



## **Quote of the Week**

**“In a real sense, all life is inter-related. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the inter-related structure of reality.”**

**----Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

## **Days of the Cycle Week of 11/4/19**

### **Day 4, Day 5, Day 6, Day 1, Day 2**

#### **THIS WEEK'S QUOTE**

This past week we sent out a letter to 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents notifying them of conversations we would be having with all 6<sup>th</sup> grade homerooms due to some serious student incidents that took place. As I met with some parents about the events, they suggested that our message to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents would benefit the entire school community. As I reflected this weekend, I realized that in fact as Dr. King suggested, what impacts one member or group in our school community impacts us all.

In the spirit of collective responsibility and shared work, below is the message that I sent out to 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents and guardians on Wednesday. It is even more relevant given the launching of our Roundtable Thursdays this past week, which is the structure of our school-wide advisory program this year. There is more information below about Roundtable Thursdays below.

*Dear Day 6th Grade families,*

*At Day Middle School, there is nothing more important than our students' sense of safety and belonging. As I have mentioned many times, our most critical responsibility is to create a school environment in which every student and adult feels safe and comfortable walking through the door. We do this, in part, through our community-building activities and anti-bias work, which we begin in earnest this week.*

*Starting Thursday, our administrative team will speak with each of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade homerooms to specifically address instances of sexual and racial harassment or bias that we have responded to over the past several weeks. While we have followed the specific protocols for investigating reports, disciplining those responsible, and supporting students impacted (including working with the Newton Police where appropriate), our most important work is the educational steps we are taking with our students in classes. The meetings we'll have are designed to help all students partner with us in sending the message to their peers that Day Middle School is a community that has no tolerance for biased or harassing behavior.*

*The programs and activities we will use this week and throughout the year include:*

- **“Roundtable Thursday”** - We will resume this advisory program on Thursday and hold 30-minute weekly sessions with small group community circles moving forward. During these sessions, we explore how to create psychological safety and teach our students to embrace and take pride in their identities. We also give students the opportunity to examine how we interact respectfully in a diverse and inclusive environment.
- **Anti-Defamation League Peer Leadership Program** - These workshops, supported by our district equity specialist, will begin this winter and include sessions on micro-aggressions and race. These workshops will also happen during the advisory time.

*If you have any questions about our meetings with students or our larger anti-bias work, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. We look forward to partnering with Day 6th grade families on this ongoing work.*

## **ROUNDTABLE THURSDAYS**

On Thursday we launched this year's advisory program called Roundtable Thursdays. It is an expansion on last year's Tiny Tuesday, which was our advisory program that took place every other week last year. Every Thursday this year we will dedicate a little over 30 minutes as a school to work on social emotional learning skills and engage in discussions impacting our school community. Each week I will use this newsletter to inform you about the Roundtable Thursday lesson so that you can partner with us by engaging with discussions with your children at home. As I mentioned to our students in a video message, when the adults in our community are willing to dedicated 30 minutes every week, we are demonstrating that it is something that we value and prioritize. Our Day Faculty agree that social emotional learning and the creation of a

safe and respectful community is of utmost importance to student development and success at the middle level.

Roundtable Thursday is led by your child's homeroom teacher in partnership with another faculty member who will work with the same 20-25 students all year on advisory lessons and engage in community building activities with the goal of forging authentic connections and creating a setting in which students feel comfortable and safe to discuss issues confronting them in our school community. It is also a forum for us to address issues that impact our community as a whole.

This past Thursday our students were reminded of the purpose of advisory and practiced setting up the room for an effective advisory which includes creating a circle with chairs, a "roundtable" if you will. Students discussed why creating a circle is important and what norms or rules will help to create a safe space for students.

This coming week our students will turn their brain storming into norms for the group in preparation for their work around identity and how students of different identities interact in safe and respectful ways.

The theme of our work in November is about getting to know each other. In December we will launch into development of our CARES skills, Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self-Control, skills our students are familiar with through their Responsive Classroom work last year at Day or in their elementary schools.

I would like to thank our Advisory Work Group, Mr. Landau, Mr. Comings, Ms. Heffernan, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Wachtelhausen, and Mr. Moffit for their work on developing our Roundtable Thursday lessons.

## **ANNOUNCING CREATIVE ARTS & SCIENCES AUTHORFEST 2019!**

### **Author & Illustrator School Visits**

Newton Public Schools' Creative Arts & Sciences\* is dedicating this Wednesday, 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. Term 1 officially ends on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Term 1 Report Cards will be available in the parent portal of APSEN by Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

All students will receive new schedules this Friday for Term 2, which will reflect a change in their arts rotation classes. All other classes remain the same.

### **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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade guidance counselors:

[fiskej@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:fiskej@newton.k12.ma.us) (Ms. Fiske)

[bernierbe@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto: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](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](mailto:gayatri.aryan@gmail.com)

Jennifer Bentley: [bentleyhouston@hotmail.com](mailto:bentleyhouston@hotmail.com)

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ASSEMBLIES ABOUT THE D.C. TRIP**

In the next few weeks, I will be meeting with the students from each 8<sup>th</sup> 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. Students can be enrolled for a deposit of \$95**  
**Contact guidance counselors for scholarship information.**

To enroll your child on the trip, please cut and paste the link below in your browser:

<https://www.efexploreamerica.com/tour-website/2278388JR>

### **PRIVATE SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS**

If your child is applying to private schools, please send out school recommendations to the guidance counselors, Ms. Fiske or Ms. Bernier, and teacher recommendations directly to your child's teacher. Please be respectful of their time by allowing for as much advance notice as possible. There occasions when guidance counselors or teachers are sent recommendations the same week that they are due and this is not possible for them to accomplish. At least two week notice is required and more whenever possible.

## **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.

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

Wednesday, November 6, 2019: Authorsfest at Day (periods 1-3)

Thursday, November 7, 2019: Teen Speak Out Facilitator Training in the Library

Friday, November 8, 2019: Distribution of Term 2 Schedules

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

Tuesday, November 12, 2019: Term 2 Begins

Tuesday, November 12, 2019: Teen Speak Out Facilitator Training in the Library

Tuesday, November 12, 2019: Indigo and Cobalt Field Trip

Wednesday, November 13, 2019: Ocean and Sky Field Trip

Wednesday, November 13, 2019: Term 1 Grades Due

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

Wednesday, November 20, 2019: Cabaret Performance for the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

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 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019: No School Thanksgiving

Wednesday, December 4, 2010: Early Release dismissal at 11:30 a.m.

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

Thursday, December 12, 2019: Principal’s Coffee in the Library at 8:00 a.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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