

# Natick Early Childhood Network

...putting Children First

# Connections



www.natickearlychildhood.org

Fall 2010 Volume 11 Issue 1

## A Cheerful Hello!

*Dear Natick Families,*

*My name is Lindsey Tarrant and I write to you as the new Program Coordinator of the Natick Early Childhood Network! I am elated and thankful to be following in the footsteps of Judy Dixon, who has created such a warm sense of community among families here in Natick. I have enjoyed working with her on a seamless transition and know she will be deeply missed by all. Now, I come to you with an optimistic spirit and an ambitious vision for NECN. I plan to continue with many of the programs you have been able to count on in the past, and hope to expand and create new events and programs to further meet the needs of the Natick community. For this year, I will seek out new opportunities for collaboration with other organizations, as well as look to the expertise of our Volunteer Team to help us continue to ensure that our program offerings are high quality and reflect the needs and interests of Natick families.*

*I invite you to share ideas and suggestions for new ways to build community and create fun family friendly activities. I look forward to meeting you all!*

*Best Wishes,  
Lindsey*



## NECN Now Serving Children Ages Birth-8 years!

Attention families with older kids! You are no longer considered "aged out" of our organization when your child starts Kindergarten! Expect information and referral services as well as some direct service opportunities related to our Natick kids ages 5-8yrs. Feel free to call our office with questions about meeting basic needs, after school care, academic supports, enrichment activities and more!

**"Be a Sport."**

**Support the Natick Service Council!**

*Saturday, October 16th 7:30-10:30pm*

Join the Natick Service Council at *Longfellow Sports Club* for drinks, appetizers, music and a basketball shooting contest. Tickets to the event are \$50 and all proceeds go to support low-income families in Natick.

## Choosing a Preschool...

Attention Natick Families with children who will be preschool age next fall: Finding a preschool placement for your child for next fall may be "out of sight, out of mind" as you gear up for fall 2010, but now is the time to discover your options! NECN provides a parent workshop held at the Cole Center **Tuesday, October 5th from 7:00-8:30p**, where you can discuss with a facilitator and other parents what to look for in a preschool and what type of setting best suits you and your child.

As a follow up to the workshop, NECN will then be hosting the 9th Annual EEC Open House in the gym at the Cole Center, **Wednesday, October 20th from 6:30-8:30p**, where you can find many of the Natick childcare and preschool providers with information about their organizations. Finding and then deciding on daycare or preschool can be an extremely difficult decision for parents. NECN is here to ease your mind! Join us for these great opportunities to learn about your options and meet fellow parents and caregivers.

## What's Going on in Natick?

### "Farmers Market"

*Saturday, October 2nd* 9:00a-1:00p

*Saturday, October 23rd*

9:00a-1:00p

Come see us on the Common during the Farmer's Market to learn more about our network and the resources available to families in Natick. Bring your children to enjoy fun activities and crafts at our table!

### "EEC Open House"

*Wednesday, October 20th* 6:30p-8:30p

Join NECN in the Cole Center Gym for the 9th Annual EEC Open House. Here parents will find a room full of child care and preschool resources. Come and find the program that suits your child and family best!

### "Spooktacular"

*Saturday, October 30th* time TBD

Miss Lindsey is planning to party at this 14th annual town-wide Halloween Party, with costumes, crafts, entertainment and the Great Pumpkin Smash! Will you recognize Miss Lindsey in her costume???

## Where in the World is Miss Judy?

As promised, Miss Judy has not gone far! In fact, you can find her this fall right down the hall. She'll be co-facilitating the drop-off playgroup offered by Natick Recreation & Parks with Kim Marshall Condin! Playgroup is a great chance for children aged 2 years and 3 years to PreK to try out a supportive activity group all on their own once a week.

You can read the Rec. & Parks Dept. brochure on their website at [natickma.gov/recreation](http://natickma.gov/recreation); the playgroup info is on page 3.

When you start your holiday shopping, please remember to use the link on our website for Amazon.com! You shop as usual, but NECN receives a percentage of your purchases. It's an easy way to donate to NECN while you shop! Go to [natickearlychildhood.org](http://natickearlychildhood.org) and click on the amazon.com button to begin!



## October-December Drop-In and Open Gym for Natick Families

Drop-In provides the opportunity to come with your child for free play in the NECN Playroom at the Cole Center and to meet other Natick families with young children. No registration required, and your child's caregiver is welcome to attend.

### Pre-Walkers Drop-In (NECN Playroom):

*(Just for children birth- pre-walkers)*

Monday 12:00 - 2:00p

### General Drop-In (NECN Playroom):

*(For children birth- pre-K)*

Wednesday 10:00a - 12:00p

Friday 10:00a - 12:00p

### Open Gym (Cole Center Gym):

*(For competent walkers up to pre-K age)*

Wednesday 9:30 - 10:30a

Friday 9:30 - 10:30a

## Volunteers Needed!

NECN needs the expertise and support of its Volunteer Team again this year! The Volunteer Team will support the planning and facilitation of activities at NECN as well as fundraising efforts. We will be meeting in the NECN playroom at the Cole Center on Tuesday, October 12th from 7-8p. Please RSVP by October 8th.

## NECN Council

The NECN Council is a group of providers, parents, and other community members that are involved in decision making and providing accountability for NECN. The council's purpose is to support families and early education and care providers with a combination of direct services, resources, and referrals, by collaborating with other community partners. We are always looking for new members! Please join us to share your perspective and voice regarding early education and care in Natick. Contact Lindsey at [ltarrant@accept.org](mailto:ltarrant@accept.org) or 508-655-2557 if you are interested in joining or attending a monthly meeting.