



Quote of the Week

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

--- Leo Buscaglia

Days of the Cycle Week of 10/15/19

Holiday, Day 3, Day 4, Day 5, Day 6

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

At the beginning of the school year, I positioned myself by what we call the “mural door” at the back of our school most mornings to greet students and thank them for returning to Day. The practice of personally greeting students is one that I used in my past schools to check in with students every morning. Walking through the door of the middle school is for some an act of courage and will, particularly at such an early hour. Often everything you need to know about a middle school student’s day is apparent in the moment they cross the threshold. While I have stationed myself at this door on occasion since arriving at Day, I noticed the responsibilities of overseeing what for me was a much larger school community seemed to interfere with this routine more than I would like to admit. I missed it.

This year I promised myself that at least on most days, I would greet students as they arrived. About a week into this practice, I noticed a student waiting outside of his classroom nearby and asked if he would join me. His name is Christopher. Christopher watched me cautiously for a week as I welcomed students and thanked them for

returning. He noticed that students often responded to my greeting and thanks with a grin at times accompanied by the question, “Did I really have a choice about coming back to school, Mrs. Mann?” When asked I always replied, “no, not really a choice,” but adding that I was still thankful they were here, fully understanding all that it takes for our students to ready for a day of school that begins so early. Often I was rewarded with a half smile. Christopher watched closely as the once reticent, frowning students seemed to brighten with the welcome.

Then one day, Christopher jumped in, adding his own personal brand of warmth. Now every morning Christopher welcomes students and holds the door open for his classmates, even on frostiest of these fall mornings. He has since been joined at the mural door by Sam, and other students occasionally doing the same at our front door, like another student named Christopher who spent one morning last week holding the door opening for everyone arriving. The response to them by our students in the morning has been contagious. Students are thanking them by name, opening the doors for each other, and smiling despite a long journey on the bus or a frigid bike ride to school.

On mornings when my duties keep me away from greeting students at the mural door, I am comforted by the fact that Christopher and Sam will be there in my stead, and I find myself missing this warm and joyful way to start my day. As Leo Buscaglia wisely identifies, it is in fact “the smallest act of caring,” that has the most potential to turn a life around. Thank you Christopher, Sam, and all those who have mirrored their acts of kindness for reminding me of the importance of these simple acts in our community in making the difference in the lives of others.

NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY

There is no school tomorrow, Monday, October 14, 2019.

TEEN SPEAK OUT

Permission slips for the Teen Speak Out Program are now due. All 8th grade former ADL peer leaders should drop their permission slips off in the front office this week if they are interested in being a Teen Speak Out facilitator.

PARENT VISITING DAYS

Parent Visiting Days being this week. These days are opportunities for parents and guardians to observe a morning of their child’s classes. Parents will report to the library upon entering the building in order to obtain their child’s schedule. Schedules will be laid out on tables organized alphabetically. The morning begins at 7:45 a.m. with a brief orientation in the library.

Parents will be asked to follow a few rules:

Please step out of the classroom to use your cell phones;

Please do not take any photos or videos in the classrooms; and

Please do not use this visit as an opportunity for a parent conference.

This is an opportunity to see a lesson in action. Each grade level has a different visiting day. Please see the schedule below:

8th Grade Parent Visiting Day: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 from 7:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

7th Grade Parent Visiting Day: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 from 7:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

6th Grade Parent Visiting Day: Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 7:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

We look forward to opportunities such as these throughout the school year to strengthen our home/school partnership in support of our children.

8th GRADE TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.

There is a meeting for 8th grade parents this Thursday, November 17th in the Day auditorium at 6:30 p.m. to learn more about the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.

HAMLET

Tickets for the Day Drama Fall Play, Hamlet, go on sale at all lunches beginning Wednesday, October 16th.

Tickets are \$10 each and all seating is reserved, so if students are buying tickets for them/their family to sit with another friend's family, they should purchase them at the same time. We are not able to hold unpaid tickets or offer exchanges, so please plan accordingly!

The show begins at 7 PM on Thursday, October 24 and Friday, October 25, and with one intermission, should be done around 9:00/9:15 PM.

Please be advised that *Hamlet* contains stylized weapon representation (*swords*) and choreographed theatrical violence.

Parking at Day can be tight, so please leave extra time to find parking and get safely to the building. On show nights, door #22 is open, instead of the main entrance by the flagpole.

Door #22 is to the right of the main entrance, a little further down the driveway, and is close to the stairs, as well as the elevator, for those who need to use it to access the second floor. The rest of the building is not open on show nights, only the auditorium.

ANNOUNCING CREATIVE ARTS & SCIENCES AUTHORFEST 2019!

Author & Illustrator School Visits

Newton Public Schools' Creative Arts & Sciences* is dedicating November 6, 2019 to recognize and celebrate the importance of books in our children's lives. We know that students are uniquely inspired when they're given the opportunity to meet the authors and illustrators of books they've read. A wide range of authors and illustrators will be visiting schools across the district during the day to talk about the writing and illustrating process – from idea to published work.

Day students will hear from age-appropriate authors Alison Dana Levy, Marika McCoola, Ammi-Joan Paquette, and Marc Tyler Nobelman.

Book Sale & Signing at the Zervas Elementary School Library on November 6, 3:15-5:30

A culminating book sale and signing will allow students to meet and talk to the authors and illustrators from which they've been inspired. At the end of the school day on November 6th, all participating authors and illustrators will gather in the Zervas Elementary School Library for a meet and greet, book sale and signing event. Students and their families from across the district will have the opportunity to meet a variety of authors and illustrators, including those who presented at other schools.

Newtonville Books will facilitate the book sale. Book order forms will be distributed October 15th (due 10/22). No purchase is necessary to meet an author. A small portion of the proceeds will go toward future CAS events.

*CAS AuthorFest is made possible by a grant from the Newton Schools Foundation, a contribution from The Village Bank in Auburndale, and your generous contributions to our PTO. Thank you!

FLAG FOOTBALL JAMBOREE

Day Middle School is hosting a flag football jamboree, which is an all-city competition of our flag football teams. The event will take place on Albemarle Fields on Thursday, October 17th beginning at 3:30 p.m.

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INFORMATION

(Each week I may continue to publish information that was in last week's newsletter in case it was missed, but I will note that this is "previously published" so that parents can skip over it if they have already read it.

TERM 1

The academic calendar at Day Middle School is divided into four quarters. This week marks the halfway point of Term 1, which officially ends on Friday, November 8th. Term 1 Report Cards will be available in the parent portal of APSEN by Friday, November 15th.

SCHOOL SAFETY DISCUSSION

Unfortunately there was not a good turnout for this past week's Principal Coffee on the newly revised NPS School Safety/Emergency Response Protocols. I would like to get information to all of you about how we will be practicing these drills with students on our Student Safety Day on Friday, October 25th. Please know that we will NOT be simulating emergency events, but rather talking with students on that day about what teachers will be doing and asking them to do in the event of a school emergency and reviewing the different responses. The PTO is helping me put together a webinar the week prior to Student Safety Day so that I can answer any questions about the newly revised protocols. Please stay tuned for more information.

CLUBS

Please take a moment to review the newly posted after school clubs with your child. Often middle level students need encouragement to try out a new club of interest. If you would like a member of the Day Faculty to speak with your child about trying a club, please reach out to the guidance staff. Students can join a club at any point throughout the year. As a reminder, the one time club fee of \$60 is paid online through

our Student Activities tab on the web site. This fee allows your child to participate in as many clubs as they are interested in throughout this school year. Financial aid is available by filling out a form on the same web site, or reaching out to our guidance staff.

SPORTS GAME SCHEDULE THIS WEEK:

Cross- Country

Thursday, October 17th at 3:30 p.m. Home vs. Oak Hill

Soccer

Girls'

Wednesday, October 16th at 3:30 p.m. Home vs. Bigelow

Thursday, October 17th at 3:30 p.m. Away vs. Ursuline Academy

Friday, October 18th at 4:30 p.m. Home vs. Weston

Boys'

Wednesday, October 16th at 4:30 p.m. Home vs. Bigelow

Friday, October 18th at 3:30 p.m. Home vs. Weston

Flag Football

All-city competition on Thursday, October 17th beginning at 3:30 p.m. at Day.

PICTURE DAY

The make-up day for pictures is November 13, 2019 first thing in the morning. We will announce to students to report to a central location that morning for any picture make-ups or retakes.

8th GRADE D.C. TRIP PARENT NIGHT DATE CHANGE

This coming week's 8th grade Parent Information Session about the annual trip to Washington, D.C. has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Day Auditorium.

CLUBS AND AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS UPDATE:

We are excited to announce our new list of clubs this fall. See the dates and meeting times below. Parents should access our club sign-up online by following the link below.

There is a one-time fee of \$60, which allows students to participate in as many clubs as they would like for the year.

<http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/142>

Financial aid is always available. No child should be excluded from participation due to financial need. The form for financial aid can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us//site/Default.aspx?PageID=1073>

Fall clubs are starting up - the full list is on our website: <https://sites.google.com/newton.k12.ma.us/eee/clubs-information> Some clubs will be starting up soon (ASL club, Chinese Yoyo, and Robot Battle are all in the works) and new clubs can be added as well.

Anime Club- Advisors: Hoermann - Room 102 on Thursday *first meeting 10/10

Students gather to watch Japanese Animation together, as a way to make friends with similar interests, and use popular culture as a jumping off point to learn about Japanese culture

Day Diversity Club- Advisors: Ms. Wong & Ms. Bernier - Room 205 C (in the Library) on Thursday *first meeting 10/3

This club acknowledges and values the richness of our cultural backgrounds and identities. Meetings will include activities that bring different communities together through discussions, guest speakers, potluck dinners, field trips, and participation in events that acknowledges and celebrates cultural diversity in our school community.

Day Student Council- Advisors: Ms. Besse & Ms. Armstrong - Room 312 *Info Session Thursday 9/19

Be a leader and make a positive difference in our ay Middle School community and beyond. Open to all Grades. Lets make this a great year at Day Middle School!

Girls Who Code - Advisors: Ms. Carlin & Ms. Kerner - Room 104 on Mondays

Girls Who Code Club meets after school Mondays in room 104 and is open to girls in all grade levels. Did you know that less than a quarter of technology jobs go to women? Let's start changing this in middle school! In this club girls work together to learn coding by having fun, eating snacks, and completing a project that helps the community.

GSA-Advisor- Advisor: Mr. Landau- See Mr. Landau for more information.

The Gender and Sexuality Alliance is a national organization focused on creating inclusive school environments. This club will provide a safe space to discuss issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Homework Club- Advisors: TBA - Library - Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

This club is for students who want a quiet place to do their homework, read, work on projects, or use the computer. There is no user fee for this club.

Improv Club - Advisor: Mr. Barr - Room 314 on Thursdays *first meeting 10/3

Calling all improvisers! This is a club for students who want to learn how to do improv comedy. We'll learn different improv skills throughout the year and have a showcase at the end. To join this club, you need a good sense of humor, a comfort level performing in front of others, and a willingness to learn the techniques of good improvisation. In order to build a strong club community, any new students need to join by the end of October and commit to coming at least twice a month.

Jazz Band - Advisor: Mr. Brown- room 222 on Mondays

Band students interested in Jazz band should see Mr. Brown to sign up. The first Jazz reading will take place on Monday, October 7th. Students who wish to participate must be able to commit to each rehearsal.

Lettering Club - Advisor: Ms. Marx - Room 229 on Mondays

Come learn creative lettering/calligraphy, work on your personal bullet journal, draw, or bring another craft--friendship bracelets, knitting, whatever you're working on.

Magic the Gathering Club - Advisor: Mr. Lynch - Room 214 on Thursdays

In this club, the members play games of their choice using their Magic deck cards. We welcome all skill levels and members are willing to train new players. Bring your deck and join in the fun!

Morning Gym- Mr. Powell, Ms. Teague, Mr. Wachtelhausen, Ms. Church- M, T, W, TH

Day students are welcome to participate in morning open gym from 7:30-7:50 AM.

Intramurals: There are two informational sessions for after school intramurals sports this Monday, September 16th.

Badminton and Ultimate Frisbee: Monday, September 16th after school in Room 117

Flag Football Team: The Day Flag Football Team is still accepting members. It is open to all students in grades 6-8. See Mr. Thompson, Mr. Peng or Mr. Roberto with any questions.

FLU CLINIC AT DAY

Seasonal flu vaccination clinics will be held during the school day at the Day Middle School on November 1, 2019. Students in Kindergarten through grade 12 may receive vaccine.

The **FILL IN YOUR SCHOOL** clinic will be on **FILL IN YOUR DATE HERE**. Each student to be vaccinated must have a parent/guardian complete two forms:

1. Consent/Screening form
2. Vaccine administration record/Insurance form.

Forms are available in the school nurse's office, or may be downloaded at www.newtonma.gov/flu. You may electronically complete the form, print, sign and return. Forms are due to the School Nurse **FILL IN YOUR DUE DATE HERE**.

Only the flu shot (no nasal spray) will be offered at school this year. The Vaccine Information Statement about the flu shot, and additional information for families including tips on preparing kids for a shot is available at www.newtonma.gov/flu or in the school nurse's office. There is no cost to receive the vaccine, but insurance

information is requested. All students, regardless of insurance status, are invited to receive vaccine with parent permission.

Students are not required to receive flu vaccine, however the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends flu vaccine for all people age 6 months and up. There are many places to get a flu vaccine including at school, your primary health care provider or community clinics. For additional clinic dates for the whole family, visit www.newtonma.gov/flu.

In addition to vaccination, it is important to practice good hand hygiene and cough etiquette by washing hands often; covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the arm; and staying home when sick.

For more flu prevention tips, talk to the school nurse or check out these websites: www.newtonma.gov/flu and www.cdc.gov/flu

SAVE THE DATE:

Monday, October 14, 2019 – No School – Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 – 8th Grade Parent Visiting Day

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 – 7th Grade Parent Visiting Day

Wednesday, October 16, 2019: Day School Council at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 17, 2019 – 6th Grade Parent Visiting Day

Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.: 8th Grade Trip to DC Parent Info Session

Thursday and Friday, October 24th and 25th, 2019- Fall Play

Wednesday, October 30, 2019: Early Release Day -Teacher Professional Development

Friday, November 1, 2019: Flu Clinic

Monday, November 11, 2019: No School – Veteran’s Day

Tuesday, November 12, 2019: Term 2 Begins

Wednesday, November 13, 2019: School Council at 3:00 p.m.

Friday, November 15, 2019: Term 1 Report Cards Posted

Thursday, November 21, 2019 and Friday, November 22, 2019: Cabaret at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 27, 2019: Early Release for Thanksgiving Break – No Lunch

Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th, 2019: No School Thanksgiving

All the best,

Jackie Mann

F. A. Day Principal

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