



**F. A. Day Middle School**  
**Newsletter**  
*June 8, 2020*

“You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time.”

– **Angela Davis**

**THIS WEEK’S QUOTE**

In my farewell speech to our graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders I found myself, as typically happens in graduation speeches, calling upon our students to act and to create a more just and equitable world. As an educator, I always look for hope in our future generations and am struck by our responsibility to create opportunities to develop the critical thinking and empowerment in our children so that they will grow up to create a future better than our own. And... as I spoke those words, it occurred to me with an odd combination of pride and shame that our children are already there – it is the adults, no--- let me specific, adults like me, a white female in a predominantly white community, who need to be called to action.

Because my own children and husband, as people of color in a predominantly white community, have had learned to live with the fear of their own safety or the judgements passed in the flicker of a moment before they have spoken a word, I am more aware than most white folks, but it does not mean that I live and feel it in the same way. It is easy for me and others who do not experience this every day to fall into a sense of complacency, to check a box, and stand up just in moments like these when inspired by protests and speeches, and then easily slink back to the comfort of my white privilege. It is far too easy to do.

As an educational leader guiding your children, I promise to act every day as if I can radically transform the world around us, as Angela Davis describes, and I hope and expect that all of you will hold me to that. I have included some resources that I am

sharing with both you and our faculty as we continue the journey of creating a more just and equitable world together.

## **RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES TO TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT RACE**

This past week, the Day faculty created opportunities for students to talk about the incidents of racial hatred in the news. There were some affinity group discussions for students of color through our Diversity Club which we will be continuing this week. There were questions from our students about how they can become involved, and others worries about saying the wrong thing. What is clear is that our students want the language and space to talk about race and need our guidance. We will continue to offer opportunities to talk in our live sessions with students this week. In the interim, we encourage you to do the same at home. Here are some suggested articles with guidance as you engage your children.

### **[TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT RACISM and THIS MOMENT](#)**

#### **[ADL- Engaging Young People in Conversations about Race:](#)**

#### **[Teaching Tolerance: Discussing Race, Racism and other Difficult Topics](#)**

#### **[Washington Post: We need more White parents to talk to their children about race- especially now.](#)**

#### **[Talking to Students After Racial Incidents](#)**

## **EXAMPLES OF STUDENT AGENCY**

As part of our conversations, it is clear that our middle school students are looking for ways to help, and so we want to continue to share with them opportunities to tap into and create student agency around matters of race. Here are just a few examples from within our own NPS community:

#### **[Hate Doesn't Help: Newton Student Reacts to George Floyd's Death](#)**

#### **[Newton Teen Creates Tool For Black Lives Matters Movement](#)**

## **RESOURCES FOR ADULTS AROUND RACE**

In addition to our work with our children, as adults we look to build our own capacity to talk about race. Below are some resources that we have share as a Day Faculty this week. I thought it would be helpful to see the dialogue that we are engaged in to support our need for more growth and awakening:

[Ally vs. Co-Conspirator: What it means to be an Abolitionist Teacher](#)

[Medium.com "Our Liberation is Bound Together"](#)

### **Books to consider:**

*White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo

*How to Be an Active Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi

*Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria* by Beverly Daniel Tatum

*Courageous Conversations about Race* by Glenn Singleton

*So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo

### **Concerning Incident that involves a member of our own community:**

And finally, for those who are not aware, or who feel incidents such as those taking place around the country do not take place here, below is an article in this week's *Boston Globe* about an experience of a member of our own Day Community:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/06/02/sports/former-northeastern-deputy-ad-said-newton-police-drew-guns-him-profiling-incident/?event=event12>

### **FAMILIES ORGANIZING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE (FORJ)**

Newton FORJ is sponsoring an district-wide discussion: "Taking Action in Times of COID-19 and Racism", on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Sign up through their Facebook page linked below:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/689121188537111/> and

<https://forjnewton.com/2020/06/04/next-event-on-june-10th-730pm/>

## **LAST CALL FOR 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE GRADUATION VIDEOS!!**

This ABSOLUTELY the last call to submit students' 5 second videos in order to be included in the Moving -On Ceremony. Please refer to the email that was sent out on June 4<sup>th</sup> linked below:

[8th Grade Videos Due Now](#)

**If we do not have a video, we will do our best to upload a photo of your child from our yearbook files. If we do not have a photo, then the school logo will be displayed with your child's name as part of the ceremony.**

## **PARENT PICK UP BELONGINGS**

- **Parent pick-up of student belongings begins this week.**
- **You would have been emailed on Friday if your child DOES NOT have any belongings to be picked up at school. Otherwise, we ask that you arrive at the designated time below for pick-up of belongings.**
- **We ask that 8<sup>th</sup> graders attend the pick-up with their parents on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> as there are faculty who will be present to wave goodbye!**
- **Please take a moment to read over the detailed instructions and follow the designated time for you to pick up your child's belongings linked below:**

## [Procedures for Picking Up Student Belongings](#)

- As a reminder, due to public health concerns, please do not send children unattended to school to pick up belongings.
- For these three days, we can only accommodate parent pick up of belongings in a car. We will work with other families to accommodate those who cannot make arrangements to pick up during these days due to work schedules and transportation. You can also ask another family to pick up your child's belongings if you cannot participate, but if that is the case, we ask that you display the name of your child and your friend's child in the front window of your car.

- Yearbooks will not be available for pick-up until this summer. Separate arrangements will be made for their distribution.
- Medications left in the health office will be placed in student bags.
- Binders, art projects, play costumes or other belongings will NOT be included in the student items. We will make arrangements over the summer or in the fall for students to collect them.
- Please remember to bag, label and return all school books. School – issued Chromebooks will not be returned at this time.

**THE SCHEDULE FOR PARENT PICK-UP OF BELONGINGS IS BELOW:**

**8th Grade Schedule  
Monday, June 8th**

<b>PICK UP DATE</b>	<b>PICK UP TIME</b>	<b>Teacher Name - Team - Homeroom Number</b>
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	8:00-8:30	Moffitt - Mint - 211
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	8:30-9:00	Nowers - Mint - 316
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	9:00-9:30	Armstrong - Mint - 332
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	9:30-10:00	Gresser - Mint - 333
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	10:00-10:30	Barr - Emerald - 314
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	10:30-11:00	Heffernan - Emerald - 315
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	11:00-11:30	Rossier/Demarest - Emerald - 319
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	11:30-12:00	Campbell - Emerald - 331
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	12:00-12:30	Brennan - Evergreen - 317
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	12:30-1:00	Adamson - Evergreen - 320
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	1:00-1:30	Dames - Evergreen - 322
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	1:30-2:00	Brierly - Evergreen - 330
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	2:00-2:30	Matthews and Murphy - Ivy - 324/318
<b>Monday, June 8th</b>	2:30-3:00	O'Connor and Green - Ivy 326/325

**6th Grade Schedule  
Tuesday, June 9th**

<b>PICK UP DATE</b>	<b>PICK UP TIME</b>	<b>Teacher Name - Team - Homeroom Number</b>
Tuesday, June 9th	8:00-8:30	Demarest - Ocean - 116
Tuesday, June 9th	8:30-9:00	Becker - Ocean - 101
Tuesday, June 9th	9:00-9:30	Kronish - Indigo - 103
Tuesday, June 9th	9:30-10:00	Kerner - Indigo - 104
Tuesday, June 9th	10:00-10:30	Kincaid - Indigo - 109
Tuesday, June 9th	10:30-11:00	Maher - Indigo - 115
Tuesday, June 9th	11:00-11:30	LaRochelle - Sky - 301
Tuesday, June 9th	11:30-12:00	Comings - Sky - 302
Tuesday, June 9th	12:00-12:30	Genier - Sky - 304
Tuesday, June 9th	12:30-1:00	Monson - Sky - 311
Tuesday, June 9th	1:00-1:30	Kobayashi - Cobalt - 307
Tuesday, June 9th	1:30-2:00	Pfaff - Cobalt - 309
Tuesday, June 9th	2:00-2:30	Ford - Cobalt - 310
Tuesday, June 9th	2:30-3:00	Besse - Cobalt - 312

**7th Grade Schedule  
Wednesday,, June 10th**

<b>PICK UP DATE</b>	<b>PICK UP TIME</b>	<b>Teacher Name - Team - Homeroom Number</b>
Wednesday, June 10th	8:00-8:30	Healy - Phoenix - 201
Wednesday, June 10th	8:30-9:00	Bulger/Cameron - Phoenix - 207
Wednesday, June 10th	9:00-9:30	Baack - Phoenix - 216
Wednesday, June 10th	9:30-10:00	Conron - Phoenix - 220
Wednesday, June 10th	10:00-10:30	Barry - Cardinal - 202

<b>Wednesday, June 10th</b>	10:30-11:00	O'Connor - Cardinal - 209
<b>Wednesday, June 10th</b>	11:00-11:30	Gritter - Cardinal - 215
<b>Wednesday, June 10th</b>	11:30-12:00	Scott - Cardinal - 228
<b>Wednesday, June 10th</b>	12:00-12:30	Wiese - Fire - 223
<b>Wednesday, June 10th</b>	12:30-1:00	Lynch - Fire - 214
<b>Wednesday, June 10th</b>	1:00-1:30	Burnett - Fire - 217
<b>Wednesday, June 10th</b>	1:30-2:00	Monahan - Fire - 227
<b>Wednesday, June 10th</b>	2:00-2:30	Marx - Ruby - 229
<b>Wednesday, June 10th</b>	2:30-3:00	St. Clair - Ruby - 230

## **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

The last day of school for students in Thursday, June 18, 2020. It will be a half day and all school sessions will end by 11:30 a.m.

## **SPACE CAMP THIS SUMMER**

NPS's Virtual SPACE is a four -week enrichment program specifically designed to enable campers to explore, learn, and connect with their peers under the guidance of highly qualified educators. Our staff is excited and motivated to be working with small groups of campers and provide them with engaging and enriching activities.

Learn more about this year's [Virtual SPACE Camp here!](#)

## **THIS WEEK'S PRINCIPAL HOURS**

The weekly Principal Office Hours for families will be Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. Day Faculty are always welcome to join. Here is the Zoom link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83071080955?pwd=YXRnQ2VFd1VPUWlSbXd2RUIwV3M3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 830 7108 0955  
Password: 7JFuiC

**Norms:**

- To join, please click on the Zoom meeting link below at the designated time.
- You need to use the chat feature to write questions.
- This is not a “drop in office hours”. It is disruptive to add members while the session is going on, so I will only admit participants up to 3 minutes past the start time of the meeting.
- Please join at the designated grade level time to allow for smaller groups. We will use the same link to join. We will admit participants into the Zoom session only on the half hour based upon the grade level schedule. See below:

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWER PARKING LOT**

We made the choice not to record the Principal Office Hours to encourage an open dialogue, but in return I have captured the questions that parents shared during the three grade level sessions and recorded my answers in the ongoing Q&A Parking Lot that we have created to track ongoing questions about distance learning at Day. See that link to those questions and answers below:

[Parking Lot for Family Questions](#)

**Please note that this document will remain live, and you can also use it to add your own questions. I will check it periodically to respond. The benefit of using this format is that many parents have similar questions, and you are able to view all of the responses.**

**PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

**TERM 4 REPORT CARDS: NG/P**

At the end of the term in June, we will post report cards, but no letter grades will be assigned. In alignment with the other middle schools, students will instead receive either a “P”, “Pass”, indicating that a student has submitted enough work to fairly assess progress given the current circumstances, or a “NG”, “No Grade”, indicating that **“there was not enough work submitted during this term to fairly assess progress.”**



If your child receives an “NG” for the term, it will in no way impact his or her ability to transition to the next grade. Each student and family has experienced the distance-learning model in a different way based upon their circumstances, and an NG grade may be the result of a proactive plan to modify a student’s work or to account for a family’s circumstance during this public health crisis.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s progress, as always, reach out to their guidance counselor or teachers.

On behalf of the Day Faculty, I would like to thank you for your partnership as we guide your students through learning in a challenging and unprecedented environment.

### **STUDENT SUMMER READING**

This year, a Day Summer Reading Committee put together an exciting list of books for our students to choose from for their grade level summer reading. I have linked the summer reading letter and flyers put together by the Day Summer Reading Committee below:

[Day Summer Reading 2020](#) (REQUIRED SUMMER READING)

Each student will be asked to select one of the required reading books in addition to 3-5 books of their own choosing. The shared theme for all of the required books is resilience, and given the current challenging times, we will look to use this theme as a way for students to talk about their experiences as a connection to their shared reading experiences. Along those lines, I encourage and invite parents to choose from among the student summer reading selections. While this is not required, shared reading is a way to strengthen community bonds, particularly in challenging times such as these. If we have enough parents participate, then we will look to do community-wide book discussions in the fall.

I would like to take a moment to thank Jess Steel and the members of the Summer Reading Committee for their work: Kathy Maher, Kathy Lobo, Hallie Armstrong, Brenda Abramovich, Jamie Lightfoot, Linda Kincaid, Michael Pfaff, Michelle LaRochelle.

## **NPS LIBRARY SUMMER READING**

As mentioned above, students are required to choose at least one of their grade level summer reading books, but also need to read 3-5 additional books. To help with student selection, Jamie Lightfoot and her colleagues at the middle school level have once again created a website with booklists of suggested summer reading for our middle school students choice books. Here is a link to her website:

[Middle School Summer Reading Recommendations](http://mslibraries.newton.k12.ma.us/faday/summer2020)

The Library Summer Reading suggested titles are available in Sora, our ebook/audio book platform. Ms. Lightfoot has linked the books to the Sora record, so students (or adults!) just need to click and will be prompted to check the book out in Sora. The required reading/assigned titles for each grade level are also on there. From the colorful menu just choose the option you want to browse. Feel free to begin promoting this site to students.

<http://mslibraries.newton.k12.ma.us/faday/summer2020>

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE MOVING ON CEREMONY**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Moving -On Ceremony will be a live-stream event for the entire Day Community and students' families and friends to enjoy together **on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** The recording will be available after this date and time to view for those who cannot watch on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

While this event is live-streamed, the components of the ceremony will be pre-recorded and will include musical selections from our chorus, band and orchestra, student speeches and 5-second videos submitted by each student. **There will be one student speaker selected per team, so if your child is interested in being considered, please have them notify their teachers IMMEDIATELY.**

I will be sharing more information with 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents midweek this week about some of the logistics of recording student videos. In the interim, students should begin to brainstorm ideas. See the guidance below.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR NEWTON FAMILIES

During this pandemic, we know that many families have been negatively impacted in different ways. We wanted to be sure that all families are aware of some important resources in our community.

- 1. Pandemic-EBT Card:** Eligible families can receive funds on an EBT card (like a pre-paid gift card) which can be used to purchase food while schools are closed. Pandemic – Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) is a crisis response nutrition program that has been activated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.  
How to apply online: The [online application](#) is easy to complete and is the quickest and most efficient way for you to confirm your eligibility and to enroll your student(s).  
How to call for assistance: Please leave a message at 617-559-9038 with return phone # and a representative will reach out to assist you in completing an application. Additional information on P-EBT can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/pandemic-ebt-p-ebt>  
**THE DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR P-EBT BENEFITS IS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5th**
- 2. Grab and Go Meals-** Monday-Friday from 10am-noon, children and adults can pick up a “grab & go” bag containing breakfast and lunch from one of these locations: Newton North (theater entrance), Newton South (front entrance) and 150 Jackson Rd. (parking lot).
- 3. SNAP Program-** Do you need help buying fresh nutritious foods? You may be eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps. [Apply online here.](#) or Call 877-382-2363. Emergency SNAP benefits are for recipients who need food within 7 days. [Click here for an informational video on how to apply for SNAP](#)

These are just a few of the resources available for Newton residents. To find out more, or to talk to your child’s school social worker, or call 617-559-6021.

### **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: *Middle School Matters***

There will be one more book discussion group prior to the end of the school year. The date is yet to be determined. I will update you by the next newsletter.

## **Middle School Matters Parent Discussion Guide**

My best to you and your families,

Jackie Mann  
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