



**F. A. Day Middle School
Newsletter
February 10, 2020**

Days of the Cycle Week of 2/10/20

Day 5, Day 6, Day 1, Day 2, Day 3

Quote of the Week

“One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings.”

---Franklin Thomas, activist, philanthropist,
Former President of the Ford Foundation

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

This week our Day Faculty will launch their preparation for working with our students around micro-aggressions and race. Last year all of the Newton Middle Schools engaged in professional development around Glenn Singleton's work, *Courageous Conversations about Race*. In that professional development, we began to prepare the faculty to have the conversations that our middle school children are already having about identity and differences. While there are many approaches to doing this work with children, including bringing in expert speakers, at Day we have chosen to continue to build our capacity as a faculty to work directly with our students. Why? We are the ones who interact with them every day, and we need to be comfortable guiding the conversations and answering the questions that are children are already having.

It is by no means easy work, particularly with a still predominantly white staff, who however well intentioned do not always see the impact of race and differences on our students. I am proud of our faculty and their willingness to lean into these conversations with the understanding that it is a mandate for any school community

who strives for authentic inclusion and equity. It is my hope and dream that I will serve as a principal long enough to see the day when as Franklin Thomas noted in the quote above, that we look back with incredulity of the time when race, gender and any differences impacted our perspectives in a negative way.

Our next two faculty meetings will focus on preparing for our work with students around the impact of micro-aggressions on our sense of safety and belonging in a school. This work will begin for our 7th and 8th graders on March 12th, and a bit later for our 6th graders who are doing some preparation for this work through their current ADL anti-bias lessons.

We hope you will partner with us on these conversations by joining me and the members of the Day Families for Racial Justice Group on Wednesday, February 26th at 7:00 p.m. for a conversation about race and the work with our students. Please see the information and the attached flyer below.

DAY FORJ PARENT EVENT- FEBRUARY 26th- Save the date!

The Day Families for Racial Justice group is sponsoring a parent discussion on micro-aggressions and implicit bias as well as a sharing of the Day Middle Schools student lessons on these topics. Please join us on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 in the Day Library at 7:00 p.m. PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLYER

ROUNDTABLE LESSONS THIS WEEK

This week in our Thursday's Roundtable lesson, our 7th and 8th graders will be learning stress management techniques. Our 6th graders will be participating in stereotype, prejudice and discrimination, which will begin to scaffold their understanding as we

TEEN SPEAK OUT

This coming week, 100 students will receive permission slips to attend the annual Teen Speak Out event at the Boys and Girls Club of Newton on Wednesday, February 12th. Every year we like to invite a different group of Day students who represent the diversity of our student body to come together and discuss their experiences at Day in order to make our community stronger and more inclusive.

Teen Speak Out Participants

If your child received a permission slip, it is important for your to return it signed NO LATER THAN MONDAY (TOMORROW). Students who return permission slips late will not be able to attend, as we need to group the students in advance of the event. This is an all-day event. Students who have been invited will report to the cafeteria on Wednesday morning immediately after homeroom. They will meet their faculty facilitator who will walk them across the Albemarle field to the Boys' and Girls' Club. Thanks to the generosity of our PTO, a lunch of pizza and salad will be served. Water and snacks will be available throughout the day. If your child is attending and has any dietary restrictions, they can bring a bagged lunch from home.

Student participants will be walked back to Day in time for dismissal on Wednesday afternoon.

Student Facilitators

Our Teen Speak Out Student Facilitators will meet in the front lobby of the Boys' and Girls' Club, at 675 Watertown Street, Newton on Wednesday morning at 7:45 a.m. in order to help set up their small group rooms. The Boys' and Girls' Club is across the Albemarle fields. If your child is a student facilitator and is not certain how to get to the Boys' and Girls' Club, they should speak with me prior to Wednesday.

SPIRIT WEEK

Ms. Hibbard's Community Service class is sponsoring a school spirit week February 10th – February 15th. See below:

Monday, February 10th – Sports and Hobby Day

Tuesday, February 11th – Crazy Socks Day

Wednesday, February 12th – Grade/Team Color Day
(6th gr. – Blue, 7th gr – Red, 8th gr. – Green)

Thursday, February 13th: Wear Your Favorite Color Day

Friday, February 14th: Wear Red, Pink, White and Purple for Valentine's Day

GRAB AND GO FEEDBACK

Thursday was our pilot of the Grab and Go lunches on an early dismissal day. Please know that the "to go" lunches are available for any student including those on Free and Reduced Lunch. I welcome any feedback from your or your child on if this system will meet the needs of our school on early release days. It did afford the opportunity for all students to meet with all of their classes even though it was an early release day. Students did a nice job of respecting the expectations and guidelines.

MARCH MADNESS - FACULTY FOUL-UPS

The Day PTO has announced that the annual Day Faculty Foul-Ups will return as part of March Madness at Day Middle School on Friday, March 20, 2020. This is an event where students stay after school to cheer on their teachers in a foul shooting competition. Prizes are available to students who pick the faculty winner of the competition. Food and beverages will be for sale by the PTO and the event will end with a student half-court shot competition.

DAY SCHOOL COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Day School Council is on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Services Conference Room.

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INFORMATION

DIVERSITY CLUB EVENTS

I would like to thank the Day Diversity Club, led by Ms. Wong and Ms. Bernier, and our wonderful PTO and Ms. Barros for another successful Boston Bowl Event this past Saturday. It was great to see middle school families come together for some fun on the weekend. Special thanks to all the families and the members of the Day Faculty who participated.

SAVE THE DATE: The next event sponsored by the Day Diversity Club is the International Potluck Dinner on Thursday, April 2nd. This is not an event to miss. More information to follow..

UPCOMING PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE

March 4, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. in the Day Library

Q&A with Newton North High School Principal Dr. Henry Turner about the transition to high school. Particularly geared toward 8th grade parents

April 16, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. in the Day Library

Q&A with Superintendent David Fleishman and members of the NPS School Community. This is a wonderful opportunity for a small group gathering with our district's leadership team.

May 21, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. in the Day Library

Topics TBD

UPCOMING 8th GRADE PARENT EVENTS

Thursday, February 27th:

8th GRADE PARENT NIGHT AT NEWTON NORTH

8th Grade parents will be invited to an evening orientation at Newton North High School about the transition to high school **on Thursday, February 27th**. More information will be emailed directly from NNHS Assistant Amy Winston, but for now, please save the date.

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. in the Day Library

Presentation by Dr. Henry Turner, Principal of NNHS

Q&A with Newton North High School Principal Dr. Henry Turner about the transition to high school. Particularly geared toward 8th grade parents

FEBRUARY VACATION PROGRAM ON SOCIAL MEDIA LITERACY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Below and also attached to this email is information from Dr. Deb Youngblood, our City of Newton's Commission of Health and Human Services, on an exciting opportunity for middle school students to learn more about navigating social media. See the information below and attached:

January 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Legal Guardians,

This February break Newton middle school students are invited to attend a fun and informative co-ed program, co-sponsored by Newton Health and Human Services and Boys for the Better, a Newton based non-profit dedicated to re-defining masculinity through Media Education. Students in 6 - 8th grade will learn how to:

- *Flip the script on negative media messaging, create their own social media voice, boost self-confidence, and learn how to communicate more effectively with peers, parents, and teachers*
- *Form positive social relationships and learn new media literacy skills*
- *Identify strategies for better managing time spent on social media and using digital devices, as well as practice healthy ways to manage their stress and emotional development*

*The program will take place at **Newton North High School on February 18th - 21st, from 12pm - 4pm in the cafeteria.** Tuition is \$100 per student, and scholarships available upon request. (Lunch will **not** be served, students can bring their own or eat before they come).*

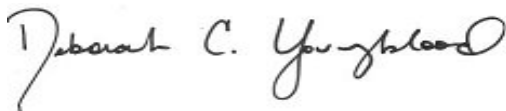
To register, parents should visit

<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/parks/vacation.asp>.

Students will spend time as a whole group learning new skills, and in small, gender specific groups doing hands-on activities and having group discussions. If your student prefers not to identify with one gender, or if you have questions about the curriculum or plans, please feel free to call Quinn Etchie, Director of Youth Services, at (617) 796-1436 or send her an email at qetchie@newtonma.gov. The program is welcoming and accepting of ALL students.

We hope you will consider this opportunity for your student to learn useful and relevant skills while having fun with digital media!

Sincerely,



*Deborah C. Youngblood
Commissioner of Health and Human Services
Newton*

BASKETBALL GAMES SCHEDULE THIS SEASON

Please join us in cheering on the boys' and girls' Day Dragons Basketball Teams at their games this season:

GIRLS BASKETBALL – GRAY TEAM

COACHES: MR. BECKER AND MS. FLAHERTY

GAME SCHEDULE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
2/10/20	3:45	Day Middle School
2/13/20	3:45	Weston Middle School

GIRLS BASKETBALL - BLUE TEAM

COACHES: MS.CALABRO AND MS. BARRY

GAME SCHEDULE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
2/10/20	3:45	Weston Middle School
2/13/20	3:45	Day Middle School

BOYS TEAM 1

COACHES: TYLER WACHTELHAUSEN AND JACOB MAEL

GAME SCHEDULE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
2/10/20	4:45	Weston Middle School
2/13/20	4:45	Day Middle School

BOYS TEAM 2

COACHES: NATHAN CAMERON AND ED PANG

GAME SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
2/10/20	4:45	Day Middle School

2/13/20	4:45	Weston Middle School
---------	------	----------------------

SAVE THE DATE:

Week of February 3, 2020: I-Ready Literacy Assessments

Wednesday, February 5, 2020: Teen Speak Out Facilitator Training

Wednesday, February 12, 2020: Teen Speak Out Event at the Boys and Girls Club

Wednesday, February 12, 2020: Day School Council at 6:00 p.m.

February 17 – 21, 2020: February Vacation

February 27, 2020: 8th grade Parent Night at NNHS

March 4, 2020: Principal Coffee with NNHS Principal Dr. Turner

March 20, 2020: Faculty Foul-Ups

March 26, 2020: Incoming 6th Grade Parent Orientation at 7:00 p.m.

All the best,

Jackie Mann

F. A. Day Principal

jacqueline_mann@newton.k12.ma.us

(617) 559-9100