



Dear Lighthouse Families,

Working in schools and parenting children as they progressed through college, I had the unique perspective of experiencing educational institutions from the inside out. As a career educator and school leader, I have first-hand knowledge of how independent schools are financed and why volunteerism and parent participation in fundraising are so important, and as a parent of school and college-aged children, I have played an active role on school boards and committees, supported annual giving, and volunteered at fundraising events. I've seen both sides of the fundraising coin.

While fundraising may feel daunting, it is a wonderful way to become involved with the school community, and it is the only way for schools like Nantucket Lighthouse School to maintain reasonable tuition levels. Tuition at schools similar to ours is often two and three times higher with some day schools fetching over \$60,000/year.

Given our desire to ensure that a Lighthouse education is possible for all families, we continue to keep tuition at a fiscally responsible level, while also relying on families to support our fundraising efforts and help us fill the gap between tuition revenue and the actual cost of educating each child.

Next month, we will launch our single largest fundraising initiative, the annual appeal, whereby we ask friends, faculty, staff, Board and community members, foundations, and Lighthouse families to make a contribution to the school. Our goal, one that we have achieved in the past, is 100% faculty, staff, Board, and parent participation.

In October, your family will receive an annual appeal with original artwork from our second-grade teacher, Stephanie Gilchrist. You may wonder if it's important for you to contribute, and the definitive answer is "Yes!" Your contribution helps us maintain reasonable tuition increases, and it signals to our donors that our own families believe in and support our school.

We are excited to share this year's beautiful piece with you, and we ask that each family give a gift that is comfortable and affordable. No gift is too small, as it is the full participation of our school community that matters most!

In addition to the annual appeal, we are beginning our initial preparations for the Yuletide Fair. If you would like to join the Yuletide committee and connect with other Lighthouse families, please contact Mackenzie Thompson, mthompson@nantucketlighthouse.org.

Have a lovely weekend.

Warm regards,

Emily

Happy, Thoughtful Kids Grown Here

Children experience a wide range of emotions every day—joy, curiosity, excitement, frustration, sadness, and anger. Part of growing up is learning how to navigate those feelings. A guiding message that is both simple and powerful to use with children is: ***All feelings are welcome; all behaviors are not.***

When children know their emotions are accepted, they feel safe to share them. At the same time, they also need guidance to understand that while it's okay to feel angry, it's not okay to hurt someone else; and while it's natural to feel worried, it's not okay to avoid every challenge. By holding both truths—acceptance of feelings and limits on behavior—we help build empathy, resilience, and self-regulation.

At Nantucket Lighthouse School, our teachers are guided by **Responsive Classroom**, an evidence-based approach that blends social-emotional learning with academics. You'll see elements of Responsive Classroom in every class:

- Morning meetings that foster connection and create space for children to share their thoughts and feelings.
- Interactive modeling that demonstrates what respectful behavior looks like—such as sharing materials, lining up calmly, and resolving conflicts.
- Logical consequences that are reasonable and connected, helping children learn from mistakes without shame.
- Language that empowers children with what they can do while gently guiding them toward positive choices.

During the school day, this might sound like a teacher saying, “It’s okay to feel frustrated with your work. It’s not okay to crumple it up. Let’s take a breath and try again together,” or “I see you’re excited! Let’s use that energy to help the group.”

Through responsive language and practices, we convey the message that emotions are natural and important – and that we also have a responsibility to act in ways that are kind and respectful to ourselves and others.

Warmly,

Julia

Important Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday, October 1: Professional Development-
NO SCHOOL

Monday, October 13: Indigenous Peoples' Day-
NO SCHOOL

PICTURE DAY!



THURSDAY, **OCTOBER 16TH**
STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

INDIVIDUAL AND CLASS PHOTOS TAKEN BY
CARY HAZLEGROVE PHOTOGRAPHY

AFTER-SCHOOL MUSIC WITH NIGEL!

OPEN TO ALL ABILITIES.



Nantucket
**Lighthouse
School**

Nigel Goss is offering an after school music class for Small School through Kinder. Each class will include music, movement, and singing activities. The activities are designed to prepare the development of tuneful singing, solid rhythmic skills, and familiarity with a wide range of musical styles.

Small School through Kinder!

Wednesdays:

October 8th, 15th, and 22nd
November 5th, 12th, and 19th

Sessions are from 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the Starbuck Cottage. Your child may attend Extended Day after the class at no additional cost.

Please contact Alicia Lynn with any questions
alynn@nantucketlighthouseschool.org

\$200 / 6 class sessions





Nantucket
**Lighthouse
School**

Extended Day is LIVE

Our Extended Day Program run Mondays through Fridays
(except on holidays/faculty workdays) from
2:30pm-5:10pm.

Sign your child up for Extended Day using the link below.

[Extended Day Sign Up](#)



JOIN THE YULETIDE COMMITTEE!

Join our Yuletide Fair Committee and help create an unforgettable holiday experience! Our annual Yuletide Fair, held over Stroll Weekend, is a cherished fundraiser where we showcase and sell beautiful heirloom holiday items. We need enthusiastic parents to volunteer and bring their talents to the table—whether it's assisting at the Bake Shop, organizing parent craft nights, tagging items, or reaching out to sponsors. Be a part of this magical event and make a lasting impact on our community this holiday season!

OUR FIRST YULETIDE MEETING IS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th at 8:45 a.m.

If you would like to join the Yuletide committee, contact Mackenzie Thompson
mthompson@nantucketlighthouseschool.org









Community Events



Kenneth Donnell Trust

Providing opportunities for Nantucket children 5- 17 to engage in athletic or other experiences on the island that they might not typically be able to afford.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT A REQUEST
FOR A CHILD YOU BELIEVE MIGHT QUALIFY
FOR A SCHOLARSHIP:**

Applications can be
found at:
donnelltrust.org

Applications deadline 10/4/25



Friends of Nantucket Public Schools Bike-A-Thon

2.5 MILE FUN RIDE

Another great way to
support:



Friends of NPS
@Friends-OfNPS



venmo

Scan this code to pay



Sunday, October 5th



NES/NIS Parking Lot



**RIDE BEGINS AT 1 PM
12:30PM CHECK-IN**

PRIZES FOR:

- Most Money Raised to the Top Three Individuals
- Best Decorated Bike
- Best Costume
- Youngest Participant
- Bike Safety & Sportsmanship

REGISTER BY
PICKING UP A
FUNDRAISING
ENVELOPE AT NES
OR NIS FRONT
OFFICE.

All Proceeds Support Friends of
Nantucket Public Schools
Helping fund programs that benefit
both students and teachers.

Click here to volunteer



Refreshments

LIVE
your best life!

Prizes

NANTUCKET SENIOR EXPO

CONNECTIONS & RESOURCES FOR WELL-BEING

Saturday, October 18, 2025

10 AM - 1 PM

Nantucket High School



FREE
event!

Everyone is invited, especially **seniors 60+**,
their **families** and **caregivers!**

2025 Speaker Topics

- Science of aging well
- Estate planning
- Home mortgage options
- Fraud prevention
- Senior living options
- Long-term care

36 Vendors

- Health & wellness
- Legal & finance
- Home care
- Housing options
- Safety
- Support services



Contact Us
508-228-4490



Learn More
friendsofnantucketseniors.org

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Nantucket
Council on Aging



THINGS CHANGE. PRINCIPLES DON'T.
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Rotary

Nantucket, MA



AFTER-SCHOOL FALL SERIES I & EARLY RELEASE DAYS WITH THE MARIA MITCHELL ASSOCIATION

FOR GRADES K - 5
September 16 - October 23



EACH DAY OF THE WEEK OFFERS A UNIQUE SET OF
NATURE-BASED ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, AND ADVENTURES
AS WE EXPLORE NANTUCKET ISLAND TOGETHER!

AFTER-SCHOOL FALL SERIES I DATES:

TUESDAYS - SEPT. 16, 23, 30; OCT. 7, 14, 21

WEDNESDAYS - SEPT. 17, 24*; OCT. 1, 8, 15, 22*

*REGISTER for September 24 & October 22 under
NPS Early Release Day Option

THURSDAYS - SEPT. 18, 25; OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23

THIS DAY-SPECIFIC PROGRAM INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION FROM LOCAL
SCHOOLS:

- Nantucket Elementary School & Intermediate School – pickup at 2:30 PM
- Nantucket Lighthouse School – pickup at 2:50 PM
- Nantucket New School – pickup at 3:00 PM

REGISTER NOW

NPS EARLY RELEASE DAYS:

We are excited to offer FREE early release day programming from 12 - 3pm
on Wednesday, September 24 and October 22.

AFTER-SCHOOL FALL SERIES II COMING SOON!



Learn more at mariamitchell.org/afterschoolandearlyreleaseday

Nantucket Lighthouse School | 1 Rugged Road | Nantucket, MA 02554 US

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