



## PTO President's Column

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The weather gods finally smiled on us! The sun came out just as the Underwood Spring Fair was getting underway and lasted the entire day amidst wonderful games, great food and terrific music. The Underwood Spring Fair was a huge success thanks to the hard work of Andy Gluck and his dedicated committee. This year's Spring Fair should go down as one of the best ever and the PTO owes a debt of gratitude to all the families that turned out to take part in a community celebration to raise money for many PTO initiatives. Thanks to all the volunteers, staff, vendors and families for contributing to such a wonderful day!

I would like to report on several themes that emerged from the surveys distributed by the Respect for Human Differences Committee:

- Mr. C's greetings in the morning are very much appreciated by everyone.
- The Chinese New Year Celebration is a favored event.
- The PTO meetings can be more useful in welcoming new families to Underwood.
- The Welcome Back School Picnic could be more inclusive to new families.
- Children mention hurtful language often as something that does not make them feel welcomed.
- Parents appreciate how welcoming our teachers are and their efforts to communicate verbally and by e-mail.

This will be the last newsletter for a few weeks given the week after Memorial Day is a short week and we won't publish again until June 6th. Check the website for current PTO information! <http://www.underwood-schoolpto.org>

### Reminders:

5th grade car wash - Saturday May 31st - 9:00 A.M. to noon. in front of Underwood School. Come get your car washed and stock up on cookies! Just \$5 for a sparkling clean car! Proceeds go towards graduation expenses and a class gift to the school.

Next and last PTO meeting of the year - Thursday June 5th at 7:30 P.M. We will be voting in our new slate of officers and approving next year's budget so please mark your calendars and join us for this important meeting. All committee chairs are especially encouraged to attend; to encourage others to join your committees; and to provide answers to any budget questions.

Have a nice weekend and a safe Memorial Day!

Thanks,  
Peter



# Underwood News

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COLOR DAY IS AROUND THE CORNER... and we're will looking for volunteers to help with this big all school event. We need parents who can help with individual events or can bring in and help distribute snacks and drinks on June 3rd. If you can spare a little of your time, please fill out the volunteer form at the end of the newsletter and return it to your child's teacher or put it in the Color Day envelope in the main office. Your help, as always, is greatly appreciated and will go a long way to making this a fun day for the kids. Any questions? Please call Barb Kenslea (617-332-5982) or Dianne Sakakini-Rao (617-244-1849).

THE TOSSED-TOGETHER-AT-THE-LAST-MINUTE SILENT AUCTION RAISED OVER \$4200!! Way to go Underwood!! Thank you to everyone who generously donated items to auction on short notice and to everyone who bid. Special thanks to Maya Tereshchenko, Tracy Clark & Phil Shaw who battled the wind trying to help me keep everything organized at the fair!!  
Julia Elhauge

THE BASKET RAFFLE RAISED OVER \$3100 and sent a basket to Children's Hospital. This was a huge school wide effort, involving most of the kids & parents who brought in clever items, the room parents & teachers who coordinated collection, and Laurie Gordon & Tulia Visco & lots of packing tape who helped me put together the baskets. A special thank you to everyone who together bought & sold thousands of tickets. You made it look easy! Julia Elhauge

FIRST GRADER OLIVIA MOSCICKI was chosen to read her poem "My Kitty Cat" at the Newton Free Library's 7th Annual Poetry Fest on May 12th. A journal of poetry by all children participating in the fest can be found in the Write Now! Journal, available for downloading from the Children's Room website.

## Underwood Newsletter

Editor: Rachel Hayashi | Art Director: Clif Stoltze

The Underwood Newsletter is published every full week of school. Please email items of interest to the editor, Rachel Hayashi, at [rh@alumni.middlebury.edu](mailto:rh@alumni.middlebury.edu), or place it in the PTO newsletter file in the Underwood office.

Deadline for all submissions is 3:00 p.m. the Friday before the week in which you want the items to appear. While we do not endorse any individuals or businesses, we will happily publish classified ads from:

- nonprofit organizations or for-profit individuals or businesses that offer a direct service to the children in our community and
- non-commercial classified ads from parents of Underwood children.

## CALENDAR

May 26 Mon Memorial Day – no school  
June 3 Tues Color Day – (rain date - June 10)  
June 5 Thurs PTO Meeting – 7:30 - 9 pm, Multi Purpose Room  
June 10 Tues Color Day – Rain Date  
June 12 Thurs Early Release Day – School ends at 12:30 pm  
June 20 Thurs Last Day of School

## Newton Schools News

## Community News

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Talk Radio directed by Nick Weiss-Richmond and Rachel Cole. A dark comedy, written by Eric Bagosian, explores the essence of America during the course of one late-night call-in radio show. Barry Champlain, a razor lounge shock jock radio DJ confronts himself and his respectability through a variety of callers. May 29, 30, 31 at 7:30 in the Little Theater at Newton North High School. Tickets \$5 and advance reservations are recommended. For information, call 617-552-7092.

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Second Annual: Celebrate Newton! Holiday Arts and Crafts Festival! We are seeking crafters and gift vendors; volunteers; and raffle/auction prizes from the Newton community! This year's event will take place in the brand-new Newton South cafeteria on Sunday, December 7th from 10 am - 4 pm. It will be a community-building day, with proceeds going towards a citywide speaker series for the schools. Holiday shopping, onsite craft projects, raffle/auction, bake sale and live music! Interested crafters and vendors should contact Sara at saracoen3@aol.com or at 617-558-3695. Interested volunteers or raffle/auction donors should contact Jamie Chaloff at purplecow2@rcn.com or at 617-332-0684. We had a great day last year, and we are looking forward to an even bigger and better event this year!

Jack Gantos to speak on July 4th! Bring your children to hear popular award-winning author Jack Gantos speak at the Newton Free Library on

Wednesday June 4 at 6:30 pm! Renowned as an engaging speaker, Jack will describe for children how he became an author. The seeds for his writing were planted in sixth grade when he read his sister's diary and thought he could write better. His journal writing led eventually to a career of writing books for children of all ages. From his Rotten Ralph books for the youngest children to his award-winning Joey Pigza books for middle grade students, and Jack Henry books for upper grade students, Gantos has written something for everyone!

Joey Pigza Swallowed a Key was a National Book Award finalist. Joey Pigza Loses Control was a Newbery Honor Book.

Jack Gantos' appearance is provided through an LSTA Grant consisting of federal funds administered through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The grant was awarded to Newton's elementary school library teachers to work with the Children's Services staff of the Newton Free Library to compile a comprehensive, up-to-date booklist of recommended books for students K-6.

Parents and children both will enjoy hearing how Jack Gantos became an award-winning author! Bring the family! Don't miss his appearance!

Jack Gantos will autograph books available following his talk.

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+ **CLASSIFIEDS** +

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+ **LIVE Y'ERS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:** at the West Suburban YMCA, 2766 Church Street, Newton, MA 02458...Kindergarten Program; Elementary Program grades 1-5; Middle School program, 6-8...for more information, contact Annemarie Cobb at 617-244-6050 x 3022. +

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+ **JUNE OPEN HOUSE FOR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES** for the new Jewish After School Program in Newton will be held on June 1, 2003. Keshet Newton, a Jewish community after school for Grades k-5 is a vibrant, nurturing program which provides Jewish education in a non-affiliated, welcoming and joyful environment for 2-3 days per week. Join us at our Open House, Sunday June 1, 2-4 p.m. For more information, please contact us at www.keshetnewton.org. +

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+ **KUMON OPEN HOUSE** - Bishop Mackenzie Center, 1337 Centre St, Newton Centre: Tuesday, May 20th and Tuesday, June 3rd from 5 - 7 p.m. Great after school program to improve math and reading skills, strengthen study habits, and build self-confidence. Summer sessions available. Free diagnostic testing and prizes. Call 617-928-0446 for more information. +

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+ **READING / SPELLING / WRITING TUTOR** available in June and July. Orton-Gillingham trained, Masters Degree in English, 10+ years experience, all grades, excellent references. Call Fran, 617-842-5227. **TUTOR AVAILABLE:** I am a Learning Center teacher in the Wellesley Public Schools, certified in the Wilson Reading Program, Elementary Education and Special Education. I worked in the Newton Schools for three years and am familiar with the PIRP program. I have a Masters Degree in Education and over 12 years of experience. I will come to your home, or you may come to mine. Please call Dianne Burke White at 617-965-3628. +

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+ **Golf Anyone?** Join us for a great day of golf while supporting the **JIMMY FUND/DANA FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE PEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOR CLINIC.** The Kyle P. Johnson Memorial Open will take place on June 10, 2003 at the Juniper Hills Golf Club in Northboro Ma. Event includes raffles, silent and live auctions. For more info contact Linda or Don Salvucci at 617-969-6829, or linsal@rcn.com. Deadline for registration is May 26. +

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+ **APARTMENT FOR RENT:** Underwood Family is renting a one bedroom apartment close to the school. Heat and utilities included. \$875. Available June 15 or July 1. For more information please contact Susan or Steve 617 969-5085. +

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+ We are an Underwood family looking to rent a (preferably furnished) 3-4 bedroom house in the Underwood district through July of 2004. If you hear of an appropriate house, please call Barbara Howard at (617) 877-1780. Bhoward617@aol.com +

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+ **FOR RENT:** 472 Walnut Street, Newtonville. Furnished, updated, 7 bedroom Victorian with 3.5 baths, redone kitchen, and hardwood floors throughout. Cabot School District, asking \$3800/month. Rental Period: July 1, 2003 through August 2004. No pets or smokers please! (617) 964-8775, joel@joelepstein.com +

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