

FIRST FRIDAY LETTER
Brown Middle School

November 2, 2018

Dear Families,

The first trimester (term) will end on Monday, December 10. Students have five weeks remaining in this term in which to complete their work successfully. During the next few days, we encourage you to please review your child's mid-term feedback/progress reports. On Monday, students will be bringing home a completed form to assist you in registering for a Parent-Teacher Conference using Virtual Paragon. Attached is a blank copy of the form with instructions on how to set-up your on-line account. Please note the registration will open on **Wednesday, November 7 at 6:00 a.m.** The password to access the site is "**Meadowbrook**". Click [here](#) for the link to the conference registration and follow the directions on the attached form. Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences begin in late November through January. If you have questions, please contact the Brown Main office at 617-559-6900.

Turning Back the Clocks: Please remember that Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 4 (move clocks back one hour).

School Musical: Auditions for our all-school musical production of "Mary Poppins," began this week. The two evening performance dates are Tuesday, February 12, 2019 and Wednesday, February 13, 2019.

Holidays: There will be no school on Monday, November 12 in observance of Veterans' Day. School will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 21 for the Thanksgiving break. Lunch will not be served on that day. Please remember that school re-opens on Monday, November 26.

Enrichment and Athletics: Our Brown Enrichment program is successfully under way. Programs generally run from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Late buses are provided for students. Our goal is to offer a variety of options for students throughout the school year. All students are encouraged to participate and to suggest clubs of interest. Please contact Katrina Antonellis at the following email address: Katrina_Antonellis@newton.k12.ma.us with any questions/suggestions, or visit our school website for an updated list of activities and sports events.

Community/Social Action: Brown Middle School is beginning the annual gift drive. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this important tradition at our school, the

Brown community provides gifts for families connected to the Brookview House, a shelter in Dorchester. This event provides families connected to the shelter with gifts for the holiday season. Each team has a number of individuals to sponsor. Gifts are purchased by Brown Middle School students and their families, brought to school, wrapped and then transported to the Brookview House for distribution.

At this time, we're asking students and their families to sponsor a child or adult affiliated with the Brookview House - each team will be responsible for a specific number of individuals. If you volunteer to sponsor an individual, you will receive a gift request card that will include the person's age, gender, favorite color, clothing size and gift requests. Sponsors are NOT obligated to purchase any or all of the gifts in the request card. Some requests are for expensive items so it is important for you to use your own judgment when purchasing gifts. Please feel free to purchase items that are within a reasonable price range for you. Substitutions are fine as long as they are appropriate for the age/gender of the person for whom the gift is intended. Gifts should be purchased and brought to Brown during the week of December 1. Students will wrap their gifts in "home base" during the week of December 3 and all of the gifts will be loaded on to the truck to go to Brookview House on Wednesday, December 12.

Anyone that would like to donate wrapping paper, ribbons or bows or ribbon can drop it off with Ms. Kathy Hunt in the main office before the Thanksgiving break. Any additional gift cards to CVS, Walgreens, Target, Stop & Shop, etc. are always greatly appreciated.

If your family is interested in sponsoring someone please have your child contact their home base teacher. The gift drive is a wonderful opportunity for children to get involved in their community and to help make a difference in the lives of people in need. Special thanks are extended to Patricia Barry and Henry Toulmin for organizing this school-wide community event.

Upcoming Early Release Day: On Wednesday December 5, all middle school students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. for a system-wide professional development workshop for teachers and staff. Lunch will be served at school before dismissal.

Private School Applications: Please see the attached document for specific information from our school counselors regarding applications and recommendations for private school.

Sincerely,

John F. Jordan