



Quote of the Week

“The most productive classrooms are those in which students work on complex problems, are encouraged to take risks, and can struggle and fail and still feel good about working on hard problems.”

---- Jo Boaler

Founder of youcubed, a center of mathematics education at Stanford

Days of the Cycle Week of 10/7/19

Day 5, Day 6, No School, Day 1, Day 2

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

This past week the students of Day Middle School engaged in a new online literacy assessment tool called i-Ready. The idea of a literacy progress monitoring and assessment tool is not new to NPS. In the past, our middle school students engaged in an annual paper-based GATES assessment to measure and monitor their progress in literacy skill development. The data has been used to inform teacher intervention and instruction, but this new online tool is an even more promising instrument in terms of its ability to support teachers' ability to differentiate their instruction to meet the individual needs of students. It is very exciting.

Despite the promise of i-Ready as an instructional tool, what struck me most as our teachers oriented students to this process this week was the idea of productive struggle and the need to specifically mention and emphasize it with our students. The i-Ready assessment adjusts itself according to students' responses, meaning the difficulty of questions will increase and decrease based upon students' responses. We discussed with students that the test will ask them to struggle with more challenging questions in

order to find the top end of their potential, and in fact when the system works accurately, our students may in fact get at least 50 % of the questions incorrect as it determines a students' level on specific types of questions.

The technology is cutting edge and new, but the underlying concept is not. For years, educational researchers have referred to this process as “productive struggle”; two words, which may seem contradictory, but together, are powerful in the development of individual potential. The key is the “productive” part of the struggle. We want to find that perfect point where students are struggling because they are challenged but not so frustrated that they are stuck because in fact it is only through making mistakes, problem solving and struggling through challenge that true potential is grown. I am thrilled that this new form of assessment has provided us with an opportunity to explicitly discuss this phenomenon with our students, and to highlight the importance productive struggle will play in their current development and in life going forward.

NO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY

There is no school on Wednesday, November 9, 2019 due to the Yom Kippur Holiday.

TEEN SPEAK OUT

There is a meeting tomorrow morning, Monday, October 7th at 7:50 a.m. in the Ms. Mann's Office for ALL of **last year's ADL Peer Leader (our current 8th graders)** to discuss the Teen Speak Out Program this year.

PROGRESS REPORTS THIS WEEK

Over the course of this week, the Day Faculty will be reaching out to you with an update about your child's progress so far this term. Teachers will let you know how they will be communicating with you about the mid-term progress of their students. Most teachers will post progress updates in the students' Schoology accounts. Please know that we are working on a way to create parent Schoology accounts.

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.

THIS WEEK'S 6th GRADE SOCIAL HAS BEEN POSTPONED

The annual 6th Grade Social originally scheduled for this Thursday has been postponed due to repairs to our gym floor. The PTO is working on rescheduling the event for some time in March. Stay tuned for more details.

I-Ready

Newton Public Schools has invested in an online literacy assessment and progress-monitoring platform known as “i-Ready”. At Day, all of our students have been engaged in this online testing last week and will be in the coming week. I-Ready will be used several times a year to monitor student literacy growth to inform teacher intervention and instruction.

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.

PARENT VISITING DAYS

Parent Visiting Days are an opportunity 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 such as no taking of photos or videos in the classrooms and not using 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.

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

Monday, October 7th 3:30 p.m. Away @ Brown Middle School

Thursday, October 10th 3:45 p.m. Away @ Dedham High School

Soccer

Girls'

Monday, October 7th 3:00 p.m. Away @ Brown Middle School

Boys'

Monday, October 7th 4:30 p.m. Away @ Brown Middle School

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.)

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 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 9, 2019: No School – Yom Kippur
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
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

I would like to wish all of our Day families celebrating Rosh Hashanah a very happy New Year!

All the best,

Jackie Mann

F. A. Day Principal

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