

**F. A. Day Middle School
Newsletter
January 1, 2020**



Quotes of the Week

"Students who feel valued in the present are empowered to grow now and in the future."
– George Couros and Katie Novak

"It's not "social emotional learning" and "academic learning." It's just learning. We know that critical thinking is dependent on emotional investment. And, we know that improving our social & our emotional intelligence takes deep reflection and cognition. They're interdependent." ---Amy Fast, Ed.D.

Days of the Cycle Weeks of 1/2/20 and 1/6/20

Day 4, Day 5 (Thursday, 1/2 and Friday, 1/3)

Day 6, Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4 (Monday, 1/6 – Friday, 1/10)

*** Given that this is a short week, I will not be sending out another newsletter on Sunday. This newsletter contains information relevant to the next two weeks.*

I would like to wish everyone in the Day Community a very Happy New Year!! I am looking forward to an exciting 2020 with your children!!

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

In an effort to re-engage and rededicate our faculty to the important work around social-emotional learning, I shared with them the above quotes this week. Whenever we dedicate faculty and student time to an initiative as we are doing this year with the weekly Roundtable Thursday advisory program, we are demonstrating that we value and prioritize this work. That said, we often get caught up in the "buzz words" of education. The term social-emotional learning seems to have lost its meaning in ambiguity, and I do not want us to lose our way by relegating this work to the 30 minute Roundtable block that happens once a week.

I often share the parent newsletter messages with our faculty to reinforce our home/school partnership and communicate our shared goals. Today, instead I would like to share with all of you my New Year's message to the Day faculty about the work we are engaged in for the rest of the year around social emotional learning so that you can better understand the "what" and "why" of this work, particularly at the middle level.

Here is today's message to Day faculty:

I am not a fan of buzzwords in any field. They seem created to impress more than impact. The ones in education are particularly cryptic, duplicative and a bit ambiguous. In thinking about our building and district goals, I realize that one of those goals is very much connected with the "buzz word", social-emotional learning. The term seems to indicate that there is something separate that we all must be doing in addition to our instruction with students. I know that I have used it to support the need for a separate advisory block, which seems to indicate that we are not supporting this type of learning any other part of the day.

As we launch our new year, I want to take a moment to dispel those ideas. Social emotional learning is quite simply the connections that we make with students every day in our greetings, concern, expectations, inspiration and motivation. It is asking how vacation was and knowing when that question is not appropriate to ask. It is having a separate collection of pencils for a student who does not even have a coat let alone something to write with. It is providing a safe haven in a classroom when a student is just not up to staying in the cafeteria. It is knowing when to challenge and when to support. It is noticing our students and letting them know we see them. We all do this every day. It is the strength and backbone of the Day Community.

We know and value the fact that if our students feel that we are connected with them and care about their progress and well being, then they will succeed in our classrooms and school. Intellectual and social emotional learning is inextricably intertwined.

In our first formal faculty meeting of the new year, we will take some time to look at the why behind advisory and how we can continue to work toward basing it in authentic connections and tap into it as a continuation of the connections we make throughout our day with our students. Roundtable should be an extension and enrichment intertwined and connected to what we do in all of our classes just as social emotional learning and "academic learning" are interdependent. We will discuss that journey toward more authentic connections beginning on Tuesday.

ROUNDTABLE LESSONS THIS WEEK

In an effort to strengthen our home/school partnerships and also so that you can reinforce our work around social-emotional learning from home, I will continue to share the subject of the upcoming Roundtable Thursday lessons with you in the hope that you will ask your child about their experience.

Roundtable Lesson on Thursday, January 2, 2020

Although sometimes our Roundtable lessons are differentiated by grade, this first lesson of the New Year is about group identity. Students will be grappling with the following questions in thinking about how to find commonalities in their group:

- a. How do the groups we belong to contribute to our *group identity*?
- b. How does our group identity help us function and work together?

They will then work to create a group “shield” that represents their shared values and interests as a group.

Roundtable Lesson on Thursday, January 9, 2020

This is a follow-up lesson for all three grades where Roundtable groups can choose to finish the activity from January 2nd or engage in a choice team-building activity.

On this date, our 7th grade ADL Peer Leaders will be joining their assigned 6th grade Roundtable group in preparation for the ADL anti-bias lessons that they will be leading in the coming weeks.

TERM 2 PROGRESS REPORTS

You should have already been notified by your child’s teachers how to access the Term 2 Progress Reports. If you have not received a mid-term progress update from any of your child’s teachers, please reach out to them directly or to the guidance counselor.

TERM 2 REPORT CARDS

Report cards for Term 2 will be posted on January 31, 2020

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent conferences conclude this month on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 and Tuesday, January 28, 2020.

DAY SCHOOL COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Day School Council is on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in the Student Services Conference Room.

JANUARY CONCERTS

Please join us for our upcoming Winter Concerts:

January 9, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.- Band and Jazz Band Concert

January 16, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. – Choral Concert

PRINCIPAL COFFEES IN THE NEW YEAR

Below are the dates of the Principal's Coffee for the remainder of the school year:

Thursday, January 23, 2020: 8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 4, 2020 with Dr. Henry Turner, Principal of NNHS: 8:15 a.m.

Thursday, April 16, 2020: 8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 21, 2020: 8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

TEEN SPEAK-OUT

Teen Speak-Out is an event where we gather a diverse group of 100-Day Middle School students and lead them in community building and in conversations about our school community. The conversations and team building take place at a daylong event at the Boys' and Girls' Club on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Faculty members will be paired with last year's ADL peer facilitators to co-lead "village" discussions with 10 students and also participate in whole group community building.

Schedule of planning for this event:

- ***January 8th – January 31st:***

We will be collaborating with guidance counselors and teachers on inviting 100 students from all three grades to participate in this event on Wednesday, February 12th. If your child might be interested in attending, please reach out or have them reach out to their guidance counselor. Participation will not involve any training but will involve missing school on February 12th and making up any missed work. We are looking for a diverse group of Day students who have different experiences and perspectives about our school community so that we can get the feedback necessary to strengthen our school and create a more

inclusive community going forward. Permission slips and invitation sent out the last week of January

- **January 31st:**
- Next training full day training for 8th grade student facilitators in the library
- **February 5th:**
- Full day combined training for faculty and 8th grade student facilitators
- **February 12th:**
- Teen Speak-Out event at the Boys' and Girls Club

This program is made possible through the generous funding and sponsorship of the Day PTO and the Boys' and Girl's Club.

BASKETBALL GAMES SCHEDULE THIS SEASON

Please join us in cheering on the boys' and girls' Day Dragons Basketball Teams at their games this season:

GIRLS BASKETBALL – GRAY TEAM

COACHES: MR. BECKER AND MS. FLAHERTY

GAME SCHEDULE:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
1/6/20	4:45	Brown Middle School
1/13/20	4:45	Day Middle School
1/23/20	4:45	Day Middle School
1/27/20	3:45	Wellesley Middle School
1/31/20	3:45	Needham Middle School
2/3/20	3:45	Day Middle School
2/10/20	3:45	Day Middle School
2/13/20	3:45	Weston Middle School

GIRLS BASKETBALL - BLUE TEAM

COACHES: MS.CALABRO AND MS. BARRY

GAME SCHEDULE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1/8/20	4:45	Day Middle School
1/9/20	4:45	Day Middle School
1/13/20	4:45	Bigelow Middle School
1/24/20	4:45	Needham Middle School
1/27/20	3:45	Day Middle School
1/30/20	3:45	Wellesley Middle School
2/3/20	3:45	Oak Hill Middle School
2/10/20	3:45	Weston Middle School
2/13/20	3:45	Day Middle School

BOYS TEAM 1

COACHES: TYLER WACHTELHAUSEN AND JACOB MAEL

GAME SCHEDULE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1/8/20	3:45	Day Middle School
1/9/20	3:45	Day Middle School
1/13/20	3:45	Bigelow Middle School
1/24/20	3:45	Needham Middle School
1/27/20	4:45	Day Middle School
1/30/20	4:45	Wellesley Middle School
2/3/20	4:45	Oak Hill Middle School
2/10/20	4:45	Weston Middle School
2/13/20	4:45	Day Middle School

BOYS TEAM 2

COACHES: NATHAN CAMERON AND ED PANG

GAME SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1/6/20	3:45	Brown Middle School
1/13/20	3:45	Day Middle School
1/23/20	3:45	Day Middle School
1/27/20	4:45	Wellesley Middle School
1/31/20	4:45	Needham Middle School
2/3/20	4:45	Day Middle School
2/10/20	4:45	Day Middle School
2/13/20	4:45	Weston Middle School

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INFORMATION

LATE BUS ONLY FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Beginning this month, Day Middle School will be aligning our late bus policy with that of the other middle schools in the district by allowing late bus access only to students who are staying after school for school-based activities such as clubs, sports or school-sponsored events. We are making this shift to not only align with district practice, but to ensure the safety of our students. There have been several instances when parents were under the impression that their child was staying after school for a school-sponsored event when in fact that child was not on school premises, returning only to take the late bus. As you can imagine, this poses a safety risk for middle school students. Please help us reinforce with your child that the late bus is only available for students who are staying after school for a school-sponsored activity.

EXTENDED ABSENCES

With the vacation and holiday season upon us, more parents are excusing students from school for extended absences. While this is not officially an “excused absence”, we also acknowledge the value and importance of travel and connecting with family. If your child is going to be out for a planned absence for more than a day, we ask that you send the following email:

To: Ms. Gandolfo in the front office: gandolfo@newton.k12.ma.us
as well as to your child's teachers and guidance counselor.

The email should include the days that your child will be absent and the reason for the absence.

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, January 2, 2019: Return to School from Winter Break

Wednesday, January 8, 2020: School Council

Thursday, January 9, 2020: Winter Band/Jazz Band Concert at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 14, 2020: Parent Conferences

Thursday, January 16, 2020: Winter Choral Concert at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 20, 2020: No School - MLK Holiday

Wednesday, January 22, 2020: Mint Team to the Kennedy Institute

Thursday, January 23, 2020: Evergreen Team to the Kennedy Institute

Friday, January 24, 2020: Emerald Team to the Kennedy Institute

Friday, January 24, 2020: Term 2 Ends

Monday, January 27, 2020: Ivy Team to the Kennedy Institute

Week of January 27, 2020: 7th grade SOS Screening

Tuesday, January 28, 2020: Parent Conferences

Friday, January 31, 2020: Teen Speak Out Facilitator Training

Week of February 3, 2020: I-Ready Literacy Assessments

Wednesday, February 5, 2020: Teen Speak Out Facilitator Training

Wednesday, February 12, 2020: Teen Speak Out Event at the Boys and Girls Club

February 17 – 21, 2020: February Vacation

Happy New Year!!

All the best,

Jackie Mann

F. A. Day Principal

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