



**Quote of the Week**

**“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.”**

**--F. Scott Fitzgerald**

**Days of the Cycle Week of 9/23/19**

**Day 3, Day 4, Day 5, Early Release, Day 6**

**THIS WEEK'S QUOTE**

Fall is my favorite month. There are the obvious reasons like the bright color of leaves that uplift your mood and the cool evenings that remind you that the oppressive humidity of the summer has ceased for another year. There is also the promise of the holidays for those who celebrate this time of year due to the togetherness and sense of community that they can bring. And of course, if you are a sports fan like me, there is no better time than the fall and winter, with championship baseball, football, pre-season hockey and basketball and the delicious snacks that accompany a Sunday game.

All of that said, as an educator of almost 20 years, I realize what inspires and reinvigorates me most about the fall, is what Fitzgerald describes in his quote above. Fall in school communities is about new beginnings, with its crisp new notebooks, new connections with faculty and peers, and new goals. Fall is a time that makes even those who question growth mindset true believers. Everything seems and is possible in the fall.

No matter how the last new school year ended, fall brings new goals, new passions and aspirations. Fall is when there are new clubs and sports to try, new interests to explore, and for our rapidly changing and growing adolescents, fall often brings new abilities and perspectives that help ignite those new beginnings.

This is true for the adults in our community as well. As I open my new marble notebook, and chart the new year with our faculty, I have been inspired by their new initiatives and ideas all created to guide our students in their explorations of their passions and development of their intellect and character. This year we will work to capture the excitement of fall and infuse it in our work with your children throughout the year.

### **EARLY RELEASE DAY THIS THURSDAY**

This Thursday is the first early release day of the school year for teacher professional development. Students will be released at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served. Please make sure you review with your child their after school plans for the day.

On this week's early release afternoon, the Day Faculty will be planning for a safety day with students in October where we will review the newly revised NPS emergency response protocols. Please attend our Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> Parent Coffee for more information. See below for more information.

### **A REMINDER ABOUT SAFETY**

Our school has the fortune of access to the Albermarle Fields behind the school which are used during the school day and after school for activities such as community-building during our Community Block and athletics during PE classes and as part of after school programming. Although it feels to students as though the fields are part of school property due to their use by and proximity to the school, they are also in fact public park spaces.

As such, please join me in reminding our students not to interact people who they do not know or that are not a member of the Day community as general safety guideline. This past Friday, 4 of our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students on the Cardinal team interacted with someone not known to our school community during a community block period. They took the correct steps and reported the interaction to their teachers, and we notified the Newton Police out of an abundance of caution. While the police do not feel that there is any imminent safety issue, they have asked us to remind our students about not interacting with strangers, and, as in the case of the students on Friday, report any concerning or suspicious individuals immediately to adults in charge.

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## **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT THIS THURSDAY**

Thank you to everyone who turned out for our Back to School Night this past Thursday.

**If you did not get a chance to attend, I wanted to remind you of a few opportunities coming your way to visit the school and our faculty:**

### ***Parents Visiting Days***

We have scheduled our annual Parent Visiting Days in October again this year. Each grade level will be assigned a morning when they will be invited to observe their child's classes in action. More information will be sent home about this event. For now, please save the dates below:

***8th Grade Parent Visiting Day: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 from 7:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.***

***7th Grade Parent Visiting Day: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 from 7:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.***

***6th Grade Parent Visiting Day: Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 7:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.***

We look forward to opportunities such as these throughout the school year to strengthen our home/school partnership in support of our children.

### ***Principal's Coffee: Thursday, October 3, 2019 on Safety Protocols***

Thanks to the generosity of our PTO, we are sponsoring our first in a series of Principal's Coffee on Thursday evening, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Day Library. I will be discussing the modification of our NPS Safety Protocols, which we will be practicing with your children later in the month of October. Please join us for this very important discussion on how our school community will manage various emergency responses including evacuation, shelter in place, lockdown and hostile events.

### ***Future Principal Coffee and Parent Forum Topics***

Our PTO and School Council are interested in finding out what other topics you are interested in discussing and hearing more about. As you may be aware, in addition to the monthly coffees, the School Council sponsors an annual parent forum in the spring where parents can select topics of interest related to their middle school children. Please help us in planning both events by taking a moment to take the brief survey below:

<https://forms.gle/rFBZRJTTPdv3QDfV7>.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE D.C. TRIP PARENT NIGHT DATE CHANGE**

This coming week's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Parent Information Session about the annual trip to Washington, D.C. has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Day Auditorium.

### **SPIRIT WEEK THIS WEEK AT DAY**

Ms. Hibbard's Community Service Elective Class is sponsoring Spirit Week this week at Day. See below (note – hats will be allowed for spirit week):

### **SPIRIT WEEK SEPTEMBER 23-27**

**Monday: Sports/Hobby Day**

**Tuesday: Twin Day**

**Wednesday: Crazy Socks Day**

**Thursday: Team/Grade Color Day**

**Friday: Comfy Clothes Day**

**\*SEE MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MORE INFO\***

### **SCHOOLGY**

At Back to School Night, you likely heard from many teachers that they will be using Schoology to post class information. We are currently working with teachers on getting parent access codes. You will hear from me more about that next week. In the interim, you can access Schoology through your child's login provided by each teacher.

### **MATH FEE THIS YEAR**

The Illustrative Math Program at the middle school level requires online resources and/or consumable workbooks for each unit. For this to be sustainable over time, the district is charging \$12.00 per student per year, which will help to offset the consumable costs of the program. **The payment of \$12 should be sent in to your child's homeroom teacher by Friday, September 27th.** Checks should be made

out to Day Middle School. Cash can only be accepted if you send in exact change.  
**Financial assistance is available by contacting your child's math teacher or guidance counselor.**

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

### **PICTURE DAY**

If your child was not in school to get their picture taken on Friday, there will be a make-up picture day scheduled. Stay tuned for more information. Please have your child get their picture taken even if you do not plan on purchasing pictures, as this is the way that all students are included in the yearbook.

### **CLUBS AND AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS UPDATE**

***Below are some updates and announcements for sports and clubs in the coming week:***

***Math Team:*** We are pleased to announce that the Math Team is returning to Day this year. There is an informational session for Math Team after school this Thursday in Room 220. Contact the math team coach, Mr. Bob Conron, with any questions at:

[Robert\\_conron@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:Robert_conron@newton.k12.ma.us)

***Intramurals:*** There are two informational sessions for after school intramurals sports this Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

***Badminton and Ultimate Frisbee: Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> after school in Room 117***

***Flag Football Team:*** The Day Flag Football Team is still accepting members. It is open to all students in grades 6-8. See Mr. Thompson, Mr. Peng or Mr. Roberto with any questions.

### ***Jazz Band***

Jazz Band will begin on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Our meeting time and place is 2:45-4PM in room 222. Rehearsals will continue every Monday, with the exception of holidays. Band students interested should see Mr. Brown.

## **SPORTS GAME SCHEDULE THIS WEEK:**

### **Monday, September 23**

Cross Country – Away vs. Wellesley Middle School at 3:45 p.m.

Girls' Soccer- Home vs. Urusline Academy at 3:30 p.m.

### **Tuesday, September 24** -No events scheduled

### **Wednesday, September 25** -No events scheduled

Girls' and Boys' Soccer- Away vs. Wellesley Middle School at 3:45 p.m. (waiting confirmation)

### **Thursday, September 26** - No events due to the early release day

### **Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

Cross Country – Home vs. Weston at 3:30 p.m.

## **FLU CLINIC AT DAY**

Seasonal flu vaccination clinics will be held during the school day at the Day Middle School on November 1, 2019. Students in Kindergarten through grade 12 may receive vaccine.

The **FILL IN YOUR SCHOOL** clinic will be on **FILL IN YOUR DATE HERE**. Each student to be vaccinated must have a parent/guardian complete two forms:

1. Consent/Screening form
2. Vaccine administration record/Insurance form.

Forms are available in the school nurse's office, or may be downloaded at [www.newtonma.gov/flu](http://www.newtonma.gov/flu). You may electronically complete the form, print, sign and return. Forms are due to the School Nurse **FILL IN YOUR DUE DATE HERE**.

Only the flu shot (no nasal spray) will be offered at school this year. The Vaccine Information Statement about the flu shot, and additional information for families including tips on preparing kids for a shot is available at [www.newtonma.gov/flu](http://www.newtonma.gov/flu) or in the school nurse's office. There is no cost to receive the vaccine, but insurance information is requested. All students, regardless of insurance status, are invited to receive vaccine with parent permission.

Students are not required to receive flu vaccine, however the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends flu vaccine for all people age 6 months and

up. There are many places to get a flu vaccine including at school, your primary health care provider or community clinics. For additional clinic dates for the whole family, visit [www.newtonma.gov/flu](http://www.newtonma.gov/flu).

In addition to vaccination, it is important to practice good hand hygiene and cough etiquette by washing hands often; covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the arm; and staying home when sick.

For more flu prevention tips, talk to the school nurse or check out these websites: [www.newtonma.gov/flu](http://www.newtonma.gov/flu) and [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

## **PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INFORMATION**

**(Each week I may continue to publish information that was in last week's newsletter in case it was missed, but I will note that this is "previously published" so that parents can skip over it if they have already read it.)**

## **INTRAMURAL PROGRAM SURVEY**

In an effort to make after school sports more inclusive this year, we will be offering an intramural program and would like to know what sports our students would be interested in. Please take a moment to complete a brief survey by following the link below:

**Google form:** <https://forms.gle/KAbMzgEacDBEewgQ7>

## **LATE BUS**

NPS offers a late bus for students living in Newton and Boston. The late bus routes do not follow a typical bus route, and students will need to walk a further distance to their home. The late bus is **ONLY** for students staying after school for clubs, athletics or teacher meetings. It departs at 4:15 p.m. every afternoon **EXCEPT FOR TUESDAYS**. (On Tuesdays there are no after school activities for students due to teacher professional development). We will have copies of late bus routes at the buses this week to help guide students who are staying after school for sports tryouts.

## **CARS ON ALBEMARLE**

If you are picking your child up on Albemarle, please do not park in the bus-loading zone. Also, please do not pass the buses when they are parked in that zone as students are loading on the bus. Students cross between the buses at a crosswalk and it is a safety hazard if cars try to pass buses as students are loading. No cars are allowed to pass the parked buses on Albemarle from 2:35 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

### **SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE INFORMATION**

As most of you have heard by now, we have a new food service in Newton Public Schools. My previous email had information on how to offer feedback to our parent representative on the advisory board, Allison Kessler. Allison has asked me to also share the link below where parents can view the menu for each school:

<https://schools.whitsons.com/ma/newton-public-schools?page=menu>

Finally, if your family is in need of free and reduced lunch fees, please follow the link below on the NPS web site.

[https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=6739&dataid=9680&FileName=FY20\\_Application\\_Directions\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=6739&dataid=9680&FileName=FY20_Application_Directions_FINAL.pdf)

If you are not able to access the form online, please reach out to your child's guidance counselor who can offer assistance.

### **AFTER SCHOOL RESOURCES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS**

Below is a link of after school resources for middle school students compiled by Newton Health and Human Services:

- Afterschool resource listing from Newton HHS
- <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/84326>

### **See also the resource below:**

**The Highlands After-School Program** offers an exciting option for children in middle school. HASP has great activities in the Hyde Gym and at the home base at Brigham House in Newton Highlands. Transportation is arranged from school daily. For more information, please call 617.999.4617 or visit our website: [www.highlandsafter-schoolprogram.org](http://www.highlandsafter-schoolprogram.org)

### **HEALTH AND FRONT OFFICE REMINDERS**

If you are visiting the front office at Day, we ask that you check in with Ms. Gandolfo or Ms. Fisher and then wait in the lobby for your appointment or to pick up your child. This allows us to manage all of the visitors in our busy front office and also respects the confidentiality of students who may be visiting the office or nursing area.

If you are in need of speaking with the nurse and it is a non-emergency situation, we similarly ask that you check in with the front office, and then wait in our lobby area. Ms. Gandolfo and Ms. Fisher will first check in with our nurses to make sure that they are available. In the case of a medical emergency, you will be directed immediately to the health office.

If your child is not feeling well, they need to check in with Ms. Larson or Ms. Garvin, one of our school nurses, who will be in touch with you at home. For safety reasons, it is important that all health related issues go through our health office so that we are aware when your child is ill and if there are any health issues in our building. Children may often want to call a parent directly from their cell phones and asked to be picked up from school. We ask that you support us in the policy that all health related issues go through our school nurse for safety reasons. Your child will always be allowed to call home to check in at their request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or one of our nurses directly.

Finally, if you are dropping off an item for your child, Ms. Gandolfo or Ms. Fisher will ask you to leave your child's name, grade and team and leave the item on the table in our office.

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

Thursday, September 26, 2019: Early Release – Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.

Monday, September 30, 2019: NO SCHOOL – Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, October 3, 2019: Principal's Evening Coffee at 7:00 p.m. in the Day Library

Week of October 7, 2019 – Mid-Term Progress Updates

Wednesday, October 9, 2019: No School – Yom Kippur

Thursday, October 10- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social at 6:00 p.m. Day Gym

Monday, October 14, 2019 – No School – Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Visiting Day

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Visiting Day

Thursday, October 17, 2019 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Visiting Day

Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to DC Parent Info Session

Thursday and Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019- Fall Play

Wednesday, October 30, 2019: Early Release Day -Teacher Professional Development  
Friday, November 1, 2019: Flu Clinic  
Monday, November 11, 2019: No School – Veteran’s Day  
Tuesday, November 12, 2019: Term 2 Begins  
Wednesday, November 13, 2019: School Council at 3:00 p.m.  
Friday, November 15, 2019: Term 1 Report Cards Posted  
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

All the best,

Jackie Mann  
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