



Principal Mark McAneny mmcaneny@arlington.k12.ma.us

Bishop Weekly Update: March 28, 2019

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

3/29 - 3/31 (Fri - Sun): Bishop Play, Mary Poppins Jr.
4/5 (Fri): Morning Coffee and Spirit (wear) Day
4/5 (Fri): Green Team Meeting by the Pollinator Garden
4/7 (Sun): Bishop Garden Work Day
4/8 - 4/12 (Mon-Fri): Staff Appreciation Week
4/11 (Thu): Bishop's Annual Art Show
4/10 (Wed): PTO Meeting, All Welcome
4/15 - 4/19 (Mon-Fri): No School - April Vacation Week
4/25 (Thu): Bishop Science Night
Save the Date: 5/18 (Sat): BEAR FAIR, rain date 5/19

In This Issue:

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

[Bishop Garden Work Day](#)

PTO NEWS

[Camp Auction Update](#)

[Diversity Inclusion Group \(DIG\)](#)

[Family Dance Pictures Available](#)

[Activity Ideas for Box Tops](#)

UPCOMING PTO-SPONSORED EVENTS

[Mary Poppins Jr. This Weekend](#)

[Morning Coffee: AHS Building Project](#)

[Staff Appreciation Week](#)

[Science Night - Parents Participation Encouraged](#)

[The Green Team](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT!

COMMUNITY NEWS

[APS Forum on 5 Year Budget Plan](#)

[Apply for AEF Innovation in Education Grants](#)

[April Vacation Programs](#)

[Moving Arts Program at Gore Place](#)

[Public Speaking and Critical Thinking Skills](#)

[April Vacation Fun](#)

[KEEP UP TO DATE](#)

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Mary Poppins Jr. This Weekend!!

Friday, 3/29, to Sunday, 3/31

Hello Mary Poppins Jr. Families, We have four performances this weekend. Thank you to all the actors, parents, teachers and staff who are helping to make our production a success!

- Friday, March 29 at 7 PM
- Saturday, March 30 at 2 PM and 6 PM
- Sunday, March 31 at 2 PM

TICKETS:

There are just a few tickets left for this weekend's performances. Tickets can be purchased at:

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4076924>.

- Reserved floor seats are \$5.00 each.
- Bleacher seats will also be available for \$3.00 at the door 45 minutes prior to each performance.

COSTUMES:

Costume pieces will be waiting at school when your child arrives for dress rehearsal and performances, but all cast members and Tech Crew should arrive wearing a base costume. Details can be found in the document link below. Tech Crew attire is dark pants, dark shoes, and their Tech Crew t-shirt.

[Mary Poppins Base Costume info](#)

For base costumes, we encourage you to use items already in your closets or borrowed from friends or neighbors. The PTO Facebook page can also be a helpful place to ask for an item you may not already have. If your family requires financial assistance with base costume items, please contact Mr. McAneny.

NO LIGHT UP SHOES, please.

Please remind your actors that the costumes (apart from the base costume pieces that you will be providing) belong to the Bishop Play, and that no part of any costume is to be taken home at any time.

POSTERS:

We typically decorate the lobby/entrance to the gym with artwork from our students that represents the theme of the play. If your child would like to participate, please send in a drawing (**drop-off in the school office by Friday at noon**) that depicts something from Mary Poppins, Jr. Thanks!

MCAS Season Begins for Grades 3, 4, 5 ([Schedule](#))

M-C-A-S. Four letters that can spell anxiety, both for parents and for students! These letters stand for Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System.

This letter offers tips for how parents can help prepare their children before MCAS testing and points to resources for more information. Assessments, like the MCAS tests measure how well students have learned the standards. They give students an opportunity to demonstrate what they know.

The results of the assessments are then used to guide school improvement efforts and to identify student needs and schools that need assistance. In other words, what students should know, what they are taught, and what they are tested on are all aligned, or linked. This approach to improving education is called “standards-based reform”.

Tips to Help Your Child Prepare for Tests

Parents and families can do several things to create a positive test-taking experience and help students prepare for tests. Here are some ideas:

Make sure your child gets enough sleep, eats properly, and gets to school on time.

During test time, make this a special effort.

Encourage your child to READ, READ, READ. No activity is linked to academic success as much as reading. Even the math portion of the MCAS uses word problems to test problem-solving ability.

Write test dates on your home calendar. The MCAS test schedule is online at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/cal.html.

Help your child practice MCAS test questions. Review the test together so you will all get familiar with the expectations. (Previous years' MCAS tests are online at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testitems.html.)

THE DAY OF THE TEST

Make sure that your child is well rested and eats breakfast.

See that your child arrives at school on time and is relaxed.

Comfort counts. Send a sweater if it's a cool day. Dress in layers for a warm day.

Encourage your child to do the best work possible and to have a positive attitude.

Encourage your child to listen/ read carefully to all test-taking directions and to ask questions if any directions are unclear.

Remind your child not to get stuck on any one item.

Encourage your child to check answers for accuracy if time permits.

To Reduce Test Anxiety

“Test anxiety” is worrying too much about doing well on a test. It can keep students from doing their best.

Some ways to help reduce anxiety are:

Talk about the test in a positive way.

Encourage best efforts, yet have realistic expectations.

Encourage your child to focus on his or her strengths, such as a good memory or strong analytical skills.

Assure your child that the test is only one measure of academic performance.

Emphasize that test scores do not determine a person's worth.

Remember—you are very important to your child's success in school and in life. Your interest and support let your child know you believe in him or her and that you value education. We hope these suggestions help you help your child be successful in school and in life.

Bishop Garden Work Day

Sunday, April 7

Spring is almost here and we could use your help getting the Bishop School Garden ready for our Spring activities! Please join us for our Spring Garden Work Day on Sunday, April 7. We will be working to Critter Proof the garden beds, which will involved digging out each bed and lining them with wire mesh. Children are welcome to help with a parent. Please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0549AFAD28A4FE3-bishop3>

Questions? Please contact us at BishopGardenandCompost@gmail.com

Important Kindergarten Dates to Note

Wednesday, May 22nd at 8:30 New Student Orientation - Parent Only Event

Monday, May 20th and Thursday, May 23rd Parent/Teacher Conferences for current students

Tuesday May 28th at 1:30 Child/Parent visit for incoming students

Friday, June 14th last day for current kindergarteners (full day)

Monday, June 17th and Tuesday, June 18th Screening of incoming kindergarteners

Detailed information related to incoming families will be sent out in the near future.

Save the Date

Bishop's Annual Art Show (To be held separately from the chorus concert this year) -

Thursday, April 11th @ 6:00pm-7:30pm

Bishop's Annual Spring Choral Concert -

Thursday, May 9th -

Concert times are staggered; please take note - k-2 @ 9:00am - 3-5 @ 10:00am

Bishop's Field Day

Monday, June 10th with a rain date of Wednesday, June 12th.

Bishop's 5th Grade Recognition -

A Monday, June 17th @ 9:00am - Reception to follow

PTO NEWS

Camp Auction Update

Unfortunately, the camp auction was not launched as announced last week. We ran into some glitches with our charitable status on eBay and are working actively to get that corrected. We are disappointed that this further delays our auction, but are doing everything we can to correct this and will keep the community updated.

Diversity Inclusion Group (DIG)

On any given day, students at the Bishop School find themselves in need of a jacket, a clean pair of socks, warm gloves, or a pair of boots. Therefore, the newly formed Bishop Diversity and Inclusion Group (DIG), in partnership with the Bishop PTO, is establishing a closet across the hall from the nurse's office that will be stocked with clean clothing items for ANY student in need. Whether a student has stepped in a puddle on the way to school, fallen in the snow at recess, or doesn't own warm clothing, we will now be able to take care of all students' physical clothing needs so that students can do their best learning. However, we need your help!

This Spring, on the Greg Wright Clean-Up Day, we will be collecting **clean** used children's clothing items (hats, gloves, jackets, sweatshirts, pants, shoes, boots, etc.), new packages of socks and underwear, and children's hangers. Please also feel free to drop off donations of **clean** clothing to Ms. Bell's classroom at anytime. We are also accepting checks (made out to the Bishop PTO) to purchase bins and new items for the closet. Once the closet is set-up, we will be sharing more info with the community about how students can obtain the items they need during the school day. Thank you in advance for your support!

Next Fall, the Bishop Diversity and Inclusion Group (DIG) and the Bishop PTO will co-sponsor a special evening event to celebrate Bishop School's diversity. This evening will give students and families an opportunity to share about their cultural, ethnic, religious, and linguistic backgrounds as well as any other features of their family that are special. In order to make this evening a success, we need two parent co-leaders. Please respond to Sarah Eastman at sarah.a.eastman@gmail.com if you are interested.

Family Dance Pictures Available

The pictures from the 2019 Winter Dance Photo Booth is up on shutterfly!
Click this link to view. <https://qq0u.app.link/e/TectLIIEkU>

You can order prints directly from the shutterfly site (this is not part of any PTO fundraising). If you would like the original high-res photo for your keeping/use, just take a screenshot of the photo you want and email me at christian.na@icloud.com. I can then find the original pix and email you the high-res file.

Activity Ideas for Box Tops

Thank you to all the families who are collecting box tops for the school! To make it a bit more fun, below is a link where you can print "collection sheets" with various designs and graphics for your child(ren) to glue and paste the box top clippings for submission. You can then drop off the sheets at the school front desk as usual.

For collection sheets, click here: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/about/collection-sheets>
For list of participating products, click here: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products>



UPCOMING PTO-SPONSORED EVENTS

Morning Coffee: AHS Building Project

Friday, April 5th, 8:15 a.m., Bishop front lawn (lobby if cold or rainy)

If you're curious to know where we are with the AHS Building Project, come for an information session with Amy Speare. Q&A to follow.

Staff Appreciation Week

April 8-12

Staff appreciation week is just around the corner! We use this week to express our thanks and gratitude to the Bishop teachers and staff for all that they do for our children. The PTO is planning activities for each day of the week. **We need the community's assistance to make this week a success!** This year's activities and schedule include:

- **Appreciation postcards:** Two postcards with instructions will go home in backpack mail this week. Please use these postcards to write or draw messages of appreciation to teachers, assistants and other staff. Students may return the postcards the week of April 8 to a collection box in the main office, or personally deliver the cards to the staff member. The PTO will distribute cards left in the collection box. Extra postcards will be available in the main office during staff appreciation week.
 - **Classroom appreciation:** Look for an email from your room parents about classroom specific gestures.
 - **Daily Raffle:** A daily drawing! The children really get excited cheering for their teacher.
 - **Monday 4/8: Chalk Messages:** Please use the weekend days to write **chalk messages of appreciation** to teachers and staff on the sidewalks and walkways around the school that will be there to greet them on Monday morning. Buckets of chalk will be placed around the building.
 - **Tuesday 4/9: Breakfast Buffet:** Bagels, baked goods, fruit and juice provided by parent volunteers. In addition to food donations, the PTO needs volunteers to help set-up the breakfast. Please use the following link to volunteer. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a48a5ae2fa2fc1-bishop>
 - **Wednesday 4/10: Therapeutic Chair Massages:** A mid-week relaxation treat!
 - **Thursday 4/11: Cupcakes:** The PTO will provide cupcakes for a sweet after-lunch treat.
 - **Friday 4/12: Extended Catered Lunch:** The PTO will provide a yummy lunch. Staff have told us in the past that they enjoy the extra time for food and conversation. In order to make this possible, we need parent volunteers to cover classrooms for 20-25 minutes. One is good, two is easier and more fun. Time slots are available on the following SignUp Genius Link. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a48a5ae2fa2fc1-bishop>
-

Science Night - Parents Participation Encouraged

Thursday, 4/25, 6:30 to 8:30 PM in Bishop Gym and Library

Check out the website for more information on registration for student posters, live demonstrations, the egg drop competition and lots of volunteer opportunities!

<https://sites.google.com/site/bishopsciencenight/>

Blank poster boards will be available for student scientists in the main office starting the 1st of April!

Please direct any questions to Anna Pisanía (apisania@gmail.com)

The Green Team

Friday Morning at 7:30 AM Meet by the Pollinator Garden Tomorrow

Green Team is taking advantage of the nice weather and doing a garden clean-up this week. We'll also be doing a litter pick up and everyone is welcome to help. Green Team meets before school on Friday we will meet outside by the pollinator garden.

During Earth Week we'll be looking for volunteers to help with activities, please contact [Jen Davidson](#) if you are interested in learning more.

Green Initiatives

Button Battery Collection Box - Main Office

Help our Green Team and our planet by recycling your button batteries. Keeping button batteries out of the trash keeps mercury and other toxins out of our environment. Last year, some of the proceeds from collecting button batteries, was gifted by Arlington's Garden Club, to help pay for the pollinator garden that our Green Team planted and maintained.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT!

Each week we spotlight a member of the Bishop staff on the bulletin board outside the main office to get to know them better. Did you guess the last week's staff?

STAFF OF THE WEEK:

Family: Three older brothers, no kids

Birthday Month: May

Hobbies: hiking, running, knitting, music

Pets: cat

Favorite Book: Stargirl

Favorite Food: Mac & cheese

Favorite Color: green

Favorite Candy: milk chocolate

Favorite Vacation: New Hampshire mountains/lakes

Favorite Music: Folk/Country

When I grow up . . . I want to be a teacher!

From Last Newsletter:

Family: Husband, three daughters, two grandchildren

Birthday Month: August

Hobbies: quilting, exercising, swimming

Pets: none

Favorite Book: Dogzilla

Favorite Food: pizza

Favorite Color: blue

Favorite Candy: Caramel Creams

Favorite Vacation: Walt Disney World

Favorite Music: Classic Rock

When I grow up . . . I want to be healthy and happy.

Answer: Jeanne Wall, Teachers Assistant



COMMUNITY NEWS

APS Forum on 5 Year Budget Plan Wednesday, 4/10, at 7 PM at Gibbs School

The School Committee and District Administration are pleased to announce the release of an initial draft of a five-year budget plan for the Arlington Public Schools (APS). Last spring, the Arlington School Committee asked the APS administrative team to develop a multi-year budget plan to provide a view of the school district's anticipated needs over the next few years, modeled after the principals multi-year budget plan for the elementary schools.

The plan is available here

<http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/administration/budget/fy20/fiveyeardraftapsbudgetplan.pdf> on the APS website. This initial draft will continue to be revised based on feedback from the public, funding availability, and changing needs.

There will be a forum on Wednesday, April 10 at 7 pm at the Gibbs School with members of the Administration and the School Committee to review and discuss the draft five-year plan. The School Committee is very interested in public feedback on the plan, including thoughts which items might be the highest priorities and on items missing or not fully addressed by the plan. Comments can also be submitted by email to kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

Apply for AEF Innovation in Education Grants Applications due April 15th

Please consider applying for Arlington Education Foundation's (AEF) [Innovation in Education](#) grants. Applications are due April 15th.

These \$250-\$3,000 grants support innovative teaching and learning projects - from classrooms to school communities. Arlington teachers, administrators, parents, or community members may apply (non-school-based applicants must be partnered with the Arlington Public Schools). Read [more](#) about proposal guidelines, how to apply, and samples of past grants to get your ideas going. Our school representative to AEF, Judy Guyer, can offer advice and answer questions about the application process. Email: info@aefma.org and include "Bishop" in the subject line to contact her about the grant process.

April Vacation Programs Registrations are Now Open

Moving Arts Program at Gore Place

Want something to do during April school vacation? "[Stories! Movement! Art!](#)" will provide students in grades 3-6 the opportunity to tell stories through their art! By using low-tech materials, we'll create art that physically moves or uses optical illusion to showcase movement! This program runs **Monday, April 15 to Friday, April 19 from 1-3:30pm**. Each day we will be working on smaller, individual art projects that will be presented to parents on Friday at 3:30pm.

The program will take place inside the Carriage House at Gore Place in Waltham (the large building next to the parking lot). More information can also be found on the Gore Place website under "Programs" or we also have a Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/330922114200195/>. This program is \$20 for the whole week, or \$5/day. **Tickets:** <https://art-workshop.bpt.me>

Stories! Movement! Art!
@ Gore Place

Spend your school vacation telling stories through art! We'll engage in low-tech art projects that physically move to tell a story:

**April 15-19
1:00-3:30pm**
Grades 3-6
**\$20 for program
or \$5/day**

Moving panoramas
Flip books
Puppets
Artist Trading Cards
Thaumatrope
And more!

Email Marisa at marisac@arlington.k12.ma.us for any questions!

art-workshop.bpt.me **GORE PLACE**

Public Speaking and Critical Thinking Skills

Lumos is offering 2-day beginner's Public Speaking workshops during April break (April 15-16, April 17-18, or April 19-20) in Newton, Lexington, and Acton! Your child will love Lumos' friendly instructors and fun activities as they learn about:

- Speaking Confidence
- Impromptu Speaking
- Debate Fundamentals
- Argumentation and Reasoning

Right now you can use the code COMMUNITY to get \$20 off. Email info@lumosdebate.com or call 781-474-3359 with any questions. To register, go to lumosdebate.com/vaca-workshop

April Vacation Fun

Arlington Community Education April VacationFun! and SummerFun! Registration Now Open
You will be amazed by the scope of choices available to create dynamic vacation experiences for your children in the Arlington Community Education April [VacationFun!](#) and [SummerFun!](#) programs enrolling now.



KEEP UP TO DATE

Bishop PTO Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BishopPTO/>

Websites:

Bishop School: <https://bishopschool.net>

Bishop PTO: <http://www.bishopschoolpto.com/>

Contact PTO Executive Board members:

Co-Presidents: [Sarah Eastman](#) (Senior) and [Elisa Komoni](#) (Junior)

Co-Treasurers: [Ami Fatula](#) (Senior) and [Karin Moellering](#) (Junior)

Fundraising Coordinator: [Christian Na](#)

Room Parent Coordinator: [Laura Tikonoff](#)

Communications Coordinator: [Junko Nagano](#)

Recording Secretary: [Sheelagh Stirling](#)

