



Quotes of the Week

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”

---Helen Keller

“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents.”

---Janet D. Hull

Days of the Cycle Week of 9/16/19

Day 4, Day 5, Day 6, Day 1, Day 2

THIS WEEK’S QUOTES

I apologize to those 7th and 8th grade parents who may have seen me share this week’s quotes before. I tend to share them at the beginning of the year when we forge our home/school connections and partnerships, which for those of you new to middle school can already see, can be a bit more challenging than when your child is younger.

At PTO and School Council meetings we often discuss the challenges of home/school connections at the middle school level and are working to create more opportunities for parents to play a part in their child’s school. Our children sometimes push us away as they search for their adolescent independence and as middle school parents, you often get the message that your role is to foster that independence and release your support. As a faculty, we work with your children on agency and independence from the moment your children walk through our doors. That said, fostering their independence does not mean that your children do not need your help. In fact, they need it even

more, even if it looks a bit different than before. A strong home/school partnership sets the foundations for that help and support.

This week at Back to School Night teachers will share with you strategies of how best to support your middle school child, and even more importantly, the means for communicating with the school and monitoring your child's progress while supporting and fostering independence. It is a tricky balance to strike, and one that we have experience creating.

I look forward to welcoming you all on Thursday and launching that partnership in service and support of the children of Day.

All of that said, as a working mother of three, I know the commitments that parents have, so if for some reason you cannot attend this Thursday, please know that there will be other opportunities to connect with school. Our outreach and communication to families continues to be on the forefront of our school goals, so please know how we can support you in making those ever- important connections in the way that works best for you and your family.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT THIS THURSDAY

This Thursday, September 19, 2019, is our annual Back to School Night at Day Middle School. The evening begins at 7:00 p.m. in your child's homeroom where you will pick up a copy of the schedule you will follow. ***In preparation for Thursday night, please look at your child's schedule or log into ASPEN to determine your child's homeroom number so that you know where you will be reporting at 7:00 p.m.***

The homeroom block will run from 7:00 – 7:15 p.m. so if you arrive after that time, you must first report to the front office to pick up a copy of your child's schedule.

After 7:15 p.m., you will visit each of your child's classes for 10-minute intervals. We will announce when it is time to move on to the next class. You will follow their Day 3 schedule.

A few notes for the evening:

Ms. Spittel, Spanish Teacher, is not available tomorrow evening. She will send you out information separately regarding their classes. If your child has her on their schedule, you can choose to go to the library instead for that period.

Also, if your child has Team Extension on their schedule, you can also choose to go to the library. Team Extension is just an extension of another class.

Also, tomorrow night, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Comings, our After School Athletics and Enrichment Coordinators will be available in the auditorium at 6:00 p.m. to answer questions about clubs and after school sports.

Finally, we ask that you abide by local parking rules and park only in legally designated spots. There will not be any available spots on Minot Place so we strongly encourage you to park on Albemarle and designated places on Walnut and Linwood.

We are thrilled to welcome you to a new year at Day, and we are grateful for our partnership this year.

I look forward to seeing everyone Thursday evening.

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.

6th GRADE REFUNDS FOR FIELD TRIP

As my email to 6th grade parents last week indicated, we had to unfortunately cancel our 6th grade team-building trip to Tree Top in Canton under the advice of our Health and Human Services Department. Although Canton is under moderate risk for EEE, the location of Tree Top in a wooded area helped make our determination to cancel this year's trip out of an abundance of caution.

We will be able to refund the full fee of \$42 to all 6th grade parents. Sixth Grade homeroom teachers will be sending home the checks that were submitted for the field trip with "VOID" written on them. Cash payments will be sent home in an envelope with your child.

I know that 6th grade teachers are just as disappointed as students in having to cancel this trip and will likely be planning some fun, team-building activities for their students in the coming weeks on site here at Day.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

PICTURE DAY THIS FRIDAY

Just a reminder that Picture Day is this Friday. Order forms were sent home with students at the beginning of last week. If you have any questions, please call the front office and ask to speak with Ms. Gandolfo.

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.

CLUBS AND AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS UPDATE

Please join us for our After School Sports and Enrichment Information Session on Thursday, September 19th at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium before Back to School Night begins.

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

Intramurals: There are two informational sessions for after school intramurals sports this Monday, September 16th.

Badminton and Ultimate Frisbee: Monday, September 16th 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.

SPORTS SCHEDULE THIS WEEK:

Monday, September 16

3:30 PM Boys Middle School Soccer Weston Middle School -**Away**

3:30 PM Girls Middle School Soccer Weston Middle School -**Away**

3:30 PM Coed Middle School Cross Country Bigelow Middle School -**Home**

Tuesday, September 17 -No events scheduled

Wednesday, September 18 -No events scheduled

Thursday, September 19

3:30 PM Girls Middle School Soccer Brown Middle School -**Home**

4:30 PM Boys Middle School Soccer Brown Middle School -**Home**

Friday, September 20 No events scheduled

NEWTON CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL COURSES

The Newton Chinese Language School has the following class openings:

快乐中文 / Happy Chinese

Class Hours: 3:40 - 5PM

Happy Chinese is Newton Chinese Language School's featured **bilingual course**.

- Small teacher-student ratio
- Experienced faculty
- Personalized learning environment
- Fun activities throughout the semester – games, songs, crossword puzzles and more
- Affordable tuition

Course Description

Text book *Chinese Treasure Chest* - provides a systematic learning journey to the students. Instructors for both level A and B are experienced in bilingual teaching and team-based learning.

Within each level, the teachers will further divide the class into smaller sections based on the students' progress. They will assign age and section appropriate materials to the students.

Adult Beginner Chinese

Class Hours: 12:30 - 1:50PM

This course is designed for adults with little or no prior Chinese language learning experience. The course will follow daily life themes such as greetings, family members, going places, food, shopping etc., to develop basic words and sentences. The goal is to develop basic skills in listening, speaking, character recognition and writing with the focus on listening and speaking. The teaching will focus on conversational Chinese. Culture and social norms will be combined with the language teaching. This class will also incorporate current Chinese social and economic development to help students understand the language development.

Registration: <http://www.newtonchineseschool.org/registration.php>

Any questions: please send email to: registration@newtonchineseschool.org

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.

SEPAC

The Special Education Advisory Council for Newton Public Schools would like me to share with you their calendar of meetings for the 2019-2020 school year. All are welcome:

OPEN board meetings:

All meetings start at 7:30pm

Room 217 Ed Center, 100 Walnut Street

October 17, 2019

November 19, 2019

December 17, 2019

January 16, 2020

February 22, 2020

March 12, 2020

April 14, 2020

May 14, 2020

June 2, 2020

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

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

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT DAY

In the first two months of school, we offer two opportunities for parents to visit the school, meet our faculty and the adults your child will be interacting with every day, and learn about middle school curriculum and expectations. The dates and times of those events are listed below:

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.

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

PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE AND DAY PTO

It was wonderful meeting so many new Day Parents at our first Principal Coffee on Monday. As I mentioned at the coffee, our PTO will be sponsoring a series of such events, and they will be sending out a survey to solicit your feedback on topics of interest. The next Principal's Coffee is Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Day Library.

Please support the PTO by giving them feedback and volunteering whenever possible. Form more information follow the link below:

<https://www.daypto.org/>

CONNECTING WITH THE DAY COMMUNITY

Weekly Newsletters

Beginning next week, you will receive weekly newsletters via email that will highlight upcoming events and share important information about your child's experiences here at Day.

Web Site

The F.A. Day Middle School web site will include most information, including the weekly newsletters, as well as our event calendar and important updates and links to emails. The link to the school web site is below:

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Domain/26>

After School Programs

Our vibrant after school sports and clubs program will begin by the end of September, and in some instances earlier. Information about sports tryouts and club offerings will be updated on the web site below:

<https://sites.google.com/newton.k12.ma.us/eee/home>

Twitter

I use Twitter to send out pictures of school events and quick updates. You can follow me on Twitter at:

@JMannNPS

Email Addresses

The most efficient way to reach any faculty member once school starts is via email. All faculty email has the same pattern:

Firstname_lastname@newton.k12.ma.us

Schoology and Teacher Web Sites

A majority of teachers here at Day use Schoology, which is an online interface that allows them to post interactive homework and curriculum. Students are given log in information to Schoology in most classes within the first few weeks of school. Most teachers also use Schoology to post mid-term progress reports, which are updates on students' academic progress in between the formal report cards. Report cards are issued four times a year, and can be accessed through the ASPEN family portal.

Day Middle School PTO

Another way to stay connected with the Day School Community is to join the Day PTO. They send out information about school events and offer opportunities for families to become involved.

Below is the link to the PTO web site:

<http://www.daypto.org/>

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, September 19, 2019: Back to School Night at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 25, 2019: 8th Grade Trip to D.C. Parent Night at 6:30 p.m.
Friday, September 20, 2019: Picture Day
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- 6th Grade Social at 6:00 p.m. Day Gym
Monday, October 14, 2019 – No School – Columbus Day
Tuesday, October 15, 2019 – 8th Grade Parent Visiting Day
Wednesday, October 16, 2019 – 7th Grade Parent Visiting Day
Thursday, October 17, 2019 – 6th Grade Parent Visiting Day
Thursday and Friday, October 24th and 25th, 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 28th and Friday, November 29th, 2019: No School Thanksgiving

All the best,

Jackie Mann
F. A. Day Principal
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