



Quote of the Week

**“What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say.”
----Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Days of the Cycle Week of 10/20/19

Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, Day 5

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

I came across this quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson in a manual I was reading on Restorative Justice Practices. It is not one I had seen before. The quote's connection with Restorative Practices is that true restoration and reconciliation only takes place through actions. Words in the world of restoration are just the beginning.

While it is clear that I believe in the power of words given how much I enjoy writing these weekly newsletters, in my third year as principal, I am at times painfully aware of the moments when actions fall short of words.

The words I have written about our shared middle school experiences are most certainly aspirational. They are meant to reflect the experiences of our middle school children. They hopefully help to underscore our shared values and focus.

Since becoming an educator just short of 20 years ago, I have held the core beliefs around the importance of connections and growth mindset. I believe that students do not want to learn from teachers who do not show that they care about them, our most important and first goal is to create a classroom and school environment that makes

students want to walk through the door, and we should never label children, define who they are or limit who they can be at such an early age.

It has been important to me to share these aspirations and values with our school community because sharing them connect us in our goal of supporting our children and are also a way to hold us accountable for our words. The truth is that despite the words that I share, there are moments when our actions as educators may not foster a growth mindset, and there may be children on any given day who are struggling to walk through the door. While our words are important as they frame our work and share our values, it is in fact our actions every day, as Emerson noted, that have the greatest impact. Words without actions are empty. Our actions need to rise to the aspirations set by our words. Even when we fall short, we will be our best selves for our students if we keep that bar high and hold each other accountable for doing as we say to the best of our ability every day.

STUDENT SAFETY DAY

This Friday, October 25th, we will be practicing our newly revised emergency response protocols during a school-wide safety day. Please know that we will NOT be simulating emergency events as this may cause anxiety for some students, but rather we will be using scripts prepared by our District Safety Team to educate students about how we will respond as a school community to various emergency situations.

The emphasis with our students will be on safety through preparedness, and we will focus on the fact that safe schools are created by all of the things that we do to create a positive school culture and climate. While it is not very likely that we will experience a serious school safety issue such as a hostile event, we hope to create a sense of safety by giving our students an awareness of our protocols in a developmentally appropriate way. At last year's Student Safety Day our students gave us feedback that they would feel safer if we dedicated more time to practicing safety protocols in our school. Friday's Safety Day is directly in response to their needs. Every school in the district has scheduled a similar student safety day over the next month.

In preparation for our Student Safety Day, we dedicated our September Early Release professional development to training our faculty on these newly revised district protocols, which were developed by our District Safety Team in consultation with an emergency preparedness consultant and our partners in the community including the Newton Police and Fire Departments.

As part of the Student Safety Day on Friday, we will practice the following drills:

Evacuation (Response to a fire or other emergency that involves evacuation to our back fields)

Shelter In Place (Response to a threat outside of our school or to a medical emergency for a member of our school community)

Lockdown (Response to a security threat inside of our school)

We will practice these drills by having students remain in their homerooms for the first two periods of the day on Friday as teachers read scripts that have been vetted by our district Safety Team, and we give them an opportunity to ask questions or share any concerns.

Later in the day, each grade level will then return to homerooms for one period so that faculty can talk with our students about our protocols for a hostile event. A hostile event protocol will be used in response to an active shooter or other armed act of violence in our school. Again, we will not be simulating a hostile event, but discuss what we will do in the event of a hostile event. As part of this discussion, we will be walking students by grade to our off-site evacuation and reunification site at the Fessenden School. Students in 7th and 8th grade are familiar with this as we practiced last year as a school.

Because we did not get a very big turnout for our parent discussion of the newly revised safety protocols, the PTO will be helping me work on a webinar that we hope to post on our web site prior to Friday.

If you have any questions or concerns about Friday's Student Safety Day, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Dr. Romeo, our Assistant Principal, who oversees our school-based Emergency Response Committee.

PARENT VISITING DAYS

I would like to thank all of the parents who visited last week on Parent Visiting Days. Our School Council is reviewing our home/school partnerships and communication and as such we would welcome your feedback on the Parent Visiting Day event. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at the email below:

mannj@newton.k12.ma.us

8th GRADE TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.

The information session for the 8th grade trip to D.C. was Thursday evening. We had a wonderful turnout and a great deal of excitement generated about the trip. Information about the trip will be posted on our Day Middle School web site this week. I will also send out information to all 8th grade parents separately with information about the trip this week.

HAMLET

The Day Drama Production of *Hamlet* is this week with performances Thursday and Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale during lunches this week for \$10. Cash or checks are accepted.

SPORTS GAME SCHEDULE THIS WEEK:

Cross- Country

Monday, October 21st 3:45 p.m. Away @ Dedham (Memorial Park)
Wednesday, October 23rd 3:45 p.m. All-City Away @ Newton South

Soccer

Girls'

Monday, October 21st 4:30 p.m. Home vs. Wellesley
Wednesday, October 23rd: 4:30 p.m. Away @ Oak Hill
Friday, October 25th: 4:30 p.m. Away @ Bigelow

Boys'

Monday, October 21th 3:30 p.m. Home vs. Wellesley
Wednesday, October 23rd: 3:30 p.m. Away @ Oak Hill
Friday, October 25th: 3:30 p.m. Away @ Bigelow

FLAG FOOTBALL JAMBOREE

Thank you to all of the families who came out to support our new flag football program by cheering on our teams this past Thursday at our first all-city Flag Football Jamboree. Teams from Day, Bigelow and Oak Hill will compete again this Thursday, October 24th beginning at 3:30 p.m. on the Albemarle Fields. We are looking forward to another great event.

BOYS' & GIRLS' CLUB OPEN HOUSE

Boys & Girls Club of Newton Open House! - Oct. 22st 5-7PM

675 Watertown St, Newton, MA 02460
(617) 630-2066

Have you ever wondered what our Club has to offer for kids of all ages? Well, now is your chance to discover the many programs and services we provide. Join us this Tuesday, October 22st, from 5:00PM-7:00PM. You will tour our facility, learn about the programs / activities we offer, and meet our program staff. Plus, it's not too late to register for our school year program. You can register at our open house or register online at: <https://www.newtonbgc.com/club-membership-form>

Arts – STEM – Athletics – Coding – All Girl Programs – Homework Help and more..

Come Check us out. Visit Our Website at: <https://www.newtonbgc.com/>

SEPAC SCHOOL COMMITTEE CANDIDATE FORUM

Our NPS Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) has asked that I send out the notice below:

Please join the Newton SEPAC for a School Committee Candidate Forum

7:30-9:30 pm
Thursday, October 24, 2019
Room 304
100 Walnut Street

Candidates running for Newton School Committee will be sharing their perspective on questions related to special education in Newton. There will also be time for parents to meet with the candidates. Please note that elections for School Committee are city-wide, so Newton voters elect School Committee members in all wards, not just their own.

<http://www.newtonpac.org>

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.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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 aide 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:

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: Picture Day Make-Up

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

Wednesday, December 4, 2019: Early Release dismissal at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 10, 2019: Parent Conferences 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019: School Council at 6:00 p.m.

Week of December 16, 2019: Term 2 Progress Reports

Monday, December 23, 2019 – Wednesday, January 1, 2020: Winter Recess No School

All the best,

Jackie Mann

F. A. Day Principal

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(617) 559-9109