



Quote of the Week

**“Children are living messages we send to a time we will not see.”
- - Neil Postman**

Days of the Cycle Week of 10/27/19

Day 6, Day 1, Day 3, Day 2, Day 4

THIS WEEK’S QUOTE

This past week we all watched as one of our nation’s most honorable leaders was laid to rest. Current and former leaders from all political ideologies eulogized Representative Elijah Cummings, Congressman of 23 years. It was a rare moment of unity that was well deserved for such an honorable man.

Among the many inspirational comments, I was captured by the following words by former President Barack Obama, *“The cost of doing nothing isn’t nothing,” he would say, and folks would remember why they entered into public service. “Our children are the living messengers we send to a future we will never see,” he would say, and he would remind all of us that our time is too short not to fight for what’s good and what is true and what is best in America.”*

As I researched the idea of our children as messengers to the future, I found that Representative Elijah Cummings was not in fact the first to use this phrase. Neil Postman, a researcher and professor of Education and Communication at New York University coined it originally. The concept that our children as messengers to the future struck me as an educator because of the daunting responsibility we face to send messages to our children that will help to create a better world for them.

This week we will again launch our advisory program at Day Middle School. We have expanded the program this year so that it takes place every week on Thursdays for 30 minutes. As I noted to our students this past week in a video message, when we as a school dedicate this much time to something, we are making a statement about its importance and value.

We are calling this advisory period “Roundtable Thursday” to describe the actual round or circle formation that student chairs will be arranged as they grapple as a small community with the issues confronting not just middle school children but the greater world around them, including issues of character, kindness, empathy, identity, equity and bias. What use to be known as “soft skills” are now the foundation of our middle school education for we know that aspects of social intelligence such as empathy, collaboration, and cultural competency are the skills on which we will build a successful future for our students and the world they will lead. It is through advisory that we arm our students with what Neil Postman, and later Representative Cummings, identify as our message to the future.

EARLY RELEASE DAY ON WEDNESDAY

This Wednesday, October 30th is an early release day for teacher professional development. It is a Day 3. Dismissal for students is at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served.

HALLOWEEN

With the end of October approaching, Student Council is sponsoring a Costume Drive fundraiser to support Children's Hospital. Students can donate a recommended \$1 to wear a school appropriate costume on Thursday, October 31st. While a \$1 donation is recommended, students will not be told to take off their costumes if they do not have a donation. Students are welcome to donate more than the suggested \$1 and are also welcome to donate even if they choose not to wear a costume or do not celebrate Halloween.

Special thanks to Ms. Marx for creating the guidelines below so that we are acting safe and being inclusive as part of this event in accordance with our school values.

There are four general guidelines we will be asking students to follow. Teachers have also been reminded that some students may not celebrate Halloween due to religious beliefs and we need to be sensitive to all student perspectives.

1. Hats and Hoods are ok, but no masks. No part of the face can be covered (safety issue).
2. No weapons or anything that looks like/could be used as a weapon.
3. Follow the dress code:
“Although Newton Public School has no dress code per se, it is the responsibility of the students to dress appropriately for the school learning environment. Clothing should not be disruptive of the education process and should not pose a danger to the student or others.”
4. No offensive or insensitive costumes. For example, someone’s culture is not a costume. We want to make sure our fun is not at someone else’s expense.

If you have any questions, we are asking students to check in with a teacher.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE 8th GRADE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Please do not let the cost of the trip to Washington D.C. be an obstacle to your child attending. If you are in need of financial assistance, please reach out to the 8th grade guidance counselors:

fiskej@newton.k12.ma.us (Ms. Fiske)

bernierbe@newton.k12.ma.us (Ms. Bernier)

Our PTO has generously set up a scholarship fund to help support students’ ability to access the trip. Several parents have approached me about making a donation to the fund. If you are able to do so it would mean a great deal. Please follow the link below:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=f_91PLsbvkcRr3XgnzXovmfJI-8nOxcS3vo2GUktctQEzs3Uo34GMcFb_eXPoOCnnSaS4m&country.x=US&locale.x=US.

If you have trouble accessing the link, please reach out to one of our PTO Presidents:

Gayatri Aryan: gayatri.aryan@gmail.com

Jennifer Bentley: bentleyhouston@hotmail.com

8th GRADE ASSEMBLIES ABOUT THE D.C. TRIP

In the next few weeks, I will be meeting with the students from each 8th grade team to talk to them about the trip to Washington D.C. and answer any questions they might have so that they can make an informed decision about attending. Just as a reminder, as noted below, the enrollment deadline is November 22, 2019.

PARENT CONFERENCE LETTER

Parent/Teacher Conferences begin again this year in November. Please see the information below **AS WELL AS THE ATTACHED LETTER** in order to learn how to sign up for a conference at a time that matches your schedule.

The purpose of conferences is to offer parents and teachers opportunity to share and discuss student achievement and progress. At the middle school level across Newton, conferences are held once per year in November, December, and January.

Here at Day we have a series of Tuesday afternoons available for these conferences. These meetings are designed as 10 minute check-ins with teachers to discuss your child's progress. **You must choose either your child's Science and English Teacher Pairs or the Math and Social Studies Teacher Pair - Not Both.** Unfortunately, given the number of conferences requested, we can only accommodate a meeting with one of the teams pairs. The teachers that you will be meeting with will be prepared to talk about your child's progress in all team subjects. If you book a conference with all 4 team teachers, one pair will be chosen for you, no exceptions. You also will have the opportunity to meet one on one with any of your child's special education teachers and/or multi-team teachers (e.g. world language, fine arts, music, physical education, etc.).

We strive to ensure there is full communication between you and the teachers. If you need any assistance or if the conferences prove to be unacceptably limiting given your child's needs, please do not hesitate to call your child's guidance counselor.

How To Sign-Up For Parent-Teacher Conferences

Sign-ups will begin on Monday, November 11th at 8:00 a.m. and will end on Monday, November 25, at 8:00 p.m.

Parent Conference Dates are (all Tuesday afternoons) November 26, December 10, January 14, and January 28th. 10 Minute meeting time slots

beginning at 2:00 p.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m.

Log online to: <http://www.virtualparagon.com/day/conference/>. Enter the Password: **Daydragons** (case sensitive).

Follow the instructions on how to create your own account and to choose a conference time. If you need further assistance, please call your child's guidance counselor at 617-559-9123 or the main office at 617-559-9100.

FLU SHOTS THIS FRIDAY

This Friday, November 1st, Day Middle School will hold its annual season flu vaccination clinic. See below for information on how to register.

MATH TEAM THIRD PLACE

I would like to congratulate the Day Middle School Math Team for placing third in its first math meet in several years. The meet took place at Oak Hill on Thursday. We are thrilled with the efforts and dedication of our math team participants. I would also like to thank and congratulate our math team coaches, Mr. Conron and Ms. Ross. Well done all!!

WELL DONE DAY DRAMA!

Hopefully many of you had a chance to see our Fall Play, *Hamlet*, this past Thursday and Friday. Congratulations to Ms. McGettrick and the cast and crew for the amazing performances.

STUDENT SAFETY DAY

All Day students and faculty participated in the annual Student Safety Day this past Friday. Students and faculty practiced emergency response drills including the newly added hostile event drill. Please see below the information from last week's newsletter about the content of the drill. I am working to post our NPS District Safety Protocols on our web site.

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.

NEWTON GIRLS MIDDLE SCHOOL HOCKEY

Registration is now open for Newton Girls Middle School Hockey. Spread the word to all eligible players!

Please use this [link](#) to register.

Our home games will be Saturdays at 5:40pm at Fessenden. Away games are being scheduled now. 12 games in total. First game is Dec 1st. (No practices, just games.)

Do let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Coach Martin.
martin@bucktons.com

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 quite 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:

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

jacqueline_mann@newton.k12.ma.us

(617) 559-9109