



F. A. Day Middle School
Newsletter
February 23, 2020

Days of the Cycle Week of 2/24/20

Day 4, Day 5, Day 6, Day 1, Day 2

Quotes of the Week

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”

—Booker T. Washington, Poet, Author, Founder of Tuskegee University, Adviser to Presidents

“The greatest challenge I faced in becoming a neurosurgeon was believing it was possible.”

---Dr. Alexa Irene Canady, first American woman and African-American Neurosurgeon

“Won’t it be wonderful when black history and Native American history and Jewish history and all of U.S. history is taught from one book. Just U.S. history.”

—Maya Angelou, author, poet, scholar

THIS WEEK’S QUOTE

I just finished finishing a video message to welcome back your children from February vacation. It was decided at our last Principal Advisory Council that I should message to students about our shared expectations at Day, particularly around hallway behavior and cellphones being “off and away”. As I prepared my “welcome” I realized that there was no way I could begin the message with cellphones and hallways. While these expectations are important to the safety of our school, I know that I would not want to

be greeted with a list of what I should not be doing in school. In the middle of the winter, with eight weeks until my next vacation, I want to be inspired and so do our children.

And so I turned for inspiration to two leaders whose examples and words resonate with me as a middle school educator, Dr. Alexa Canday and Booker T. Washington. Dr. Canady's words remind us of the most important factor in our children's success—their belief in themselves. At middle school our children's self-esteem are challenged by peer pressure, bias, body image, labeling, to name just a few. This is worrisome as the absolute belief that they can accomplish is in fact the strongest predictor of their success. As middle school educators, it is our responsibility to create opportunities that will support the nurturing of their positive self-esteem and perception. When our students do in fact find success this school year as I know they will, I hope they define it as Booker T. Washington did, by how they overcame these obstacles rather than by the grades or trophies they receive.

As a principal I am often asked how our school is celebrating and honoring Black History Month. With this message to all of you and to our students tomorrow, I look for inspiration in the diverse leaders of our country's past, role models for our children's futures. This year, as in the past two years, our Day Diversity Club has used the month of February to highlight words of wisdom and the accomplishments of African Americans throughout history. Our classrooms and library have featured the accomplishments of black authors, poets, artists, scientists, historians and mathematicians, the men and women whose accomplishments until recently never made it into the textbooks and whose stories were never retold as examples of courage, innovation and leadership. And so, it is viewed as progress that we have dedicated a month to focus on those individuals of color who have contributed in so many ways to the world we have today. However, like my favorite poet the late Maya Angelou, I hope, I live to see the day as an educator that we no longer need a special month to acknowledge Black History because of its prominence, ingrained in the study of our country's story, inclusive of its many diverse leaders and role models.

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

The Day Families for Racial Justice group is sponsoring a parent discussion on "Brave Conversations on Inclusion in the Classroom. Please join us this 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 time management techniques. Our 6th graders will be participating in the next lesson in the ADL anti-bias curriculum on group and identity, which will begin to scaffold their understanding as we

ABSENTEEISM TEAM

This year, one of our school goals is to decrease student absenteeism and tardiness. School attendance greatly influences student success in school. Chronic absenteeism results in missed instruction with teachers that is difficult to make-up and may severely compromise a student's academic and social growth. When students are frequently absent, it is difficult for them to form strong connections with adults and peers in the school community.

A new initiative by the state now classifies students who miss school more than 10% of the time, for any reason, as chronically absent. This negatively impacts Day's state rating, and more importantly, it has serious implications for individual children and their learning.

As a result, Day has formed a team to identify and support students who are chronically absent. It is our hope that we can work collaboratively to help all children be present for their education. We will be contacting individual families who have children whose accumulated absences negatively affect their growth. We will work with parents, students, and families to overcome obstacles that may be keeping children at home. We will also be working internally to continue to make Day a welcoming and safe place for all students.

TERM 3 PROGRESS REPORTS

Term 3 student progress reports will be made available to parents the week of March 2nd. Teachers will communicate with you about how they will be sharing information about student progress.

7th and 8th GRADE MUSICAL: *Fiddler on the Roof*

Save the date: *Fiddler on the Roof*, this year's 7th and 8th grade musical on Thursday, March 12th, Friday, March 13th and Saturday, March 14th – More information on tickets sales available soon.

UNIFIED BASKETBALL TEAM

Day Middle School is a proud new addition to the Special Olympics Champion Schools in Massachusetts. As part of that we have created a Unified Basketball Team. See the description of the program from the Special Olympics web site below:

Special Olympics is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences. Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.

In Unified Sports, teams are made up of people of similar age and ability. That makes practices more fun and games more challenging and exciting for all. Having sport in common is just one more way that preconceptions and false ideas are swept away.

The Day Unified Basketball team consists of athletes from our Reflections Program and their student champion partners. At our Student/Faculty Basketball games on the Friday before vacation, we held pep rallies for our new Unified Basketball Team. This is the first time that many of the students will have had the opportunity to represent their school as part of a sports team as they compete against surrounding schools. It would mean a great deal to all of our students if we had a large crowd cheering them on at their home games. The days and times of the games are below.

We will be sharing more information with our students about the program through Roundtable lessons in the coming weeks. In the interim, please help us by encouraging your child to attend the games.

We look forward to having the full support of the Day Community behind our Day Dragons Unified Team. Please see the schedule below:

1. Thursday, March 12th - HOME GAME #1 vs Wilson, 3:30 start time, likely 4:30 end time.
2. Tuesday, March 17th - AWAY GAME #2 @ Pollard (Needham) 3:30 start time, likely 4:30 end time
3. Monday, March 23rd - HOME GAME #3 vs Bird, 3:30 start time, likely 4:30 end time.
4. Thursday, March 26th - JAMBOREE at 3:30. Location TBD but likely @ Day. 3:30 start time, students play 2 games and have closing ceremonies and award. My best guess is at least a 5pm end time.

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. Information will be available shortly on how students can pick their choose for the faculty winner of the competition.

DAY SCHOOL COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Day School Council is on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK DINNER

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..

SAVE THE DATE: *Middle School Matters*

On Wednesday, May 6th, Author of the best seller, *Middle School Matters*, and Day Middle School graduate, Phyllis Fagell, will be joining the Superintendent and our combined middle school PTOs and School Councils for a panel discussion on parenting your middle school child. For now, save the date – more information to follow!!

As part of this event the Day School Council will be holding a virtual book talk on *Middle School Matters* using Google Chat. Again, more information on this will 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

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INFORMATION

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

SAVE THE DATE:

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

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

March 7, 2020: Middle School Tenacity Challenge Competition

March 7, 2020: PTO Progressive Dinner

March 11, 2020: Phoenix Field Trip

March 11, 2020: Day School Council at 3:00 p.m.

March 12, 2020: Unified Basketball Home Game at 3:30 p.m.

March 12th and 13th, 2020: 7th and 8th Grade Musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*

March 17, 2020: Day Orchestra Performance at Care One in Newton

March 17, 2020: Day Unified Basketball Game away at Needham at 3:30 p.m.

March 19, 2020: 6th Grade Global Goals

March 20, 2020: Faculty Foul-Ups at 2:35 p.m.

March 23, 2020: Day Unified Basketball Game Home at 3:30 p.m.

March 26, 2020: Unified Basketball Jamboree at 3:30 p.m.

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

March 31 and April 1, 2020: 8th Grade ELA MCAS

April 2 and April 3, 2020: 7th Grade ELA MCAS

April 6 and April 7, 2020: 6th Grade ELA MCAS
April 3, 2020: End of Term 3
April 6, 2020: Beginning of Term 4
April 9, 2020: Term 3 Report Cards Available
April 10, 2020: Good Friday – No School
April 20 – 24, 2020: April Vacation

All the best,
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