe that the diversity that Boston students bring enriches our learning environment. We view human differences as community assets and we celebrate them.

PTO meetings and activities provide a way for Boston and Newton families to get to know one another and be involved in the life of the school, and there is an Angier PTO representative to the METCO program (volunteer position). Our experiences have shown that by participating in METCO activities (which take place in Newton and Boston) and by encouraging interactions between children and their parents/guardians, fulfilling friendships have been formed.

## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) at Angier

At Angier we are committed to ensuring that each and every child feels safe, welcome, affirmed and included in our community. Every day in our Angier classrooms, we encourage empathy for one another and we strive to celebrate the uniqueness of each individual. We want our students to be proud and confident in their identities. In every classroom, we teach children about aspects of identity, such as race, family structure, gender, age, ability, likes/dislikes, etc. We encourage children to speak up when someone is treated unjustly because of their identity. We teach them to notice and name discrimination of any kind and encourage them to join the fight for fairness and equity in our world. We are proud of our many "upstanders" at Angier who routinely advocate for the wellbeing of their classmates and community.

Below are a few highlights of our DEI efforts throughout the past several years:

- In 2021, we formed a student-led group called the Angier Activists. A group of teachers serve as coaches to students in grades 4 and 5 who are interested in creating positive changes in the Angier community. The group focuses on topics developed by students in the areas of social justice, sustainability, and making the world a more equitable place. Students have the opportunity to put their ideas into action.
- Our entire staff has engaged in professional learning experiences related to racial identity development (RID), courageous conversations about race, and disability-affirming practices. During the 2025-26 school year, we will continue to focus on culturally responsive instructional practices across all content areas.

- Our entire staff has been trained by the Massachusetts Department of Education's Safe School Program to LGBTQ+ students. This training helps us continue to grow and improve in supporting LGBTQ+ members of our community.
- Started in 2021, the Angier Upstanders Club is a student-led group, focused on learning about and training themselves and others to become upstanders. An upstander is a person who stands up to harmful words and actions.
- In 2022, we started an Angier PRIDE Club for students in grades K-5 who identify as LGBTQ+, as well as allies of LGBTQ+ individuals. This includes students who identify within the LGBTQ+ community, have LGBTQ+ family members, or are exploring various aspects of their own identity. The PRIDE Club is an affinity space for students to share what's on their minds and to develop positive connections and a sense of belonging.

## Student Teachers/Interns

Angier is fortunate to have close connections with several area universities. We frequently have undergraduate and graduate student teachers and interns from these colleges working in classrooms with members of our staff. Student teachers and interns contribute to the classroom in many ways, including working with small groups of children, assisting with special projects, and taking primary responsibility for a short period of time under supervision of the classroom teacher.



**Artwork by Avery Yau**

# THE PTO & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Purpose & Goals of the PTO

The Angier Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) has two goals: (1) enrich our children's Angier experience, and (2) build a strong, vibrant school community. We accomplish this by organizing and funding a wide range of events and activities throughout the year and by financially supplementing the resources available to the school and our incredible teachers. We are entirely volunteer-run and supported by fundraising.

## PTO Membership

The PTO is made up of all the parents/caregivers and teachers at Angier, working together to make our school the very best for our children. The PTO is not something that you "join"—everyone in our community is a part of it! There are no mandatory dues or assessments.

Parent/caregiver involvement plays an important role in the Angier community; children enjoy seeing their adults volunteering and benefit enormously from these contributions. We encourage you and your family to volunteer, contribute, and participate. See the description of Volunteer Opportunities below for ideas on how you might contribute!

## Volunteering

There are lots of ways to get involved in the PTO, from volunteering your time to helping plan specific programs or initiatives to participating in Angier community events. The PTO has many committees staffed by dedicated parents/caregivers and teachers, and we are happy to help you find the one(s) that suit your specific interests. Whatever your talents, interests, or availability, there is a place in the PTO for you, and we encourage you to participate!

To sign up for volunteer positions, visit the Angier PTO website ([www.angierpto.org](http://www.angierpto.org)) and click on the Get Involved link under Your PTO.

The following is a brief description of some of the many program committees and volunteer opportunities available through our Angier PTO. Additional opportunities are listed on the Angier PTO website and in the **Greensheet** during the year as needs arise.

Please note that adults who spend time in the school must respect the need for confidentiality. If a volunteer becomes concerned about a situation or an individual, she or he should speak to the appropriate teacher or to the principal and not discuss the matter with others.

Every parent, guardian or friend who volunteers for an activity in the school or participates as a chaperone on a field trip must have an active CORI/SORI form on file. A CORI/SORI is a background check for criminal activity and is valid for **three years**. Forms are available online and can also be obtained from the school office. A completed form must be brought in person to the office, along with a government-issued photo id. Please allow two weeks for the form to be processed

## City-Wide Liaison / Representative Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers for the Special Education Committee, METCO Committee, and representatives for the School Committee help keep the Angier community informed about pertinent city-wide issues, most often through reports published on the Angier PTO website and in the ***Greensheet***.

The METCO (Metropolitan Council for Education Opportunity) program enables children from Boston families to attend suburban schools, including Angier. By volunteering to be active in this committee, you can help foster stronger bonds between Angier's Newton and Boston families.

## Communications Volunteer Opportunities

**Angier Handbook:** Volunteers update and produce this useful information resource, which tells you everything you need to know to get the most out of each year at Angier School. The handbook is available as a downloadable pdf on the PTO website ([www.angierpto.org](http://www.angierpto.org)).

**The *Greensheet*:** This is the weekly Angier school e-mail newsletter, sent out on Sunday evenings by the PTO. Edited and produced by volunteers, the ***Greensheet*** is a vital link between the school and its families. Volunteers also post announcements on the PTO website.

**PTO Database and Directory:** These volunteers maintain the PTO database, helping us keep up to date with students, families, faculty, class lists and volunteers, and manage the PTO's secure online Directory, an invaluable resource for organizing playdates and class or community activities.

**PTO Website:** This volunteer updates the PTO website with new pages and links and ensures that the website is functioning properly.

**Social Media Coordinators:** Manage the Angier Facebook & Instagram page and assists the co-presidents in communication and community-building through social media.

## Community Engagement Volunteer Opportunities

**Angier's Got Talent!:** Help coordinate the talent show of the year! We hold this show every other spring. Our next show will take place in the 2026-2027 school year.

**Back-to-School Pizza Party:** These volunteers coordinate the Back-to-School picnic at the beginning of the school year.

**Book Fair:** This is not the book fair of your youth. This team will partner with Wellesley books, to curate a selection relevant to the current year's curriculum and interests observed by our own librarian Liz Donovan and reading specialist Megan Kamm. You will confirm an author presentation coordinated by Wellesley Books. The PTO will raise money in advance to let every child choose one book to keep from their class visit to the in-school fair, no money exchanged. Lastly, plan a reading party with opportunities for additional book purchases. Oh, and 10% of all proceeds come back to Angier.

**Boston Family Event:** These volunteers organize a family event in Boston, reaching out to our METCO and out-of-district families.

**Buddy Families:** These volunteers reach out to welcome new families to Angier providing a friendly face and answering questions throughout the year.

**Community Bike and Rodeo Event:** Under the guidance of Bike Newton and Safe Rides to School, Angier PTO hosts 3 simultaneous fun biking events for bikers of all skill levels!

**Dads' and Moms' Nights Out:** This committee organizes separate evenings for the dads and moms to get together and socialize.

**Fall Community Dinner:** This committee organizes a progressive dinner welcoming all parents/caregivers and staff. The evening culminates in a location where all participants share dessert together. This is an adults-only event.

**Families Organizing for Racial Justice (FORJ):** is a group of diverse Newton families helping our children learn about issues of power and inequality and how to stand up for racial justice. We seek to generate understanding and curiosity about differences in our society, and to work together towards racial equity.

**Fifth Grade Events:** This committee organizes special activities and memorabilia for our fifth graders, such as the yearbook, T-shirts, a picnic, and other graduation events.

**Fun Fridays:** This committee organizes two Friday night activities at Angier. These activities can be movie nights, bingo nights, dance party, etc.

**Girls on the Run (GOTR):** This program inspires girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.

**Math League:** A new committee added in 2024 that focuses on math.

**New Family Welcome Bags:** In August, help put together and deliver goodies bags to new families and kindergartners starting in the fall.

**New Family Welcome Party:** At the beginning of the school year, this volunteer hosts a party to welcome families new to the school. Other volunteers assist the host with organizing food donations, decorations, and clean-up.

**PJs and Pancakes Breakfast:** This popular community-building family event brings the Angier community together for a celebratory morning of fun.

**Tech Committee:** If you already notice your child's burgeoning screen addiction (competing with your own) and you want to help your child have a healthy relationship with technology, or you are resolute in your commitment to "wait til 8th" or if you want to learn more about the impact of screens and media on children's brains, or if you want to understand more about social media and/or parental controls, this committee is for you. Together you will plan and coordinate expert lectures and community discussions around these important topics.

## **Educational Enrichment Volunteer Opportunities**

**Community Service:** This committee organizes activities to benefit organizations and individuals in our greater community who need support or assistance. Past efforts have included collection drives for food items, used clothes, toys, and used books.

**Creative Arts and Sciences:** Part of a city-wide program, this PTO committee brings acclaimed arts and science enrichment programs to Angier to help support our school arts and science curriculum. Volunteers generate ideas, preview performances, and organize the events.

**Invention Invasion:** The Invention Invasion is a non-competitive celebration and demonstration of students' homemade creations, gadgets, and inventions. Volunteers organize an evening of science, creativity, and fun that encourages and inspires children to think like entrepreneurs.

**World Cultures Committee:** This committee celebrates the diversity of cultures and backgrounds at Angier. Help create a community event that brings everyone together highlighting the special aspects of our diversity.



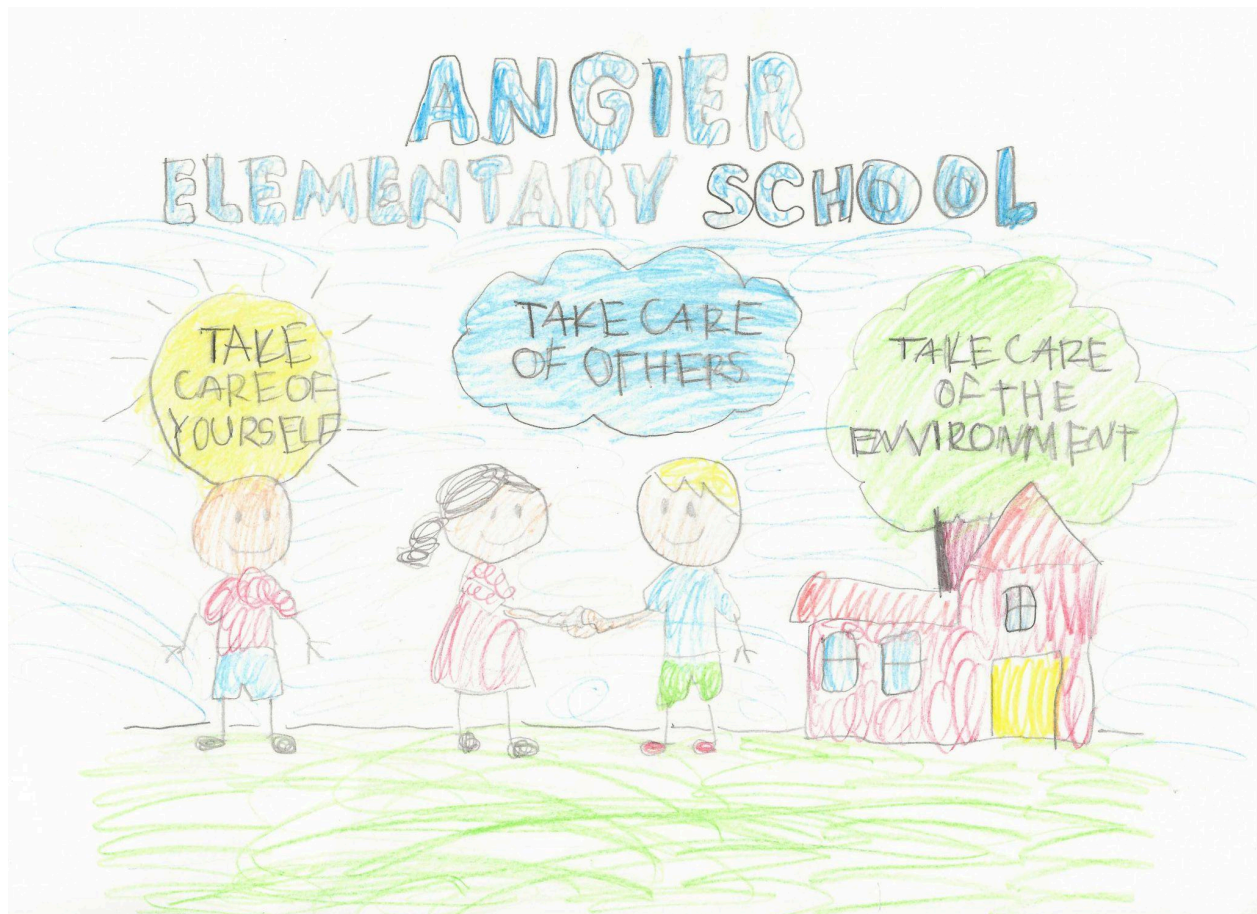
## Fundraising Volunteer Opportunities

**An Evening for Angier:** Angier's largest fundraiser, this event is a well-attended adult-only evening. Traditionally, this event is held at the Windsor Club. It entails lively entertainment, food and drinks, an incredible auction, and other fun and exciting ways to donate to Angier. The night is very special, not only because it raises money for Angier, but also because it brings together Angier parents/caregivers and staff to socialize, build community, and have a good time! This is one of our largest PTO committees and offers many different opportunities for you to get involved to help make our Evening for Angier such a success!

In addition, there are a variety of other opportunities throughout the year to raise funds for Angier. One example is **Angier Wear**. This committee coordinates the selection, design and sale of Angier-themed items, such as t-shirts, pajama pants and hats.

## PTO Leadership Volunteer Opportunities

**PTO Officers and Executive Committee:** The officers of the Angier PTO typically include two or three co-presidents who serve for a staggered 2-3 year term, the treasurer, and the recording secretary.



*Artwork by Sitara Kovala*

## School Support Volunteer Opportunities

**Angier Beautification:** Help keep our grounds beautiful! Includes organizing and completing quarterly Angier grounds clean-ups.

**Angier Mascot “Bertie”:** Attend events as the Angier eagle mascot, "Bertie" (ideal for someone 5'8" - 6'1" tall)

**Art Volunteer Coordinators:** Includes training and coordinating art classroom volunteers and assisting the art teacher in organizing an annual art show.

**Bulk Supplies:** These volunteers make back-to-school shopping a breeze for Angier families by purchasing supplies in bulk for each grade, then sorting orders by student and delivering them to the classroom ready for the new school year! Please see the Angier PTO website for more information about participating in this very special opportunity.

**Color Day:** This committee coordinates Angier’s annual spring Color Day event with Angier’s physical education teacher. During this field day, full of spirit and friendly competition, volunteers run dozens of non-competitive relay races and activities while each classroom rotates around the field taking turns at the different events.

**Kindergarten Registration/Playdates:** Coordinate and organize incoming Kindergarten registration (May) and playdate events (August).

**Library:** One of the nicest places to spend time is in the library, the heart of Angier. Volunteers provide assistance to students, check books in and out, and perform general library duties.

**Room Parents:** Help support the teachers in their classroom-based activities, including class parties, and help other class parents/caregivers become involved. Being a Room Parent is a great way to get involved with your child’s classroom community, and one of the most direct and important ways the PTO helps to enhance and enrich our children’s experience at Angier.

**Room Parent Coordinators:** Room Parent Coordinators organize and coordinate with room parents for each grade across all classrooms..

**School Pictures:** These volunteers help with School Picture Day to make sure things run smoothly and each child looks (and acts) their best.

**Teacher Admin Support for Kids (TASK):** These volunteers take administrative requests from teachers and staff at Angier, and work in the office one day per week to complete those requests.

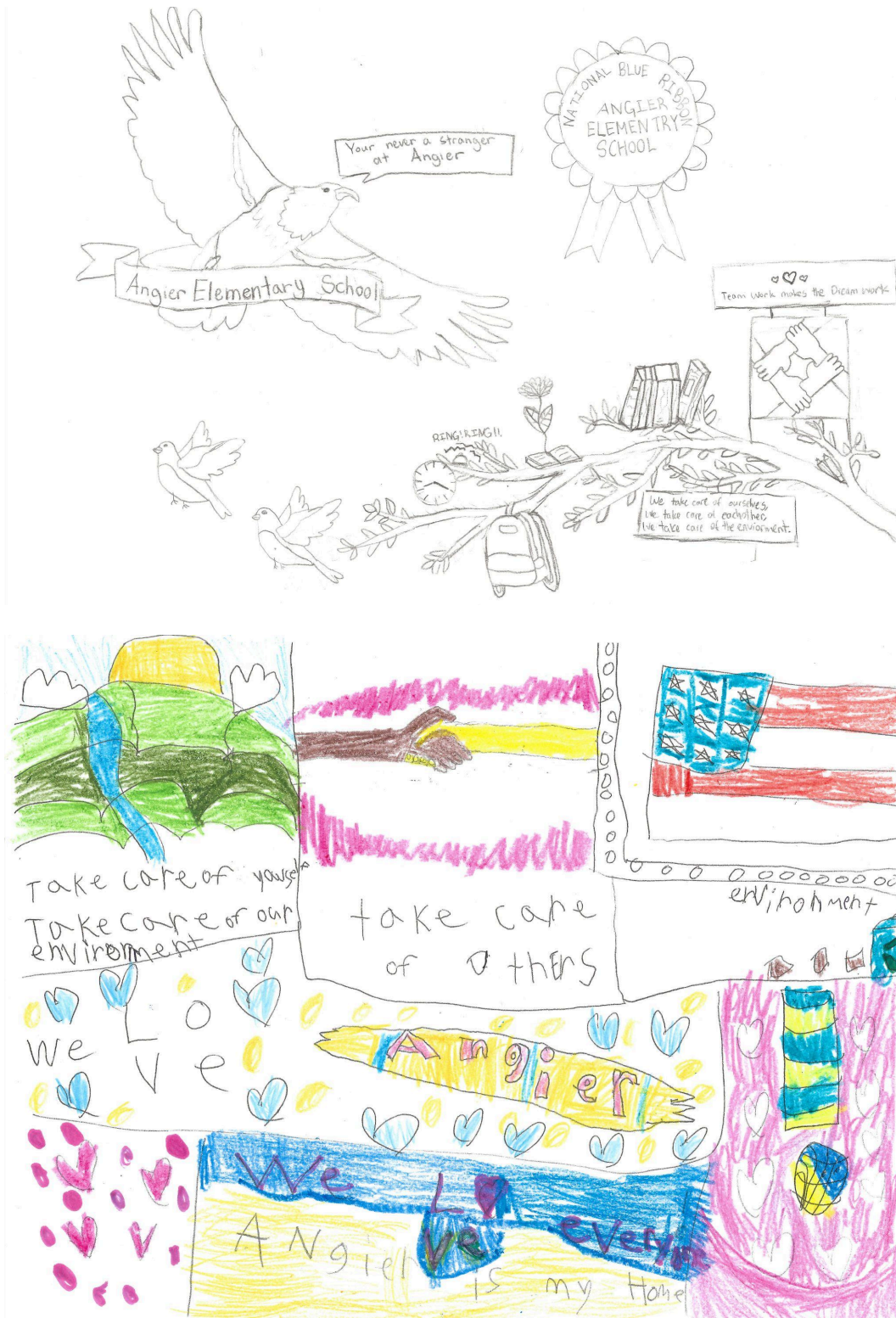
**Teacher Appreciation Events:** Throughout the school year volunteers plan special events for Angier teachers. These events are a great way for Angier parents/caregivers to let teachers know how much they are valued and appreciated.

**Turkey Trot:** During Angier’s annual Thanksgiving Turkey Trot, volunteers work in partnership with our physical education teacher and the Community Service Committee to organize a field day full of fun for the kids while encouraging canned food donations to support those in need. During this event, the students run through an obstacle course, accompanied and encouraged by a volunteer adult dressed as a turkey. Volunteers bring food donations to the Newton Food Pantry located at Newton City Hall.

**Woot Woot Cart:** Ever wonder what is happening at school during the day? Join us in supporting our teachers with fun snacks every other week. Partner with a friend or sign up solo to meet someone new, stock up the cart, and walk around the school.

## More Ideas?

We welcome your ideas and inspiration! If you have any suggestions you'd like to bring to the PTO executive team, or if you'd like more information about joining a committee, please send an email to [copresidents@angierpto.org](mailto:copresidents@angierpto.org).



Artwork by Ellie Wang (top) and Emma Gomez (bottom)

# HEALTH

## Nurse

Angier has a full-time school nurse. Every attempt is made to have the health room covered at all times. In the event that the health room is unattended, children who are not feeling well or are injured should go to the main office. The nurse may be contacted directly during the day at 617-559-9312.

## COVID-19 & Flu

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health website (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/staying-home-to-prevent-the-spread-of-respiratory-viruses>) outlines what to do if you have symptoms or are exposed to someone who has COVID:

- If you were exposed to someone with a respiratory virus, you do not need to stay home as long as you do not develop symptoms.
- If you develop symptoms, stay home and test.
- Resume normal activities when your symptoms are improving, and you have not had a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. For at least the first five days after you resume normal activities, you should:
- Avoid crowded indoor spaces and wear a mask when you are indoors around other people.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid spending time with people who are at increased risk for severe disease.
- If you test positive for COVID, talk to your health care provider about Paxlovid, an antiviral medication that is recommended for high-risk individuals to reduce the risk of severe disease and hospitalization.

The advice above regarding COVID also helps prevent other respiratory illnesses:

- Stay up to date on immunizations
- Stay home when sick
- Wash your hands
- Use masks when needed

## Medical Records & Examinations

The Newton Public Schools keeps medical records for your child from Kindergarten through grade 12. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires periodic examinations of every school-aged child. Newton complies with this regulation by requiring examinations in Kindergarten and grade 6 and/or upon entrance to the Newton Public Schools. An interval health history and physical are requested in grade 3. These examinations should be done by your private physician. A copy of your child's physical is to be uploaded in Aspen as part of the Annual Student Information update.



## Required Immunizations & Screening Tests

By state law every child attending public schools must be immunized. Upon entrance to Kindergarten, or upon entrance to the Newton Public Schools, your child must have physician documentation of the following:

- DPT/DTaP (diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus) – 5 doses
- Polio - 4 doses
- MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) – 2 doses
- Hepatitis B – 3 doses
- Varicella – 2 doses
- Record of lead testing (students entering Kindergarten only).

Children will be EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL until proper immunization documentation is provided to the school nurse.



*Artwork by Mary O'Rourke*



## Medication

Medication forms are required by Massachusetts state law. This includes both prescription and non-prescription medications. Doctors' orders must accompany all medications. Physicians may fax orders to 617-244-4161. Medication forms must be filled out. Forms are available in the health room and online at

<https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/127879/638784101786152722>

Medications must be delivered to the school by an ADULT in a labeled pharmacy bottle. When picking up medication at the pharmacy ask for a school bottle. Students are not allowed to carry medications.

## Allergies

If your child suffers from any allergies, whether seasonal, environmental, food and/or drug, please notify the health room in writing. Parents/guardians are responsible for providing emergency medications, i.e., Benadryl and/or Epi-pens. Teachers and other staff are trained each year in the use of Epi-pens.

In addition, Angier has been designated "nut-free". Do not send any foods containing tree nuts or peanuts for snack or for lunch. Tree nuts may include, but are not limited to, walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts, cashews, pistachios, and Brazil nuts.

In accordance with NPS Life-Threatening Allergy Guidelines, the Angier School:

- Maintains a no sharing/no trading food policy
- Avoids the use of food for classrooms and school-wide functions
- Advises families of any school activity that requires the use of food in advance of the project or activity
- Limits the use of food for curriculum instruction

## Life-Threatening Food Allergy Policy

Newton has a Life Threatening Food Allergy Policy. Parents/guardians whose children have a food allergy will meet with the school nurse and develop a Medical Emergency Plan. The School Committee Guidelines can be found on the Policies, Procedures, and Protocols page at <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/2902>

Additional information on Medical Emergency Plans is on the Newton Health Department webpage: <https://www.newtonma.gov/government/health-human-services/school-health>

## Health Screening Done by the School

- Vision testing is done for all children in grades Kindergarten through 5 and then again in grades 7 and 9.
- Hearing tests are done for all children in grades Kindergarten through 3.
- Height and weight are done for all children in grades 1, 3, 7, and 10.
- Scoliosis screening is done for all children in grades 5 through 9 in compliance with state law. Grade 5 screening is done by the school nurse.
- Families with concerns about any of these issues should contact the school nurse.

## Illness at School

School personnel assume responsibility for determining whether your child should be sent home because of an illness commencing during school hours. For your child's welfare and for the protection of others, it is important to keep your child at home if they have:

- a fever over 100 degrees during the past 24 hours.
- a cold in the active stages, i.e., coughing, runny nose, or sneezing.
- a sore throat and/or swollen neck glands.
- a diagnosis of strep throat until your child has been on antibiotics for 24 hours and is no longer infectious.
- a diagnosis of conjunctivitis until your child's eyes are no longer red and/or producing yellow drainage. This requires at least 24 hours on antibiotics.
- an undiagnosed rash or skin eruptions.
- vomiting and/or diarrhea in the past 24 hours.
- head lice that have not been treated.

Please teach your child how to wash their hands effectively, use tissues, and cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing, as this helps prevent the spread of germs.

## Head Lice

Head lice are a common and often recurrent problem among school children. Students with head lice will be assessed by the school nurse and parents/guardians will be notified. Resources for treatment will be given to parents/guardians.

## Accidents

School personnel administer first aid. Parents/guardians will be contacted as needed. Please be sure an up-to-date emergency telephone number is on record in Aspen and the school office.

- In the event of an emergency, the school nurse will activate emergency treatment of your child. If necessary, an ambulance will be called for your child at school. They will be accompanied in the ambulance to the hospital by the principal or a faculty member. You will be notified as soon as possible.



*Artwork by Lucy Blust*

# POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook contains the NPS administrative policies and procedures. In the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook you will find information about a large number of things, including Attendance, Bullying, Discipline, Dress Code, Health Information, Transportation, and more. Students receive a copy of this handbook each fall, and it is available online at <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/page/2915>.

This section of the Angier handbook is designed to highlight and supplement information from the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and other NPS policies and procedures.

## Kindergarten Registration & Screening

Registration and screening for Kindergarten are held in the Spring.

- To enter Kindergarten in September, your child must reach their fifth birthday by September 1 of that year.
- At the time of registration, assigned teachers implement a normed assessment to all students which assists in the placement process.
- Special Kindergarten play dates are also scheduled during the spring and summer.

## Cell Phone / Internet Policy

Starting in the 2024-25 school year, a policy has been enacted regarding use of any internet-enabled devices by our students in school/classrooms. All devices, earphones and smartwatches must be off and out of sight for all grades, programs and buildings unless dictated by an already established learning or support plan. All schools will comply with the expectation that all internet-enabled devices will be off and away in school in any location during school hours.

**If you need to reach your child during the school day, please call the main office at 617-559- 9300.** The message we share with students is, "If someone needs to talk to you, they will call the school. If you need to talk to someone at home, let your teacher know and call from the office." The policy can be found at:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/15VrtBhcd3fV14qhHr\\_sRR3D8wHjQA0cBa5q62SHJYp4/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15VrtBhcd3fV14qhHr_sRR3D8wHjQA0cBa5q62SHJYp4/edit)

## Technology & Online Acceptable Use

We believe that technology tools, when used appropriately, can provide deeper conceptual knowledge and new ways of acquiring valuable skills. By incorporating technology into the classroom regularly, and when appropriate to learning, we can better ensure students develop the skills necessary to be powerful and responsible users of the digital world we live in.

As part of the use of technology in the classroom we also instruct students on the Newton Public Schools Student Technology and Online Acceptable Use Guidelines, which is available in formats geared to various grade levels.

We ask that families familiarize themselves with these guidelines and review them with their students. Learn more about the use of technology in NPS via the Student and Family Technology Resources page:

<https://sites.google.com/newton.k12.ma.us/nps-virtual-learning/student-and-family-technology-resources>

## Responsibility for School Property

We urge you to help your child develop a sense of responsibility about all school materials and equipment. A student may be responsible for returning, in a timely manner, all classroom and library books, athletic equipment, cameras, musical instruments, computers, and other school equipment and property entrusted or loaned to him or her. Families may bear the cost of repairing or replacing any damaged or lost materials. If your child loses or damages a school book, including books borrowed from the library, you will be asked to reimburse the school.

## Transition to Middle School

As in elementary school, the majority of Newton middle schoolers attend their districted middle schools. The Angier school district is assigned to the Charles E. Brown Middle School, located at 125 Meadowbrook Road, for grades 6-8. A full description of the middle school philosophy and curriculum is available on the Brown website at <https://brown.newton.k12.ma.us>. In the spring, the principal of Brown traditionally makes a presentation to fifth graders at Angier and they are also invited to visit the school on Step-up day. School administration also hosts a series of parent/caregiver coffees at the elementary feeder schools as well as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade Parent/Caregiver Night presentation.

## Teacher Gifts & Appreciation

Gifts to teachers and the school are governed by the Newton Public School Staff Gifts and Solicitations Policy, which says:

*Newton Public Schools allows a group gift to an individual staff member only if the gift is identified as being from the entire class, the identity of the givers and the individual amounts are not disclosed to the recipient, and the gift does not exceed \$150 per school year. This differs from a gift for the classroom.*

*Individual gifts of appreciation in the form of sentimental tokens are allowed. Gifts of commercial value are not permitted.*

Room parents coordinate gifts and tokens of appreciation for individual teachers and staff members on behalf of each class. This is funded by families' donations to the PTO. If you have opted into PTO communication in Aspen, you will receive periodic messages from your room parents regarding teacher appreciation and other topics.

The PTO also coordinates numerous opportunities for families to directly contribute time and money to support individual classrooms and programs, and also the school more generally. To receive communications from the PTO regarding volunteer activities, sign up for the Greensheet at [www.angierpto.org](http://www.angierpto.org).

One of the most popular volunteer activities is helping with the PTO's Woot Woot Cart, a favorite of Angier teachers and staff. Approximately two Fridays a month, volunteers stock a cart full of delicious treats and push it around the building, refueling the hardworking teachers and staff. Donations of portion-sized, nut-free snacks and candy can also be accepted at the office at any time.

Finally, there are occasional opportunities for larger scale donation programs (library, classroom book sets and other gifts to the classroom, music, etc.), subject to the NPS Equity policy. Contact the office for additional information.

## Birthdays

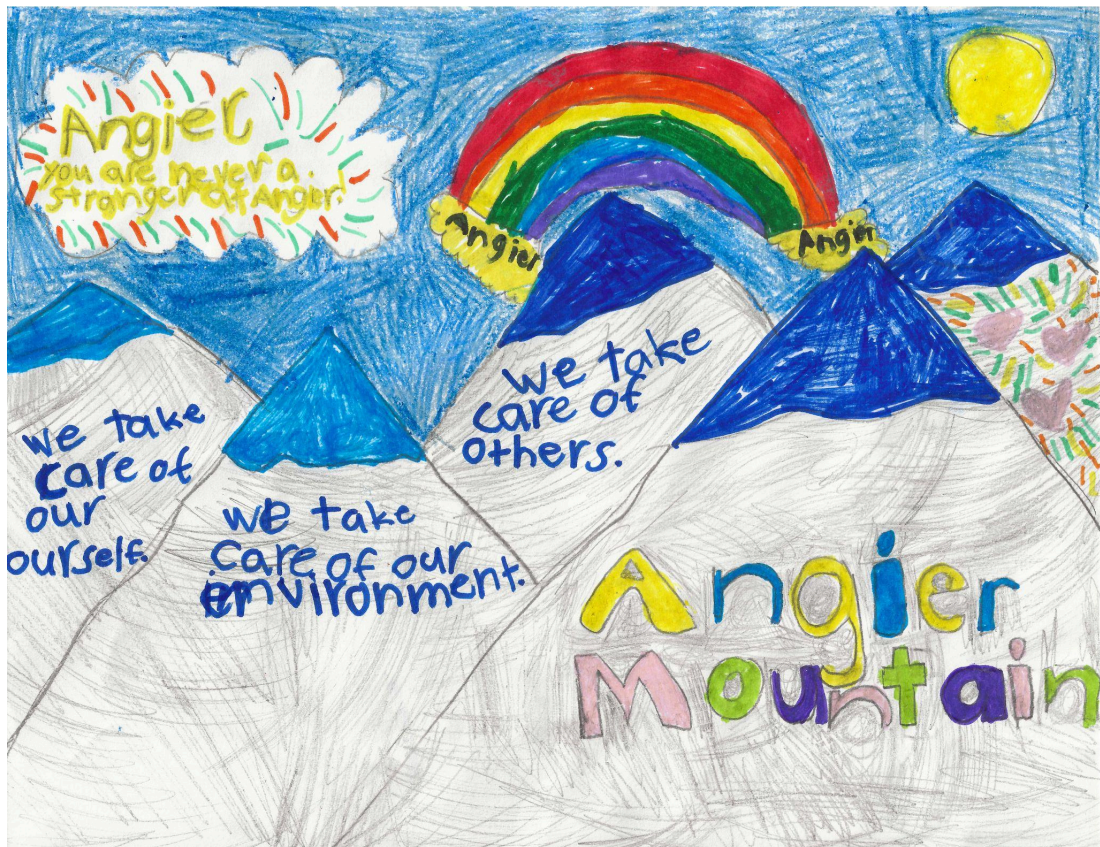
Each classroom teacher develops their own unique traditions to make birthdays special and fun for students. Families should not plan any celebrations or food at school.

- Teachers should be consulted in advance if a child wishes to bring a birthday activity to share with their class at school.
- Birthday party invitations should never be handed out at school unless the whole class is included.
- Due to our allergy policy, no food is allowed for birthdays or other non-curricular-related events.

## Field Trips

From time to time classes plan field trips to nearby locations. Each child will bring home a permission slip, mandated by the School Committee, for a parent or guardian to sign and return. We must have these forms returned in order for your child to go on any field trip. In addition, any parent, guardian or friend (i.e. a grandparent) wishing to participate in the field trip as a chaperone must have an active CORI/SORI form on file.

- CORI/SORI forms are available in the school office or online, and must be completed and returned to the school office in person, along with a government-issued photo ID. Processing of the forms takes several weeks. Please submit your form early. Money paid for field trips will not, in most cases, be refunded if a child does not go on a trip. The money for buses cannot be returned since this is a fixed cost for any trip. In cases of hardship, the teacher or principal should be notified. No child is denied access to any field trip due to financial constraints.



*Artwork by Noa Haber*



## Dress Code

There is no formal dress code at Angier; however, children are expected to be neat and clean in their appearance and wear clothing that is appropriate for school and weather conditions. Sports and outdoor clothing belong in your child's cubby. Wearing hats in school is left to the discretion of each teacher and students are expected to follow individual teacher's rules. **Sneakers are required for P.E.**

## Testing Program – MCAS

Students in the Newton Public School System take the MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) assessments starting in third grade. MCAS testing is scheduled this year for **April-May 2026**.

## Community Use of Buildings

The School Committee controls the use of all school buildings during and after school hours. A fee structure covering custodial and overhead costs has been established by the School Committee for non-school-related and for school-related use. For information on and applications for use of school buildings, speak to our senior custodian Jose Filomeno ([filomenoj@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:filomenoj@newton.k12.ma.us)) or the office of the Director of Facilities, David Stickney, at the Education Center (617-559-9000 or [stickneyd@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:stickneyd@newton.k12.ma.us)).



*Artwork by Ishaan Mukherjee*

# SECTION B: CALENDARS

## ANGIER PTO CALENDAR

| Angier PTO Calendar<br>2025-2026  |           |  |
|---|-----------|--|
| Updated 9/7/2025. See PTO website for latest version.   |           |  |
| NOTE: There are many year-end activities for the 5th grade. Please see the 5th grade website for all the details! |           |  |
| Month   | Date      | Event  |
| August  | 18        | Angier Office Opens  |
| August  | 22        | Teacher Placement Posted to Aspen Portal                                   |
| August  | 27        | Teachers' First Day  |
| August  | 28        | Faculty/Staff Appreciation - Welcome Back Lunch @ 11am                     |
| August  | 28        | Classroom Open House @ 2-2:30pm  |
| August  | 28        | Incoming K - Kindergarten Playdate & Popsicles @ 2:30pm                    |
| September   | 2         | First Day for Students   |
| September   | 2         | First Day Coffee for Parents   |
| September   | 5         | PTO Family Event - Foam Party & Popsicles @ 3:30pm                         |
| September   | 14        | PTO Family Event - New Family Welcome Playdate @ 9-10:30am                 |
| September   | 15        | School Picture Day   |
| September   | 16        | Curriculum Night   |
| September   | 19        | PTO Family Event - Back-to-School Pizza Party @ 5:30pm                     |
| September   | 23        | No School → Rosh Hashanah  |
| September   | 25        | Early Release @ 12:10 pm   |
| October   | 1         | All School Assembly - Crowning of the Ks                                   |
| October   | 1         | Principal/PTO Coffee @ 9am (immediately following the assembly)            |
| October   | TBD       | PTO Family Event - Echo Bridge Nature Walk                                 |
| October   | 2         | No School → Yom Kippur   |
| October   | 13        | No School → Indigenous Peoples Day   |
| October   | 18        | PTO Adult Event - Community Dinner   |
| October   | 20        | Diwali (recognized)  |
| October   | 26        | PTO Family Event - Boston Event  |
| October   | 28        | Early Release @ 12:10 PM   |
| October   | 29        | All School Assembly - Hosted by 4th Grade @ 8:30am                         |
| October   | 31        | Principal/PTO Coffee @ 8:20am  |
| November  | 1         | PTO Fundraiser - Minted Holiday Cards                                      |
| November  | TBD       | PTO Family Event - Coding Night  |
| November  | 4         | No School → Election Day   |
| November  | 8         | PTO Family Event - PJs and Pancakes  |
| November  | 11        | No School → Veterans' Day  |
| November  | 20        | Principal/PTO Coffee @ 8:20 with Superintendent & School Committee Members |
| November  | 26        | All School Assembly - Turkey Trot @ 8:30am                                 |
| November  | 27-28     | School Closed → Thanksgiving Recess  |
| December  | 4         | Early Release @ 12:10 PM   |
| December  | 15-19     | Faculty / Staff Appreciation - December Week                               |
| December  | TBD       | 5th Grade - Winter Concert @ 8:45 AM                                       |
| December  | 12/24-1/4 | School Closed → December Recess  |
| January   | 5         | School Reopens   |
| January   | 9         | Principal/PTO Coffee @ 8:20  |
| January   | 12-16     | Newton Pantry Food Drive   |
| January   | 19        | No School → Martin Luther King Day   |
| January   | 28        | All School Assembly - Hosted by 3rd Grade @ 8:30am                         |
| January   | TBD       | PTO Family Event - Black History Month Event                               |
| January   | TBD       | PTO Adult Event - Dad's Night Out  |
| January   | TBD       | PTO Adult Event - Mom's Night Out  |
| February  | TBD       | PTO Family Event - Theater Workshop  |
| February  | TBD       | PTO Adult Event - Kids & Technology  |
| February  | 5         | Early Release @ 12:10 PM   |
| February  | 6         | PTO/Principal Coffee @ 8:20am  |
| February  | TBD       | Faculty / Staff Appreciation - Valentine's Dessert                         |
| February  | 16-20     | No School → Winter Recess  |
| February  | 17        | Lunar New Year (recognized)  |
| February  | 26        | PTO Family Event - Invention Invasion                                      |
| March   | 4         | All School Assembly - Hosted by 2nd Grade @ 8:30am                         |
| March   | 17        | PTO Family Event - Book Fair Opening Night Party                           |
| March   | 18-20     | PTO Book Fair with Wellesley Books   |
| March   | 19        | Early Release @ 12:10 PM   |

|       |       |  |
|-------|-------|--|
| March | 20    | PTO/Principal Coffee @ 8:20am                            |
| March | 20    | Eid al-Fitr (recognized)                                 |
| March | 28    | PTO Adult Event - An Evening for Angier                  |
| April | 1     | All School Assembly - Hosted by 1st Grade @ 8:30am       |
| April | TBD   | PTO Family Event - Dads Lead Event                       |
| April | TBD   | PTO Family Event - Math Night                            |
| April | 3     | No School → Good Friday                                  |
| April | TBD   | Kids Woot Woot Cart (non-food)                           |
| April | 20-24 | School Closed → Spring Recess                            |
| April | 29    | All School Assembly - Hosted by K @ 8:30am               |
| April | 29    | Principal/PTO Coffee immediately after assembly          |
| May   | TBD   | PTO Family Event - Angier Beautification Day             |
| May   | 4-8   | Faculty / Staff Appreciation - May Week                  |
| May   | 7     | Early Release @ 12:10 PM                                 |
| May   | 13-14 | Incoming K - Kindergarten Screening                      |
| May   | 20    | Incoming K - School-Hosted Playdate                      |
| May   | 25    | No School → Memorial Day                                 |
| May   | 26    | 2026-27 PTO Volunteer Slate Published                    |
| May   | 27    | 5th Grade - Assembly - Ks Crown 5th Graders @ 8:30am     |
| May   | 27    | Art Show   |
| May   | TBD   | 4th Grade - Band & String Performance @ 2:15pm           |
| May   | TBD   | 4th Grade - Spring Chorus Concert @ 8:45am               |
| May   | TBD   | 5th Grade - Caregivers Meet Brown Principal              |
| May   | TBD   | 5th Grade - Graduation / Chorus Concert & Party @ 6:45pm |
| May   | TBD   | PTO Family Event - World Cultures Celebration            |
| June  | 3     | Color Day  |
| June  | 5     | Principal/PTO Coffee @ 8:20am                            |
| June  | 10    | Faculty / Staff Appreciation - Year-End Lunch            |
| June  | TBD   | PTO Family Event - Spring Ice Cream Social               |
| June  | TBD   | 5th Grade - Band & Orchestra Performance @ 8:45am        |
| June  | TBD   | 5th Grade - Slide Show                                   |
| June  | TBD   | 5th Grade - Step-Up Day at Middle Schools                |
| June  | TBD   | 5th Grade Field Trip & Yearbook Signing Party @ 9:30am   |
| June  | 18    | 5th Grade - Silly String @ 12:10pm                       |
| June  | 18    | Last Day (no snow days)                                  |
| June  | 19    | No School → Juneteenth                                   |
| June  | 26    | Last Day (with 5 snow days)                              |
| July  | TBD   | Incoming K - Playdate                                    |



**Artwork by Rose Zannis**

# NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR



**NEWTON  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Where every student can thrive

2025 - 2026 District Calendar

| AUG./SEPT. 2025   | OCTOBER 2025  | NOVEMBER 2025   | DECEMBER 2025  |
|---|---|---|--|
| S M T W T F S<br>27 28 29 30<br>31 1 2 3 4 5 6<br>7 8 9 10 11 12 13<br>14 15 16 17 18 19 20<br>21 22 23 24 25 26 27<br>28 29 30 20 days | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4<br>5 6 7 8 9 10 11<br>12 13 14 15 16 17 18<br>19 20 21 22 23 24 25<br>26 27 28 29 30 31<br>21 days | S M T W T F S<br>1<br>2 3 4 5 6 7 8<br>9 10 11 12 13 14 15<br>16 17 18 19 20 21 22<br>23 24 25 26 27 28 29<br>30 16 days  | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6<br>7 8 9 10 11 12 13<br>14 15 16 17 18 19 20<br>21 22 23 24 25 26 27<br>28 29 30 31 17 days |
| JANUARY 2026  | FEBRUARY 2026   | MARCH 2026  | APRIL 2026   |
| S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3<br>4 5 6 7 8 9 10<br>11 12 13 14 15 16 17<br>18 19 20 21 22 23 24<br>25 26 27 28 29 30 31<br>19 days             | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7<br>8 9 10 11 12 13 14<br>15 16 17 18 19 20 21<br>22 23 24 25 26 27 28<br>15 days             | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7<br>8 9 10 11 12 13 14<br>15 16 17 18 19 20 21<br>22 23 24 25 26 27 28<br>29 30 31 22 days  | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4<br>5 6 7 8 9 10 11<br>12 13 14 15 16 17 18<br>19 20 21 22 23 24 25<br>26 27 28 29 30 16 days    |
| MAY 2026  | JUNE 2026   | Special Early Release   |  |
| S M T W T F S<br>1 2<br>3 4 5 6 7 8 9<br>10 11 12 13 14 15 16<br>17 18 19 20 21 22 23<br>24 25 26 27 28 29 30<br>31 20 days             | S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6<br>7 8 9 10 11 12 13<br>14 15 16 17 18 19 20<br>21 22 23 24 25 26 27<br>28 29 30 14 days       | 9/25, 10/28, 12/4, 2/5, 3/19, *5/7<br>NECP: 11:45am   Elem 12:10pm<br>Bigelow & Day: 10:55am<br>Brown: 11:20am   Oak Hill 10:50am<br>NNHS & NSHS: 12:45pm<br>*5/7 Prek/Elementary only<br>*5/7 is a make up day for MS/HS |  |
|   |   | Weekly Early Release  |  |
|   |   | Elem. (Wed): 12:20 pm<br>Bigelow (Wed): 1:40 pm<br>Brown (Wed): 2:05 pm<br>Day (Wed): 1:40 pm<br>Oak Hill (Wed): 1:35 pm<br>NN & NS (Tues): 3:25 pm   |  |

| AUGUST/SEPTEMBER                |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| First Day Teachers              | 8/27 |
| Labor Day                       | 1    |
| First Day Students K-12         | 2    |
| First Day NECP (visits 9/2 & 3) | 4    |
| Rosh Hashanah                   | 23   |

| OCTOBER                               |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Yom Kippur                            | 2  |
| Indigenous People's Day               | 13 |
| Diwali (recognized) school in session | 20 |

| NOVEMBER            |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Election Day        | 4     |
| Veterans Day        | 11    |
| Early Dismissal **  | 26    |
| Thanksgiving Recess | 27 28 |

| DECEMBER    |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Dec. Recess | 24 25 26 29 30 31 |

School Committee approved: 11/4/24

| JANUARY                |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| New Year's Day         | 1 2 |
| Martin Luther King Day | 19  |

| FEBRUARY                      |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Winter Recess                 | 16 17 18 19 20 |
| Lunar New Year (during break) | 17             |

| MARCH                                      |    |
|--|----|
| Eid al-Fitr (recognized) school in session | 20 |

| APRIL         |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Good Friday   | 3              |
| Spring Recess | 20 21 22 23 24 |

| MAY          |    |
|--------------|----|
| Memorial Day | 25 |

| JUNE       |    |
|------------|----|
| Juneteenth | 19 |

| JUNE (Last day of school)              |    |
|--|----|
| Students (K-12+)                       |    |
| 185th day (w/ 5 snow days)**           | 26 |
| 180th day (w/ no snow days)**          | 18 |
| Teachers last day 6/29 (w 5 snow days) |    |
| Students (NECP only)                   |    |
| Includes 5 snow days & is full day.    | 25 |
| No snow days and is a full day.        | 17 |

## JUNE EVENTS

Step up Day  
Newton North Graduation  
Newton South Graduation

Schools are closed for a legal holiday or recess.

\*\* Dismissal: last day of school and the day before Thanksgiving.

NECP: school is not in session.

Elem: 12:10 pm | HS: 12:45 pm

MS: see Special Early Release times



# SECTION C: STAFF DIRECTORY

## ANGIER FACULTY & STAFF DIRECTORY

Please note: Most faculty and staff can be reached via ParentSquare or e-mail. The format for e-mail addresses within the NPS system is typically: **lastnamefirstname@newton.k12.ma.us**

**Principal:** Orla Higgins Averill

### **Kindergarten**

201 Zalma Garcia  
202 Taylor Witherbee  
204 Anna Swanton  
Kindergarten assistants: Andrea Graf and  
Michelle Race

### **First Grade**

203 Paige Schale/Emily Steffens  
206 Holli Phillion  
207 Robin Rosenthal

### **Second Grade**

208 Geri Russillo  
209 Elizabeth Ross/Tina Fiscella  
210 Kyle Cohan  
212 Sarah Gross

### **Third Grade**

310 Olivia Splendore/Fran Rametta/Mary  
Daskalakis  
312 Puja Tilva  
313 Carol Tippet

### **Fourth Grade**

305 Edra Wigder/Melanie Foster  
306 Jacquelyn Samuels  
307 Lauren Roberts/Michelle Callaghan  
308 Amber Murphy

### **Fifth Grade**

301 Maurisa Davis  
302 Maeve Reynolds/Robin Fisher  
303 Paul Janiszewski  
304 Marianne Shannon/Suzanne Griffin

## SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF DIRECTORY

Eduardo Betancourt  
Ahmad Buie  
Anne Fagan  
Ellen Geary

Bola Lareau  
Kristin Podufaly  
Jacob Townsend  
Lucia Wolfe



# SPECIALISTS & SUPPORT STAFF DIRECTORY

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Angier After School Program:        | Katie Crowe (Director)   |
| Art:                                | Jean Corbo Hudak   |
| Board Certified Behavior Analyst:   | Dana DelCore   |
| Custodians:                         | Jose Filomeno, Marc Boggs and Cameron Lord   |
| Early Morning Program:              | Lucia Wolfe  |
| ELL:                                | Katelyn Bianchi  |
| Instructional Substitute Staff:     | Sue Denison, Bailey Evans-Williams, Katherine Passick,<br>Usha Srinivas and Emeline Sterpe |
| Instructional Technology:           | Lisa Vancans   |
| IT Support:                         | Eddie Earnest  |
| Library:                            | Liz Donovan  |
| Literacy Specialists:               | Megan Kamm and Melyssa Taylor  |
| Lunch Staff:                        | Lisa Beckles, Juliette Payas, Michele Lefevre and Ana<br>Mendes                            |
| Math Specialists:                   | Jenna Poras and Christin Stella  |
| METCO Academic Advisor:             | Fernanda Larios  |
| METCO Dismissal Support:            | Bola Lareau  |
| Music:                              | Cherie Goldstein   |
| Nurses:                             | Cornelia Culici & Ava Mahoney  |
| Occupational Therapist:             | Svea Hall  |
| Office Staff – Building Aide:       | Anu Upneja   |
| Office Staff – Executive Secretary: | Claudia Rossi  |
| Physical Education:                 | Mike Carr and Danielle Pargoli   |
| Physical Therapist:                 | Jen Tashjian   |
| Psychologist:                       | Sammy Silver   |
| SEL Interventionists:               | Josh Amabile and Karisa Browne   |
| Social Worker:                      | Jeff Gore  |
| Special Education Team Specialist:  | Rachel Griffin   |
| Special Education Teachers:         | Jess Maynard, Jen McCabe and Christine McMahon   |
| Speech and Language:                | Crystal Arguello-Bacak   |

**Angier PTO Calendar At-A-Glance  
2025-2026**

Updated 9/7/2025. See PTO website for latest version.

NOTE: There are many year-end activities for the 5th grade. Please see the 5th grade website for all the details!

| Month     | Date      | Event  |
|-----------|-----------|--|
| August    | 18        | Angier Office Opens  |
| August    | 22        | Teacher Placement Posted to Aspen Portal                                   |
| August    | 27        | Teachers' First Day  |
| August    | 28        | Faculty/Staff Appreciation - Welcome Back Lunch @ 11am                     |
| August    | 28        | Classroom Open House @ 2-2:30pm  |
| August    | 28        | Incoming K - Kindergarten Playdate & Popsicles @ 2:30pm                    |
| September | 2         | First Day for Students   |
| September | 2         | First Day Coffee for Parents   |
| September | 5         | PTO Family Event - Foam Party & Popsicles @ 3:30pm                         |
| September | 14        | PTO Family Event - New Family Welcome Playdate @ 9-10:30am                 |
| September | 15        | School Picture Day   |
| September | 16        | Curriculum Night   |
| September | 19        | PTO Family Event - Back-to-School Pizza Party @ 5:30pm                     |
| September | 23        | No School → Rosh Hashanah  |
| September | 25        | Early Release @ 12:10 pm   |
| October   | 1         | All School Assembly - Crowning of the Ks                                   |
| October   | 1         | Principal/PTO Coffee @ 9am (immediately following the assembly)            |
| October   | 2         | No School → Yom Kippur   |
| October   | 5         | PTO Family Event - Echo Bridge Nature Walk                                 |
| October   | 13        | No School → Indigenous Peoples Day   |
| October   | 18        | PTO Adult Event - Community Dinner   |
| October   | 20        | Diwali (recognized)  |
| October   | 28        | Early Release @ 12:10 PM   |
| October   | 29        | All School Assembly - Hosted by 4th Grade @ 8:30am                         |
| October   | 31        | Principal/PTO Coffee @ 8:20am  |
| November  | 4         | No School → Election Day   |
| November  | 8         | PTO Family Event - PJs and Pancakes  |
| November  | 11        | No School → Veterans' Day  |
| November  | 20        | Principal/PTO Coffee @ 8:20 with Superintendent & School Committee Members |
| November  | 26        | All School Assembly - Turkey Trot @ 8:30am                                 |
| November  | 27-28     | School Closed → Thanksgiving Recess  |
| December  | 4         | Early Release @ 12:10 PM   |
| December  | 15-19     | Faculty / Staff Appreciation - December Week                               |
| December  | 12/24-1/4 | School Closed → December Recess  |
| January   | 5         | School Reopens   |
| January   | 9         | Principal/PTO Coffee @ 8:20  |
| January   | 12-16     | Newton Pantry Food Drive   |
| January   | 19        | No School → Martin Luther King Day   |
| January   | 28        | All School Assembly - Hosted by 3rd Grade @ 8:30am                         |
| February  | 5         | Early Release @ 12:10 PM   |
| February  | 6         | PTO/Principal Coffee @ 8:20am  |
| February  | 14        | Faculty / Staff Appreciation - Valentine's Dessert                         |
| February  | 16-20     | No School → Winter Recess  |
| February  | 17        | Lunar New Year (recognized)  |
| February  | 26        | PTO Family Event - Invention Invasion                                      |
| March     | 4         | All School Assembly - Hosted by 2nd Grade @ 8:30am                         |
| March     | 17        | PTO Family Event - Book Fair Opening Night Party                           |
| March     | 18-20     | PTO Book Fair with Wellesley Books   |
| March     | 19        | Early Release @ 12:10 PM   |
| March     | 20        | PTO/Principal Coffee @ 8:20am  |
| March     | 20        | Eid al-Fitr (recognized)   |
| March     | 28        | PTO Adult Event - An Evening for Angier                                    |
| April     | 1         | All School Assembly - Hosted by 1st Grade @ 8:30am                         |
| April     | 3         | No School → Good Friday  |
| April     | 20-24     | School Closed → Spring Recess  |
| April     | 29        | All School Assembly - Hosted by K @ 8:30am                                 |
| April     | 29        | Principal/PTO Coffee immediately after assembly                            |
| May       | 4-8       | Faculty / Staff Appreciation - May Week                                    |
| May       | 7         | Early Release @ 12:10 PM   |
| May       | 13-14     | Incoming K - Kindergarten Screening  |
| May       | 20        | Incoming K - School-Hosted Playdate  |
| May       | 25        | No School → Memorial Day   |
| May       | 26        | 2026-27 PTO Volunteer Slate Published                                      |
| May       | 27        | 5th Grade - Assembly - Ks Crown 5th Graders @ 8:30am                       |
| May       | 27        | Art Show   |
| June      | 3         | Color Day  |
| June      | 5         | Principal/PTO Coffee @ 8:20am  |
| June      | 10        | Faculty / Staff Appreciation - Year-End Lunch                              |
| June      | 18        | 5th Grade - Silly String @ 12:10pm   |
| June      | 18        | Last Day (no snow days)  |
| June      | 19        | No School → Juneteenth   |
| June      | 26        | Last Day (with 5 snow days)  |