



Dear Underwood Families,

Welcome back to school! We hope your family had a happy and healthy summer and we are so excited to welcome our entire Underwood community back in person this year! We are looking forward to working with you and getting to know you this year through our roles with the PTO Board.

Please take a few minutes to read through this Welcome Packet with information about the following:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Upcoming Events | 3 |
| Calling all Room Parents! | 5 |
| Underwood Directory via Membership Toolkit | 5 |
| Absence/Tardy Call Back System | 5 |

As Underwood parents or guardians, you are all automatically members of the PTO! Your willingness to participate and volunteer as you are able, given your unique family and work commitments, is paramount to the success, strength, and energy of our PTO and community. Our PTO Board and Committees are comprised of volunteers working throughout the year to organize and execute a wide range of fundraisers, community building opportunities, and enrichment programming and we are so appreciative of every minute the parent community at Underwood dedicates to our school.

Last year we had to reimagine many of our longstanding Underwood traditions, and we are excited to take the most successful aspects of the year forward with us (virtual PTO meetings and food trucks!) and bring back some Underwood favorites (Camp Fair and Spring Carnival!).



Underwood School Parent-Teacher Organization

www.underwoodschoolpto.org

The PTO touches nearly every aspect of the Underwood experience and our fundraising efforts provide essential financial support for:

- Allocations for teachers, specialists, and the Principal to spend directly on what our students and classrooms need most;
- Updates to the school library;
- School-wide technology purchases necessary to meet city and state standards;
- Enrichment Programming by grade level including [Understanding Our Differences](#) (UOD), [Creative Arts and Sciences](#) (CASC), and [Child Assault Prevention Program](#) (CAPP);
- Community building events;
- Community support of families in need.

We fund these important initiatives through a combination of fundraisers and Annual Fund donations from families. Our Annual Fund campaign is ongoing throughout the year, and we encourage families to participate if they are able. Donations can be made via Paypal at underwoodschoolpto.org/donate, via Venmo at @underwoodpto, or checks can be made to the “Underwood PTO” mailed to us at 101 Vernon Street, Newton, MA 02458. Gifts of any size are welcome and our collective support makes a difference to the experience of our students at Underwood!

You can also support the PTO every time you do everyday shopping on Amazon by ordering through Amazon Smile. Visit [Amazon Smile](#) to direct 0.5% of your purchase to the Underwood School PTO at no extra cost to you. Note: Only purchases made via smile.amazon.com are eligible for credit.



Upcoming Events

Principal's Coffee

Tuesday, September 14th - 8:15 - 9:15am

Join us for a casual meet-and-greet outside Underwood with Principal Talukdar and other parents and guardians! The Principal's Coffee is a great opportunity to ask questions in an informal setting and meet other parents at the start of the year.

Welcome Back Picnic

Thursday, September 23rd - 5:30 - 7:00pm

The Welcome Back Picnic is always a fun outdoor evening with our entire school community. There will be dinner, drinks, and snacks for sale by the PTO. Stay tuned for more info!

Curriculum Night (Virtual)

Tuesday, September 28th Times TBA

Curriculum night is an evening for parents to hear about the goals, expectations, and curriculum of their student's grade. Times for each grade level are forthcoming.

Grade-Level Grown-Up Cocktail Parties

Kindergarten: Saturday 9/18

1st Grade: Friday 9/24

2nd Grade: Saturday 9/25

3rd Grade: Friday 10/1

4th Grade: Friday 9/17

5th Grade: Friday 9/24

Grade-level parent/guardian gatherings are an Underwood tradition and always a fun evening of meeting and mingling with other adults. This year the PTO worked with volunteer hosts to plan outdoor cocktail parties in the first few weeks of school, as we are all eager to reunite and get reacquainted after last year! Locations and times will be announced in the coming weeks. We hope you can attend!



Underwood School Parent-Teacher Organization

www.underwoodschoolpto.org

PTO Meeting (Virtual)

Tuesday, October 5th - 7:30pm

Join our first PTO Meeting of the school year to learn more about what the PTO does, what to expect for the upcoming year, and how you can get involved! We will also be voting on the annual PTO budget. Agenda to follow.

Join Zoom Meeting:

[Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 937 335 2198

Passcode: 956516

One tap mobile:

+13126266799,,9373352198#,,,,*956516#

Halloween Fun Run

Saturday, October 30th - Time TBA

We are bringing back our Halloween Fun Run after last year's huge success! The Fun Run is a fantastic community fundraiser and an opportunity to celebrate Halloween and get our children moving around Farlow Park! Stay tuned for more information. Costumes encouraged!



Calling all Room Parents!

As always, we are looking for Room Parent volunteers for each of our classrooms! The Room Parent(s) communicates with other families around classroom and school-wide events throughout the year, coordinates class gifts at the holidays and end-of-year, and helps plan classroom social gatherings. Room Parents play a key role in building our tight-knit community at Underwood and supporting classroom teachers as needed. This role is done entirely via email with no in-person volunteering required. If you are interested in being a Room Parent for your child's classroom please contact our Room Parent Coordinator Jennifer Gistrak at jgistrak@psychologyofbalance.com.

Underwood Directory via Membership Toolkit

The Underwood PTO uses [Membership Toolkit](#) to maintain its online directory of students, families, and faculty. Participating in our directory is more important than ever, as NPS no longer shares classroom student information due to privacy laws.

Please be sure to [register](#) if you are a new Underwood family or update your family's information so that others in our community can connect with you and find families in their child's classroom and grade. Families may choose to keep some information private. If you have a change of information any time within the school year, please log in and edit your account. *Please get in touch with us anytime at underwoodpto@gmail.com with any issues.*

Absence/Tardy Call Back System

If your child will be absent or tardy, please call 617-559-9680 before 8:10 AM on the day of the absence, if you have not already notified the school. Please refer to this [Call Back System Flyer](#) or print to hang by your phone for easy access.



Underwood School Parent-Teacher Organization

www.underwoodschoolpto.org

The PTO communicates frequently with you via email and monthly Newsletters so that you are kept informed and reminded of important school events. You can also connect with Underwood and stay updated this year in the following ways:

- Visit <https://www.underwoodschoolpto.org/> for resources and information about our PTO activities.
- Follow [Underwood School PTO](#) on Facebook.
- Follow the new [@underwoodschoolnewton](#) on Instagram.

The goal of all of our communications is to help you navigate the school year and to help build the strongest community possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us at underwoodpto@gmail.com with any questions you might have as the year progresses.

Sincerely,

Your PTO Board



Amy Davis - Co-President



Laura Goldworm - Co-President



Adam West - Treasurer



Kate Luethy - Secretary



Parthana Khanna - VP of Fundraising



Shannon Abram - VP of Communications



Kerry Curran - VP of Community Building



Gretchen Weismann - VP of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion