

F.A. Day Middle School Newsletter

January 18, 2021

PINK WEEK

Quotes of the Week

“Out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope.” ---- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”

--- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“Adults, this message is for you. Kids are ready. Provide us with the resources.... Push away your fears. This is the world we live in.”

----NPS Student at MLK Celebration 1-18-21

THIS WEEK'S QUOTES

In honor of Dr. King's birthday celebration today, I share with you two of his quotes. The first, the “stone of hope” was the inspiration for the MLK Memorial in Washington, D.C., the first ever memorial of an African American in the Washington Mall, and only the fourth of a non-President. I remember visiting it with 8th grade students and being stuck by the impact of Dr. King's towering image, challenging those before it to rise above their challenges to find a place for hope, demanding a call to action.

Today at Newton's virtual MLK Celebration there were conversations about how the pandemic and recent events at the Capitol have impacted our ability to sustain that hope. There remained nevertheless an underlying urgency and call to action to carry on, which was best captured by the words of the Newton student quoted above. Although her name was not listed in the video presented at today's ceremony, this courageously honest

student stated that our children are waiting for the adults to realize that they are ready and desperately wanting dialogue and conversations about race.

As we continue this week's conversations about identity and acts of kindness, we will remember that the children in front of us are looking for guidance on what they can do to keep moving forward. If there were ever a moment to move past what may be our own discomfort in talking about race and create opportunities for our future leaders to participate in civic action and engagement, that moment is now. While we can acknowledge the despair and struggle, Dr. King's legacy and the children in our care call for us to take action despite it in whatever way we can. Let's keep moving forward in this work together.

Toward that end, I share with you two resources that you may find helpful linked below:

[Seven Ways to Honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy with Children/PBS SoCal](#)

<http://https://www.pbssocal.org/education/at-home-learning/seven-ways-honor-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-s-legacy-children/>

[Lessons from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. we can use in 2021](#)

UPCOMING DATES:

Monday, January 18, 2021: No School- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 20, 2021: Parent Conferences

Tuesday, January 26, 2021: PTO Parent Forum at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 27, 2021: Professional Development Day

Friday, January 29, 2021: Term 2 Ends

Monday, February 1, 2021: Term 3 Begins

Friday, February 5, 2021: Term 2 Report Cards Posted

Friday, February 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.: Day PTO & Sup. Fleishman, School Committee

Monday, February 15 – Friday, February 19, 2021: February Vacation

QUICK UPDATES

- Parent Teacher Conference Sign-Up Portal is closed for the year. The LAST day of parent conferences is this Wednesday, January 20th. If you missed out on an opportunity to meet with your child's team, please reach out to them directly or to your child's guidance counselor.
- Term 2 ends on January 29th. Term 3 Report Cards will be posted on 2/5/21.
- Wednesday, January 27, 2021 will be an asynchronous day for students. Teachers will be engaged in a full day professional development. Students who are typically in school for services on Wednesdays can still attend school and receive support with their asynchronous work at the discretion of their parents. Staff will be available to support them. (See more detail below)

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Day PTO EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[The PTO Parent Forum rescheduled from this past Thursday has been moved to Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us by accessing the link below:](#)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://newton-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/83189440068>

Meeting ID: 831 8944 0068

Passcode: 330127

- **SAVE THE DATE**: Join us in a conversation with Superintendent Fleishman and members of the NPS School Committee on **February 5th at 9:00 a.m.**

- **FORJ (Families Organizing for Racial Justice) Events and Announcements**

[FORJ Happenings](#)

ADVISORY THIS WEEK

We are launching advisory this week with an acknowledgment of “No Name Calling Week,” an event organized by educators throughout the country. The discussion will center around the impact of even the smallest acts of kindness. Many of you may have seen this week’s Tweet from a proud dad of a 10 year old who made such a difference through his act of kindness to a new student. See the link below:

<https://twitter.com/KahlonRav/status/134954049509397708>

We will then continue our work around identity and end the week on Friday with the 8th grade advisory representatives joining me in their first Principal Chat. This will be an opportunity for students to share their ideas for creating a better school community for Day students.

CONNECTEDNESS SURVEY

This past week, parents received an email from Superintendent Fleishman around the annual NPS Connectedness Survey. See a link to the email letter below:

[Family Letter NPS Connectedness Survey 2021](#)

The Connectedness Survey offers us critical data around our work to create an inclusive and equitable school environment and identifies areas for growth in our efforts to support all of our students. This year’s survey will also include questions about how our students are experiencing the hybrid schedule, which will be invaluable in our continued efforts to improve our approach with the goal of creating the best possible educational experiences for our students despite the challenging circumstances.

At Day Middle School, all students will participate in the Connectedness Survey on Monday, January 25, 2021 during advisory block at 12:35 p.m. (unless their family has submitted an “opt out” form to our front office). On that date, we will extend advisory by 10 minutes and run a modified schedule for the remainder of the day to ensure that all students have an opportunity to complete the survey. Teachers will inform students of the adjusted afternoon schedule on January 25th. Students that are absent that day will work with their teachers to identify another time to participate in the survey before the end of the week, when the survey closes for the year.

CALLING YOUR CHILD OUT SICK

As noted in our absence policy linked below, we ask that you leave a message or email Ms. Gandolfo in our front office in the morning if your child will miss school due to illness. (gandolfol@newton.k12.ma.us). We ask that any absence due to COVID related reasons be also communicated to our school nurses, Ms. Larson and Ms. Garvin, as they will work with you on when your child can return to school and any additional steps that need to be taken within the school. Please do not ask your child to communicate any COVID-related absence to a teacher as we would like to have any public health information reported directly to our nursing staff. Ms. Larson and Ms. Garvin’s emails are below for your reference:

larsong@newton.k12.ma.us

garvina@newton.k12.ma.us

If your child’s absence is not due to COVID related reasons, it would be helpful if you could add that information when you call in to the front office, otherwise our school nurses will follow up with a phone call that may not be necessary.

Learning Model Update

The deadline for requests in shift in learning models is this Wednesday, January 20th.

If you have any concerns about your child's placement in distance or hybrid learning model for the next marking term, beginning on February 1, 2020, please email Lori Gandolfo at gandolfol@newton.k12.ma.us. If you have already requested a change in learning model we ask that you still email Ms. Gandolfo so that we have all requests in one location. ***In your email please include: your child's name, team, grade, current learning model and request for change.***

Changes will be difficult to accommodate given the complexity of our middle school schedule and our need to maintain manageable and safe class sizes. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will depend on availability and as such, there are no guarantees that all requests can be granted. All changes in learning model requests that we are able to accommodate would take effect as of February 1, 2020.

JANUARY 27th PROFESSIONAL DAY

Because we were able to accommodate all of the parent conferences at Day in three instead of four conference days, we will instead be using this fourth professional development day to engage in important curriculum work focused on improving our universal design and the collaborative nature of asynchronous work and continuing to hone more effective practices for offering feedback and assessing student learning within the structures of a hybrid learning schedule. Our guidance department will engage in developing lessons with students around social emotional wellbeing and strategies for stress management. Teachers will assign asynchronous work on this day. Students who receive services and attend school on Wednesdays will still be offered the opportunity to do so as school-based support will continue to be available on the 27th.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE HOURS

This week's Principal Office Hour will be Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. The Zoom link to join is below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://newton-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/86809361808>

Meeting ID: 868 0936 1808

Passcode: 315525

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

[Parent Hybrid and Distance Only Questions](#)

REMINDERS

- [Charging Computers and Headphones](#)
- The 2020-2021 Term dates for report cards are linked below:

[Term Dates 2020-2021](#)

POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS

- [Absences From School](#)
- [Holiday and Vacation Travel](#)
- [Distance Only Requests](#)

RESOURCES

- **Day Flex-Block Enrichment Offerings 9:35 - 10:00 a.m.**
[Wednesday Flex-Block Enrichment Offerings](#)
- **Day Clubs and Extracurricular Activities**
[Extracurricular Activities at Day](#)
[Day Middle School Clubs Fall 2020](#)
- **Newton-Wellesley Hospital Resiliency Project**

[Newton-Wellesley Hospital Resiliency Project December Newsletter](#)

- **Boys and Girls Club Out of School Time Program**
<https://www.newtonbgc.com/outofschooltimeprogram>

PRINCIPAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

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