



F. A. Day Middle School Newsletter
April 21, 2019

DAYS OF THE CYCLE THIS WEEK:
Day 3, Day 4, Day 5, Day 6, Day 1

Quotes of the Week

"The flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out of proportion to their size."

— *Gertrude S. Wister*

"The beautiful spring came, and when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also."

---Harriet Ann Jacobs

"Deep in their roots, all flowers keep the light."

---Theodore Roethke

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

One morning last week as I pulled into the Day Middle School parking lot, surrounded by the last remnants of gray snow, I heard what I thought could only be a loose belt under the hood of my car. My ears were so unfamiliar with the voices of spring that I did not recognize the sounds of the birds chirping above the Day Middle School sign and had forgotten that the feathery friends return every year as spring approaches. Just a week ago, spring seemed like a distant memory. It seemed just too early for our students to be plodding out to the damp and muddy fields, brazenly adorning the uniforms of the spring sports season. And yet now just a week later, we are surrounded by undeniable evidence of spring's promise, with buds and flowers appearing overnight, and humidity that would rival a summer's day. Spring has most certainly arrived.

My response to these first signs of spring are well described in the above quote by horticulturalist, Gertrude Wister, as “well out of proportion”, my unbridled awe and joy making it appear as if I were seeing flowers and buds on trees for the first time. My response to the first signs of spring, likely for many of us, is all part of the renewed optimism and energy that arrives with the season.

Next to the fall when we are greeting new faces and forging our community, the spring is most certainly my favorite time of year in middle school. It is the last leg of the journey, and quite seemingly overnight, that glimmer of promise and potential in our students, comes to fruition. We have the privilege of watching some of the seeds of knowledge and skills nurtured over the long winter months, blossom in ways that even surprise the students themselves. As middle school educators we are quite use to the exponential growth and change that accompanies adolescence; but witnessing that light when it first emerges from, as Roethke so elegantly puts it, the “roots” or seeds planted earlier in the year never gets old. We know that the light exists in every student, and our work is centered around finding ways to unearth it. In truth, it reenergizes all of us as well, renews our commitment to our work and as Harriet Ann Jacobs so eloquently put it, revives our souls after a long winter.

As we welcome back your children from spring break, we look forward to these last few months of growth and fulfillment and a celebration of the year’s accomplishments.

COFFEE WITH NNHS PRINCIPAL DR. TURNER

The Day PTO will be hosting a parent coffee with Dr. Henry Turner, Principal of Newton North High School, this Tuesday evening, April 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Day Middle School Library. Please come join us for an informative evening about the transition to high school.

PRINCIPAL COFFEE/DISCUSSION OF MICROAGGRESSION LESSONS

The PTO is sponsoring a parent coffee on Friday, April 26th from 8 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. to discuss and answer questions about the microaggression lessons. I thank you in advance for your support of this important work.

GRADE 6 AND 7 EXPLORATORY FORMS

Last week we sent home the Exploratory Selection Forms with current 6th and 7th grade students. The purpose is for them to select their exploratory class choices for the next school year. 6th graders will receive the form that is labeled “7th Grade Course Exploratory Sheet,” and current 7th graders will receive a form that is labeled “8th Grade Course Exploratory Sheet”. As the form indicates, please have your child rate their

preference for each exploratory. Unfortunately there are no guarantees that your child will get first choices, but we will do our best to match interest with students.

Please note that we are offering three new exploratory courses for next year's 8th graders including: Mythology, Jewelry Making and Reaching Out to Our Community (a community service course).

Exploratory Selection forms for current 6th and 7th graders are due NO LATER THAN Friday, April 26, 2019 to homeroom teachers. An electronic copy of both forms is attached to this email as well as I know that sometimes forms do not make it out of the bottom of student backpacks!

Exploratory class assignments are NOT done on a "first come, first serve basis". All forms submitted by April 26th will have equal consideration in the course selection process

TERM 3

Term 3 grades were posted in the ASPEN Parent Portal on Friday, April 12, 2019. EVERY student at Day received a bright orange report card sign off form last week. Going forward we will be asking parents and guardians to sign this form to acknowledge having viewed your child's report card through the ASPEN parent portal. Please sign the form sent home and return to your child's homeroom teacher NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019.

If you do not have access to the parent portal or are having trouble viewing your child's report card, please call our front office. I have also attached a copy of this report card sign off form to this email for your convenience.

DAY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

In an effort to gauge interest in a fall 2019 football team at Day, Coach Wachtelhausen will be holding a very brief information session on Wednesday, May 1st after school in the Day cafeteria. Any current 6th or 7th grader who thinks that they may be interested in playing football next year for a Day Middle School team should attend as we are attempting to use current interest to determine the future of a tackle football program at the middle level in the district and Day. If your child is interested in playing this fall, but cannot attend the meeting, please email Mr. Wachtelhausen directly at:

tyler_wachtelhausen@newton.k12.ma.us

SAVE THE DATE: SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT FORUM

Thank you for those who responded to our School Council survey about topics for this year's parent forum. The topics that received the most selections

1. Executive Functioning: Organizing Your Middle School Child.
2. Parenting Your Middle School Child in the Age of Social Media
3. Topics in Middle School Health and Wellness: from Vaping to Sex Education
4. Topics in Middle School Parenting: Advice and Guidance from Parents Who Have Walked in Your Shoes
5. Creating Life Long Readers
6. Special Education and the Middle School Model

We are in the process of finalizing discussion facilitators for each of these topics. In the next week we will be sending out a brief survey for anyone choosing to attend the May 16th evening event so that we can assign discussion groups. Each attendee will be allowed to participate in two of the above topics.

The Day Middle School Parent Forum is scheduled for Thursday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m. Final discussion topic selection will vary on the number of respondents and their interests.

FORMS FOR 8th GRADE TRIP TO D.C.

All 8th graders attending the trip to Washington D.C. should have received a packet of information on Monday of this past week. Included in the packet is a cover letter from me outlining the next steps. The forms that you should now have are:

- 1. Cover letter with timeline**
- 2. Roommate Selection Form- due Friday, April 12th**
- 3. Parent/Guardian Consent Form- due Friday, April 12th**
- 4. Medical Form- due Friday, April 26th**

These forms will also be posted on the school web site, and homeroom teachers will have extra copies.

8th GRADE MOVING UP CEREMONY

This year's 8th grade Moving Up Ceremony will take place on the last day of school, Tuesday, June 18th from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Unfortunately, with the installation of our new bleachers we can no longer accommodate unlimited seating for the event, so this year we will be issuing two tickets per 8th grade family. While we are thrilled that each of the middle schools received new bleachers this year, it is unfortunate that for

this event, it means limitations in seating. We wanted you to have ticket information as early as possible for planning purposes.

We have scheduled a parent/guardian meeting for families attending the trip on Tuesday, May 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Day auditorium.

SPRING SPORTS

The F.A. Day Middle School web site has been updated and now includes email addresses for the coaches of spring sports. More information about spring sports sign up and student information sessions will be shared on the web site following the link below, as well as via Twitter and this newsletter.

Here is the web site link:

<https://sites.google.com/newton.k12.ma.us/eee/athletics-general-information>

The Twitter sites are:

@JMannNPS
@FADayAthletics

SAVE THE DATE: BOSTON BOWL

The 2nd Annual Boston Bowl Event co-sponsored by the Day PTO and Diversity Club is Saturday, May 18th. More information to follow.

SAVE THE DATE: NEWTON CIVICS NIGHT

This year all of the Newton Middle Schools will be collaborating on a Newton Civics Night on May 28th from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post 440 to display their Generation Citizens Projects. More information to follow.

MCAS DATES

Please see the dates below for the remaining spring 2019 MCAS:

May 6 -7: Grade 6 Math

May 8 -9: Grade 7 Math

May 10 and 13: Grade 8 Math

May 16-17: Grade 8 Science, Technology and Engineering

YEARBOOK ORDERS

The Day Middle School yearbooks can be ordered online at:

www.yearbookordercenter.com

Use the School Code: 6669

The cost of the yearbooks is \$29 until January 31st, and after that date, the cost increases to \$35. There will be a limited number of yearbooks available for purchase the last week of school. If your family is in need of financial assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the guidance office.

WASHINGTON D.C. SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The PTO is still looking for donations to our Washington D.C. Trip Scholarship Fund. Please consider making a donation by following the link below:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=LJZ9C5R2V8XSG&source=url

(If you have trouble accessing the Paypal link above, cut and paste the link into a different browser or contact the Day PTO directly.)

LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL EVENTS

Many of you have reached out to me about the last day of school and the events of the last week of school in order to plan for summer camps and vacations. With this past week's snow day, **the last day of school is now June 18th**. This will remain the last day provided that there are no further snow days.

Here is more information about the last week of school:

- We have scheduled the 6th and 7th grade end of year day trips for Monday, June 17th. There will be more information on those day trips as we get closer to the date.
- The 8th grade overnight trip to Washington, D.C. is June 11th through June 14th.
- A group of 8th grade teachers are currently planning events for June 11th through June 14th for the students not attending the trip to Washington D.C. More information on that will follow.
- The 8th grade Moving Up Ceremony is now scheduled for the last day of school, Tuesday, June 18th. It is also an early release day and dismissal will be at 11:30 a.m.

I hope this helps a bit with future planning for families. Please let me know if you have any questions.

TWITTER

For last minute notices of after school activities and pictures of our daily events at Day, follow me on Twitter: @JMannNPS or @DayDragons

SAVE THE DATE:

Note: I have added the major dates through the end of the year for those who like to plan ahead. Please know that this is not inclusive of all dates on our calendar, and I will update this as more are added.

You can also access the school calendar on our web site by following the link below:

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/2580>

April 23, 2019: Principal Coffee with Dr. Henry Turner, Principal of NNHS 6:00 p.m.

April 26, 2019: Principal Coffee on Microgression Lessons at 8:00 a.m. in Day Library

April 28, 2019: Newton SERVES

May 2-3, 2019: 6th Grade Musical

May 6-7, 2019: 6th Grade Math MCAS

May 8-9, 2019: 7th Grade Math MCAS

May 8, 2019: Day School Council at 3:00 p.m.

May 10 and 13, 2019: 8th Grade Math MCAS

May 16, 2019: School Council Parent Forum at 7:00 p.m.

May 16-17, 2019: 8th Grade Science, Technology and Engineering MCAS

May 18, 2019: Day Families at Boston Bowl

May 22, 2019: Principal Coffee at 8 a.m.

May 23, 2019: Band and Jazz Band Spring Concert at 7:00 p.m.

May 27, 2019: NO SCHOOL Memorial Day Holiday

May 28, 2019: Newton Civics Night 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

May 30, 2019: Orchestra Spring Concert at 7:00 p.m.

June 5, 2019: Day School Council at 6:00 p.m.

June 7, 2019: Art Show

June 7, 2019: Early Release for grades 6 and 7 (dismissal at 11:30 a.m.),
Step Up Day for Grade 8 and incoming 6th graders

June 7, 2019: Spring Choral Concert at 7:00 p.m.

June 11-14, 2019: 8th Grade Trip to Washington D.C.

June 17, 2019: 6th and 7th grade End of Year Trips

June 18, 2019: Last Day of School – Early Release at 11:30 a.m. No Lunch Served

June 18, 2019: 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

All the best,

Jackie Mann
F. A. Day Principal
jacqueline_mann@newton.k12.ma.us
(617) 559-9100