



**F. A. Day Middle School  
Newsletter  
February 3, 2020**

**Days of the Cycle Week of 2/3/20**

**Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 5 (Early Release Day), Day 4**

**Quotes of the Week**

***“One foot in the Past and one foot in the Future informs our Present.”  
--- Bevin Niemann***

***“Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground.”  
----Theodore Roosevelt***

***“Change your opinions, keep to your principles; change your leaves, keep intact your roots.” --- Victor Hugo***

**THIS WEEK'S QUOTE**

Yesterday on the highway I passed one of those antique cars that looked out of place surrounded by the sleek crossovers and trucks firing past it. My curiosity always draws me to look at the driver of these vehicles. This older gentleman seemed quite composed and content to be traveling at a slower rate that given the modern vehicles shooting past, seemed like it was almost at a standstill. As I marveled how his antique structure could somehow safely share the same highway, I saw the driver's quite modern GPS system that was mounted on the dashboard standing out in contrast to its ancient interior. I smiled. I liked this image, and I was not quite sure why.

After giving it some thought, I realized that this car, was likely so well constructed in an early time period that it was able to defy the elements and factors that get the best of

most of our more modernly constructed vehicles. Its presence on this highway probably almost 100 years later almost defied the odds. And yet, this ancient structure, solidly grounded in the quality of the past was being guided to its future by the modern- day, presently constructed technology of a GPS system. There is something about this that appealed to me as an educator and parent.

So many of our conversations about education involve this same dynamic. Every day we struggle not to leave behind what has worked in education over the many years such as a love of books and literature and expectations around character development while balancing that need with our mandate to prepare our youth for the future world they will inherit by integrating the technology we have available to enhance student learning such as our use of Schoology for posting curriculum and Google Docs for sharing writing and ideas.

What the quotes above have in common is that they each describe a different aspect of our need to prepare our children for the future while not abandoning all that has worked in the past, like that antique car defying time due to its solid workmanship and quality while being guided by the modern day GPS system to what the future has in store. It reminds me of a recent discussion we had about how to co-opt the recent social media craze, Tic Toc, to teach students educational concepts or model shared community expectations rather than the latest dance moves. I will let you know how that goes..... Until then, I will keep the antique car on the highway in my heart and mind and hope that its GPS will lead it to its destination.

### **EARLY RELEASE ON THURSDAY**

This Thursday, February 6, 2020, is an early release day for students due to faculty professional development. Dismissal is at 11:30 a.m. There will be no formal lunch blocks, but a “to go” lunch option will be available to students for purchase near the end of the school day. We more information below about your pilot “Grab and Go” Program. Also, please remind your students that for the first time, they will be seeing all of their classes on an early release day as we are running a mini-schedule. It will be a Day 5.

### **HEADPHONES FOR I-READY**

This week, we will begin our second round of the online reading diagnostic assessment with our students known as i-Ready. Teachers have reminded students to bring in their own personal headphones or ear buds if they have them. Wireless ear buds will not work with our Chromebook computers. Your child may also need to bring in their adapter if their version of ear buds or headphones is not compatible.

Headphones will be provided for any student who does not have their own.

8<sup>th</sup> grade will engage in i-Ready testing on Monday; 6<sup>th</sup> grade on Wednesday, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade on Friday of this week.

### **GRAB AND GO**

This Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be piloting our first “Grab and Go” lunch at Day. Similar to other schools in the district, Day will be experimenting with offering “to go” lunches on early dismissal days rather than scheduling formal sit-down lunches. This is an effort to allow students to see all of their teachers on early release days, which we have found beneficial to both students and faculty. Additionally, we have observed that most of our Day students do not purchase lunch on early release days given that dismissal is at 11:30 a.m. Many eat lunch after dismissal, making the scheduling for three 30- minute lunch blocks on a day that is already shortened not great use of student time.

In order to also meet the needs of students who rely on the school lunches, we have worked with our food service staff on piloting a “to go” option for students. We will be piloting this on the upcoming early release day and welcome your feedback to see if this option meets the needs of our school community.

Grab and Go will work as follows:

About 10 minutes prior to the 11:30 a.m. dismissal, we will call down any students across grades 6-8 who would like to purchase a “to go” lunch. Only those students who are purchasing a to go lunch will be allowed to leave for the cafeteria. They will bring everything they need for dismissal. Our Admin team will be on duty to supervise the process in the cafeteria. Students will who purchase their “to go” lunch wait in the cafeteria until 11:30 a.m. We will ensure that no child misses a bus or is late to after school plans.

Below are the “to go” options that the food service has agreed to offer this Thursday:

Pre-made salads

Pizza

Hamburger and Cheeseburgers

Turkey burgers

Veggie burgers

Chicken patties

\*\* All lunches will be accompanied by milk and a fruit and other beverages will be available for purchase.

Again, we welcome your feedback after this pilot on Thursday. We are hoping that it works for teachers and students alike, but it is important that any shifts we make meet the needs of our school community.

### **TERM 2 REPORT CARDS**

Term 2 report cards were posted in the ASPEN Portal this past Friday. Please notify your child's guidance counselor or our front office if you were not able to access them.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is not an event to miss. More information to follow..

### **ROUNDTABLE LESSONS THIS WEEK**

There are not Roundtable lessons this week due to the early release day on Thursday.

### **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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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. If your child receives a permission slip, it is important for you to return it signed the very next day. Students who return permission slips late will not be able to attend as we need to group the students in advance of the event.

**DAY FORJ PARENT EVENT- FEBRUARY 26<sup>th</sup>- 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

### **LIONS CLUB GLASSES DRIVE-~~LAST CHANCE TO DONATE YOUR GLASSES~~**

Donate old or no longer used prescription glasses to the Lions Club. The donations must be prescription glasses. Unfortunately reading glasses will not be accepted. Donation boxes are on each team in designated classrooms. All donations can be sent in with your child from January 16<sup>th</sup> – February 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **SPIRIT WEEK**

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

Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> – Sports and Hobby Day

Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – Crazy Socks Day

Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> – Grade/Team Color Day

(6<sup>th</sup> gr. – Blue, 7<sup>th</sup> gr – Red, 8<sup>th</sup> gr. – Green)

Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>: Wear Your Favorite Color Day

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

### **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 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents*

### **PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INFORMATION**

### **UPCOMING 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE PARENT EVENTS**

**Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>:**

**8<sup>th</sup> GRADE PARENT NIGHT AT NEWTON NORTH**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade parents will be invited to an evening orientation at Newton North High School about the transition to high school **on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**. 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 - 8<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, 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).*

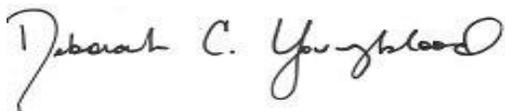
*To register, parents should visit*

<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](mailto: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*

## **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 8<sup>th</sup> 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*

## **INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK DINNER**

The Day Diversity Club and the PTO is again sponsoring our annual Day International Pot Luck dinner. More information to follow, but for now save the evening of April 2<sup>nd</sup> for this wonderful event.

## **SAVE THE DATE: SCHOOL COUNCIL/PTO EVENT MAY 14<sup>th</sup>**

The Day School Council and PTO are again collaborating on an annual event on parenting your middle school child on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. For now, please save that evening, and more information will follow.

## **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.

## **TEEN SPEAK-OUT**

Teen Speak-Out is an event where we gather a diverse group of 100-Day Middle School students and lead them in community building and in conversations about our school community. The conversations and team building take place at a daylong event at the Boys' and Girls' Club on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Faculty members will be paired with last year's ADL peer facilitators to co-lead "village" discussions with 10 students and also participate in whole group community building.

Schedule of planning for this event:

- ***January 8<sup>th</sup> – January 31<sup>st</sup>:***

We will be collaborating with guidance counselors and teachers on inviting 100 students from all three grades to participate in this event on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. If your child might be interested in attending, please reach out or have them reach out to their guidance counselor. Participation will not involve any training but will involve missing school on February 12<sup>th</sup> and making up any missed work. We are looking for a diverse group of Day students who have different experiences and perspectives about our school community so that we can get the feedback necessary to strengthen our school and create a more inclusive community going forward. Permission slips and invitation sent out the last week of January

- ***January 31<sup>st</sup>:***

- Next training full day training for 8<sup>th</sup> grade student facilitators in the library

- **February 5<sup>th</sup>:**
- Full day combined training for faculty and 8<sup>th</sup> grade student facilitators
  
- **February 12<sup>th</sup>:**
- Teen Speak-Out event at the Boys' and Girls Club

***This program is made possible through the generous funding and sponsorship of the Day PTO and the Boys' and Girl's Club.***

**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:**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
1/27/20	3:45	Wellesley Middle School
1/31/20	3:45	Needham Middle School
2/3/20	3:45	Day Middle School
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:**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
1/27/20	3:45	Day Middle School
1/30/20	3:45	Wellesley Middle School
2/3/20	3:45	Oak Hill Middle School
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:**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
1/27/20	4:45	Day Middle School
1/30/20	4:45	Wellesley Middle School
2/3/20	4:45	Oak Hill Middle School
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**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
1/27/20	4:45	Wellesley Middle School
1/31/20	4:45	Needham Middle School
2/3/20	4:45	Day Middle School
2/10/20	4:45	Day Middle School
2/13/20	4:45	Weston Middle School

**LATE BUS ONLY FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Beginning this month, Day Middle School will be aligning our late bus policy with that of the other middle schools in the district by allowing late bus access only to students who are staying after school for school-based activities such as clubs, sports or school-sponsored events. We are making this shift to not only align with district practice, but to ensure the safety of our students. There have been several instances when parents were under the impression that their child was staying after school for a school-sponsored event when in fact that child was not on school premises, returning only to take the late bus. As you can imagine, this poses a safety risk for middle school students. Please help us reinforce with your child that the late bus is only available for students who are staying after school for a school-sponsored activity.

**EXTENDED ABSENCES**

With the vacation and holiday season upon us, more parents are excusing students from school for extended absences. While this is not officially an “excused absence”, we also acknowledge the value and importance of travel and connecting with family. If

your child is going to be out for a planned absence for more than a day, we ask that you send the following email:

To: Ms. Gandolfo in the front office: [gandolfol@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:gandolfol@newton.k12.ma.us)  
as well as to your child's teachers and guidance counselor.

The email should include the days that your child will be absent and the reason for the absence.

**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: 8<sup>th</sup> grade Parent Night at NNHS

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

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](mailto:jacqueline_mann@newton.k12.ma.us)

(617) 559-9109