

F.A. Day Middle School Newsletter

November 23, 2020

GREEN WEEK

Quote of the Week

“Showing gratitude is one of the simplest yet most powerful things humans can do for each other.” -----Randy Pausch

THIS WEEK’S QUOTE

This Thanksgiving is like no other that I have experienced in my many years. I am sure that the same is true for so many of you. Each morning I pour through news stories looking for a glimmer of hope to grasp onto- some sign that our current reality is shifting to a brighter future. Many are not able to be with the ones they love on this holiday due to the realities of this public health crisis, and others have lost ones they have loved. Positive news has been hard to come by.

As I looked for words of inspiration to share in the newsletter before our Thanksgiving Holiday, I was struck by this quote by Randy Pausch, author of *The Last Lecture*, which he wrote before succumbing to pancreatic cancer. Confronted with the harshest of realities, Randy Pausch passed on this important truth about the power of gratitude.

As we gather with our families on Thanksgiving Day, please join me in expressing and showing gratitude for the loved ones in our lives, whether they are at your table, or in your thoughts on this day of thanks. Please also accept my gratitude to all of you- the members of our incredible Day Community, for all that you have done on behalf of our children and members of our community through the challenges we have faced together. I am both grateful and proud to be part of this community.

UPCOMING DATES:

Wednesday, November 25, 2020: Early Release at 11:30 a.m. for Thanksgiving Break

Wednesday, November 25, 2020: Term 1 Report Cards are Posted

Thursday, November 26 – Sunday, November 29, 2020: Thanksgiving Recess

Monday, November 30, 2020: Classes resume

Wednesday, December 16, 2020: First Day of Parent Conferences

Thursday December 24, 2020 – Friday, January 1, 2021 Winter Recess

Monday, January 4, 2021- Classes Resumes

A FEW REMINDERS ABOUT THE WEEK AHEAD

- This week students revert to a typical schedule and begin their day with their period 1 class. For 7th and 8th grade this is an on-team class (math, ELA, history or social studies), for 6th grade it is a multi-team class (world language or arts rotation) (Faculty will be available to help students locate their classes)
- The first class begins at 8:05 a.m. Student walking to school **WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO THE BUILDING BEFORE 7:55 a.m.** Please plan accordingly as students also should not wait outside of the building.
- Students taking the bus will be greeted and escorted into designated waiting areas before school begins.
- Grab and Go Breakfast is available for ALL students at no cost. Students choosing breakfast must enter through the Cafeteria Door #6 on the left of the building.
- This week Cohort A is in person on Monday and Tuesday morning from 8:05 – 11:20 a.m., while Cohort B will engage in asynchronous assignments provided by their teachers during the same block of time.

- The afternoon session on Mon., Tues, Thurs, and Friday is from 12:35 – 2:40 p.m. It is all remote for both cohorts and both distance only and hybrid.
- Wednesday is a fully remote day for all students except those students who are in school every day due to service needs.
- **School ends/is dismissed at 11:20 a.m. this Wednesday, November 25th for the Thanksgiving break.**
- Grab and Go Lunches are also available for all students at no cost, even those leaving for the day, but food cannot be eaten on the bus.
- Please make sure your child brings their NPS Chromebook to school with a charger and their headphones. They should charge their computer the night before. ***** 8th grade students do not have their NPS device as of yet. They will be allowed to bring in their own computers to school until they receive the NPS Chromebooks***
- Please have your child bring two masks to school. Masks should be worn at all time.
- Below is a copy of the health self-assessment (I was informed that the link was not working last week). Every family should help their child complete this self-assessment before entering the school building every day:

If you or your student is experiencing any of the following, please stay home and contact your health provider and notify the school:

- Fever greater than 100 degrees, chills, shaking chills
- New or worsening cough (not chronic)
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Sore throat not related to allergies
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
- Muscle or body aches

- Headaches *
- Fatigue *
- Nasal congestion or runny nose*

*When in combination with other symptoms

REPORTING ABSENCES

If your child is out sick due to the above symptoms or for another reason, please contact Ms. Lori Gandolfo in the front office by phone or email first thing in the morning: 617-559-9102

gandolfol@newton.k12.ma.us

Our nurses, Ms. Ann Garvin or Ms. Gayle Larson, will follow up with a phone call if you have reported that your child is out due to illness.

CHROMEBOOKS

- **8th Grade:** Unfortunately, Chromebooks will not be ready for distribution to our 8th graders this week. We ask that any 8th graders with a device at home bring it to school for use. Students without a device will be provided with them.
- **6th and 7th Grade:** All 6th and 7th grade students should have already received their NPS Chromebooks. We have some that have yet to be picked up. If you have not picked up your child's device, please email Ms. Vitone at : vitonem@newton.k12.ma.us

HOLIDAY AND VACATION TRAVEL

We have heard from some hybrid families who would like their child to change to “distance only” because they are traveling for the holidays. As indicated earlier, we cannot make this change as it creates class sizes for distance only cohorts that are not manageable.

We can ONLY transfer a child to distance only from hybrid if your child is ill and needing to quarantine. We cannot accommodate a request for a transfer to distant only due to a quarantine related to holiday or vacation travel. This is a districtwide policy because of the planning that went into creating both distance only and hybrid sections that are safe and manageable.

Also, I ask that you please review the guidelines sent out earlier by our public health nurses:

[MA COVID-19 TRAVEL ORDER](#)

Also please review the letter I sent out to Day families on Friday, November 20, 2020 regarding requests for distance only linked again below:

[Parent Letter on Requests for Distance Only 11-20-20](#)

TERM 1 REPORT CARDS

Grades for Term 1 Report Cards will be posted in ASPEN on Wednesday, November 25, 2020.

SCHEDULES IN ASPEN

Student Hybrid Schedules will be visible in ASPEN as of Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE HOURS

In anticipation of the questions that you might have during this first week of the hybrid schedule, I will resume our Principal Office Hours this week on **Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.** Please use the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://newton-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/82836096440>

Meeting ID: 828 3609 6440

Passcode: 271702

Questions can continue to be added to our Parent Questions Parking Lot linked below:

[Parent Hybrid and Distance Only Questions](#)

Norms for virtual Principal Office Hours:

- To join, please click on the Zoom meeting linked above at your designated time.
- When you enter, you will be muted so that we can hear all participants one at a time. Please keep your microphone muted unless called on for a question.
- The video sessions will be recorded for those who cannot attend at the designated time.
- You need to use the chat feature to write questions.
- Please post your name on your screen in your Zoom settings as I will ask you to unmute so that we can have a dialogue about your question.
- 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 refrain from asking specific questions about your child or a faculty member out of respect for confidentiality. Any questions of that nature should be directed to me via an email so that a personal conversation can be scheduled.

NEWS FROM THE DAY PTO

- The school spirit wear store has opened again for a limited time. The store will be open until 11/29/20 at midnight so that we can deliver all clothing and spirit items by 12/20.
- We would like to thank all of the families who donated money for the Day family impacted by last week’s fire. Your generosity was overwhelming. Thank you!

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INFORMATION

GOOGLE CALENDAR LINKS

All Day students should have been deleted from the Distance Learning Google Calendar links and received new links for the hybrid schedule. There will be Google Calendar invites for the following:

- In person classes with a room number (just event invite- some with Zoom links)
- Asynchronous work (just event invite – some with Zoom links)
- Virtual classes in the afternoon (calendar invites with Zoom links)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT DAY WEBSITE

We are in the process of updating our club and after school activities website. On the link below you can find a list of our current in person and virtual clubs as well as the link to paying your club fees or apply for financial assistance. The club fees are \$60 for the school year which covers unlimited participation in Day clubs. The drama fee is \$100 but also includes unlimited participating in any clubs at Day for the year. The information on how to enroll is included in the above-linked slideshow.

[Extracurricular Activities at Day](#)

How does your child sign up for a club? They should email the club adviser listed on the slides linked below. The adviser will share a Schoology Group link with your child to join the club.

[Day Middle School Clubs Fall 2020](#)

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB:

The Newton Boys' and Girls' Club is offering a program called "Out of School Time Program" which offers enrichment programs for middle school students and compliments the schedule of NPS middle schools. See the link below:

<https://www.newtonbgc.com/outofschooltimeprogram>

Best,

Jackie Mann

F. A. Day Principal

jacqueline_mann@newton.k12.ma.us

(617) 559-9100

On Twitter: @JMannNPS