



Sprague School *Wellesley Public Schools*

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Leigh A. Petrowsky
Principal

August 5, 2019

Dear Sprague Families,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying cool breezes, good times with family and friends, and many laughs on these glorious summer days. I look forward to being the new principal of the Sprague Elementary School! My transition into the building and the community has been a pleasant and welcoming one. During these past weeks, I have been lucky to have met students, parents, and community members. I thank you for showering me with warm welcome wishes and I look forward to the collaborative process. This work cannot be done without the support and teamwork that is required of all parties. Here's to a successful, productive, and cohesive 2019-2020 school year! ☺

As principal, my top priority is to build lasting and effective relationships with students, their families, and the staff. I am a firm believer in the power of relationships and the lasting impact they can have! I see this being accomplished by simply being present and engaged in all areas of the building - both inside and out. An open door policy is what I subscribe to at all times so I always encourage students, staff, and families to visit and to be as active as possible. This active involvement will allow all of us to communicate and collaborate effectively.

PowerSchool Parent Portal & Classroom Assignments

The Wellesley Public Schools use PowerSchool, an online platform, to maintain the emergency contact information, directory information, and other important permissions for each of our students. The [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) will be open **August 5 at 12 Noon- August 30, 2019**. We ask that all of our parents/guardians login during this time and update/confirm this important information. Homeroom information for Grades K-8 will be available *after* you complete the parent portal forms for each student in your family. Grade 9-12 schedules will be available on August 22 *after* parent portal forms are completed. As in prior years, you will not be receiving a class list due to security and privacy laws (see [MGL 603 CMR 23.00](#) for more information).

District approved parent and community partners such as our PTOs, Wellesley Education Foundation, etc. request contact information for our families to produce school directories,

which we recognize are a valued resource for our families. In accordance with our Student Records Policy (JRA, JRA-R) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), parents may opt out/customize the information released through the Powerschool Parent Portal. Please note that directory information shared with parent organizations is done so with the understanding that this information will not be used for commercial, political, or other third party uses.

To find out more and access the Powerschool Parent Portal please click here:

<https://wellesleyps.org/students-families/parent-portal-info/powerschool-parent-portal-2019/>

“CAUGHT READING!”

Sprague School is always excited to “catch students reading” this summer and beyond. **We would be thrilled to receive photos of students “caught reading” anywhere and everywhere.** Students and families are strongly encouraged to send these creative photos to Ms. Jauniskis at jauniskiss@wellesleyps.org

PTO

The Parent/Teacher Organization in a school is an invaluable resource to the entire community. Here at Sprague, our Parent/Teacher Organization is a cohesive group made up of many Sprague families that work to achieve mutually agreed upon goals and objectives. The PTO works tirelessly on behalf of the Sprague students and staff. The Sprague staff and I are grateful for their support and we are lucky to have them. Please join me in recognizing the following as members of the Sprague PTO for the 2019-2020 school year:

Marissa Rosenbaum, Co-President

Lisa Neighbors, Co-President

Linda Abazaj, Treasurer

Charlene Oliver, Communications Coordinator

John Covey, Creative Arts and Sciences

Please note that there are additional positions and ample opportunities for Sprague families to join the PTO and/or support the PTO and Sprague School in a plethora of ways. Please keep an eye out for additional information on how to do so. On behalf of the Sprague PTO and Sprague School, we welcome and encourage you to join us! The Sprague staff and I are most excited about the positive and enjoyable working relationship we will have with our PTO for the sake of our Sprague students, families, and our staff.

INCOMING KINDERGARTEN and NEW FAMILIES

Sprague School and the kindergarten teachers would like to invite all of our incoming kindergarten students to an informal meet and greet in your child’s assigned kindergarten classroom. This informal meet and greet is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 27th from 2:00 - 3:00 pm** in assigned kindergarten classrooms. Immediately following, Sprague School and the

PTO would like to invite incoming kindergarten students and their families to a **Popsicle Party** on **Tuesday, August 27th at 3:00 pm.** The party will be held on the Sprague playground.

For all of our new families entering Sprague, welcome! **The PTO and I will host an informal tour of Sprague on Tuesday, August 27th from 2:00 - 2:45 pm.** Immediately following the informal tour, please join in on the Popsicle Party fun beginning at 3:00 pm on the Sprague playground.

First Week of School Schedule and other Dates:

**Wednesday, August 28th	<i>First Day of School!</i> <i>Half-day</i>	8:30 am - 12:00 pm
Thursday, August 29th		8:30 am - 3:04 pm
Friday, August 30th		8:30 am - 3:04 pm
Friday, August 30th	<i>PowerSchool Parent Portal Closes</i>	
Monday, September 2nd	<i>No School - Labor Day!</i>	
Thursday, September 12th	<i>Back-to-School Night (adults only - more information to follow)</i>	
Tuesday, September 17th	<i>Picture Day</i>	
Friday, September 20th	<i>Grade 5 TreeTop Adventures Trip</i>	
Wednesday, September 25th	<i>Back-to-School Fall Festival (more information to follow)</i>	
Monday, September 30th	<i>No School - Rosh Hashanah</i>	
Wednesday, October 9th	<i>No School - Yom Kippur</i>	
Monday, October 14th	<i>No School - Columbus Day</i>	
October 21st - 25th	<i>Book Fair</i>	
October 31st	<i>Halloween Parade</i>	

****Kindergarten students** will have scheduled half-days (8:30 am - 12:00 pm) from August 28th - September 6th. **Full day kindergarten begins on Monday, September 9th.**

First Day of School Plans

As goes the first day, so goes the rest of the year! Having said this, the first day of school is perhaps one of the most exciting days of the school year. It is important to me, as it is the Sprague staff, that we start that first day off right. **Therefore, the Sprague staff and I would like to invite all Sprague families to join us on the Sprague playground to start the day with a bang!** As these plans come together, I will be sending additional details. **In the meantime, please mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 28th from approximately 8:25 am to 9:00 am.** We cannot wait!

School Hours

Please note that Sprague school hours are 8:30 am - 3:04 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. **Wednesday hours are 8:30 am - 12:00 pm.** Lunch is scheduled on all full-days but no lunch will be served on half-day Wednesdays. Please visit the Sprague School webpage at <https://wellesleyps.org/sprague> for specifics regarding lunch, arrival, dismissal, and much more.

Staff

Please join us in congratulating the following Sprague staff members on births and marriages.

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- *Genie Madden*, kindergarten teacher, for the birth of her second child. Genie will be on maternity leave returning December 2nd.
- *Jessica Ford*, kindergarten teacher, on her August nuptials. Jessica will now be Mrs. Jessica Murray.
- *Alee Rogers*, grade two teacher, on her baby girl. Alee will be rejoining the grade two team at the start of the year.
- *Christina Cooney*, Literacy Specialist, on the birth of her second child. Christina will be returning at the start of the school year.

It is our pleasure to welcome new staff and/or welcome back former staff. **Welcome to:**

- *Brianna Heyde* will be the long-term guest kindergarten teacher for Genie Madden through the month of November.
- *Alee Rogers* as she returns to the grade two team from her maternity leave.
- *Bevin Hale* on her return to the grade two team from her role as Math Coach at the Hardy School.
- *Jess Trofatter* will be our grades 1-2 ISS special education teacher. Jess joins us from Wellesley Middle School with prior elementary experience as well.
- *Nancy Bentley* thankfully will still be with us but in her new role as a grade five teacher coming from grade two.
- *Jennifer Cosenza*, Occupational Therapist, will be returning to Sprague on a part-time basis.

The Sprague community wishes the best of luck to those that will be leaving our community:

Best wishes to:

- *Joanna Doyle* as she starts her new adventure at another Wellesley elementary school.
- *Amanda McKenney* as she begins her special education teaching career at Schofield Elementary School.
- *Kate Wilson* as she joins Schofield Elementary as a full-time English Language teacher.

The classroom and special education staffing is as follows:

Kindergarten: Emma McLean, Brianna Heyde/Genie Madden, Jessica Murray

Grade One: Dara Gaul, Karen Lindquist, Louisa Blumenthal

Grade Two: Alee Rogers, Bevin Hale, Kim Casalena

Grade Three: Jayne Byrne, Jen Lundbohn, Kristan Fiore

Grade Four: Jill Heckman, Maureen Henzel, Taryn Drake

Grade Five: Ellen Banthin, Kenn Craig, Nancy Bentley

Learning Center: Kati Okoshi, Rachel Silver, Andrea Stavrakas

ISS: Lindsey Farrar (K), Jess Trofatter (1-2), Katie Doherty (3), Tara Mahoney (4-5)

As I send this, there is additional hiring that is currently in progress.

Walk-to-School Dates:

Sprague believes in and works to promote healthy living and to foster our greater community. Therefore, the Sprague Walk-to-School dates are an important part of our healthy living and community building objectives. These days are led by Margaret Flitsch, PE teacher, with active support from many parents and the PTO. Please mark your calendars for the 2019-2020 Walk-to-School dates. Please know that these dates are always subject to change and ample communication will be given, if necessary.

Thursday, September 19th

Wednesday, October 2nd

Tuesday, November 5th

Thursday, December 5th

Friday, January 3rd

Wednesday, February 5th

Thursday, March 5th

Wednesday, April 1st

Friday, May 1st

Tuesday, June 2nd

You are invited and encouraged to visit the Sprague School webpage at <https://wellesleyps.org/sprague>. Here you will find a plethora of pertinent Back-to-School information that will assist you in preparing for the return to school. You are always encouraged to use this site as an active resource throughout the school year.

I am most excited about becoming an active new member of the Sprague community! Again, I thank you for making my transition a smooth and warm one. Together we will continue to enhance the support and warmth given to each child as he/she continues to grow and flourish as both a student and person.

Respectfully,

Leigh

Leigh A. Petrowsky

Principal