



DMS Newsflash

O c t o b e r 2 0 1 8

DMS Goals for the 2018-2019 School Year

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Student growth and progress is at the forefront of our yearly goals at Deans Mill School. Elementary school is an essential time for all of our students as they develop important academic, social, and emotional skills. Based on school climate survey feedback and district and state assessment data, we have formulated school goals for the 2018-2019 school year to improve teaching and learning throughout Deans Mill School. Our four primary goals for the year are:

- 🍏 To continue to develop our capacity to implement K-4 curriculum with fidelity while differentiating instruction to meet the needs of **all** learners. Our focus areas include: building reading foundational skills, the implementation of the Next Generation of Science Standards, and a focus on improving the growth of all learners.
- 🍏 To continue to increase cognitive engagement and rigor through the delivery of student-centered instruction by focusing on the needs of **all** learners.
- 🍏 To improve the use of technology to enhance and deliver curriculum to support learning and effectively communicate with the community. Our goal on the Parent Climate Survey will be that 95% of parents/guardians will agree that Deans Mill School effectively and regularly communicates with families.
- 🍏 To further support the social/emotional and behavioral needs of **all** students through the consistent implementation of our school-wide behavioral support program and behavioral RTI interventions.

These goals reflect a wide array of your child's academic program at Deans Mill School. By focusing on these goals and regularly analyzing data related to them, we will continue to provide an educational program that will help **all** students thrive and grow. As we work toward these goals, we appreciate your support and investment in your child's education.

Regards,



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New Play Area



Help Our School - Easily!

All you need to do is register online

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the children at Deans Mill School every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate **0.5%** of the purchase price to our school!

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at **AmazonSmile** simply go to smile.amazon.com.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile.



Be sure to check out Stop & Shop's A+ School Rewards program too!

See the info on the PTO page, (p.10) of this issue. Again, all you do is register and the rewards automatically come to DMS. It could not be any easier!

Important Dates

October

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 2 | Custodians Day |
| 3 | District School Safety Forum
• SHS Commons • 6 PM |
| 8 | Columbus Day • No School |
| 11 | Board of Education Meeting
• SHS Commons • 7 PM |
| 13 | DMS Fall Festival-Mystic Middle School
• 11AM to 3PM |
| 14 | DMS Fall Festival Rain Date |
| 16 | PTO Meeting • DMS Library • 6:30 PM |
| 16-17 | Picture Days |
| 24 | Parent/Teacher Conferences • Half Day
• 12:10 PM |
| 25 | Parent/Teacher Conferences • Half Day
• 12:10 PM |
| 26 | Parent/Teacher Conferences • Half Day
• 12:10 PM |



November

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 5-9 | Book Fair |
| 6 | Professional Development • Half Day
• 12:10 PM |
| 12 | No School • Veterans' Day Observance |
| 16 | PTO Movie Night • DMS • 6 PM |
| 20 | PTO Meeting • DMS Library • 6:30 PM |
| 21 | Half Day • start of Thanksgiving Break
• 12:10 PM |
| 22-23 | No School • Thanksgiving Break |
| 27 | Picture Retake Day |

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

How Can We Help Our Brain Grow?

Learning to Grow

This month we will continue to discuss how we can train our brains. Students are discussing the importance of having a growth mindset. Through read alouds and class discussions, students are learning about the Power of Yet.

FIXED MINDSET		GROWTH MINDSET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innate • Unchanging 	SKILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Result of hard work • Can always improve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Something to avoid • Will reveal lack of skill • Overwhelm 	CHALLENGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embrace • Opportunity to change • Calls for perseverance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not necessary • Linked to being not good enough 	EFFORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential • Leads to mastery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produces defensiveness • Personalized 	FEEDBACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Useful and positive • Welcomed • Identify areas to improve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blame others, not my fault • Easily discouraging 	SETBACKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to learn from • Focus on making changes

Talk About the Brain at Home

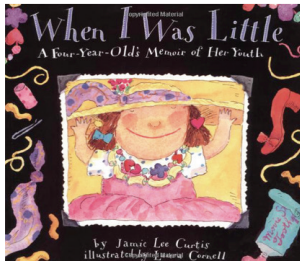
"The brain is far more malleable than we once thought. Teaching our kids that they actually have control over growing their brains through the actions they take is empowering! Tell your children that when they work hard, that's the feeling of their neurons connecting. The dendrites are reaching out to other dendrites, trying to connect to make a stronger brain. What strengthens those connections is practice, asking questions, and actively participating in learning. When children learn that their brains physically change with effort, it leads to increased motivation and achievement. Show your kids this [Brain Animation video](#) to explain!"

(SCROLL DOWN THAT PAGE TO THE PARAGRAPH ON "TALK ABOUT THE BRAIN" TO FIND THIS VIDEO.)

~ MINDSETWORKS.COM

CONTINUED





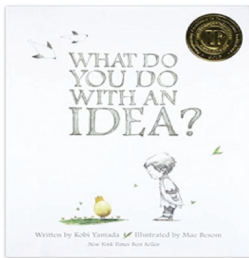
Grade K - *When I Was Little* by Jamie Lee Curtis

"Jamie Lee Curtis and Laura Cornell perfectly capture a little girl's simple, joyous celebration of herself, as she looks back on her childhood from the lofty height of four and a half years. This spirited view of growing up is perfect to share at home or in a classroom, as kids will respond to the exuberant pleasures of growing freedom and independence."



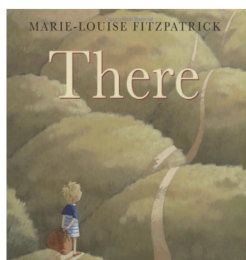
Grade 1 - *Making a Splash* by Carol Reiley

"The book has a fun story for kids and a nonfiction part for parents. Children fall into one of two categories: Fixed and Growth. Some children have what psychologists call a Fixed Mindset. They think they only have a fixed amount of intelligence. When they try something, new and fail, they're embarrassed because they think it proves they aren't smart enough. Other children have a growth mindset. They realize that it's not about how smart you are today, but about how smart you can become. They value learning overlooking smart. These kids understand that even geniuses must work hard."



Grade 2 - *What Do You Do with an Idea?* by Kobi Yamada

"This is the story of one brilliant idea and the child who helps to bring it into the world. As the child's confidence grows, so does the idea itself. And then, one day, something amazing happens. This is a story for anyone, at any age, who's ever had an idea that seemed a little too big, too odd, too difficult. It's a story to inspire you to welcome that idea, to give it some space to grow, and to see what happens next. Because your idea isn't going anywhere. In fact, it's just getting started."



Grade 3 - *There* by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick

A little girl ponders what the future holds, steadfast in her determination to find out for herself. Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick's gorgeous landscapes and the briefest of text speak to the power of imagination. Readers of all ages will find reassurance in this simple, beautiful book of ruminations about a lifelong journey toward tomorrow.



Grade 4 - *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

"August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. *Wonder* begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance."

Clothing

Please pack extra clothing including, tops, bottoms, underwear, and socks for your child. Spills happen!
We greatly appreciate any donations of elastic waist pants, socks, and underwear.

Vision and Hearing Screenings

During the next few weeks hearing and vision screenings will be conducted on students in our schools as required by CT general statutes for students in Grades K-5. If a vision or a hearing problem is suspected, the student will be rechecked at a second screening. If further consultation is recommended, parents will be notified in writing of the findings and will be asked to seek further medical evaluation. If you have any questions concerning the screenings, please contact the school nurse, dmsnurse@stoningtonschools.org.

Please be sure to send your child to school with any needed glasses/hearing aids etc. Also please keep us informed of any update from doctors if your child is being followed for any vision or hearing conditions.

Mobile Dental Clinic

If you have not already filled out your dental forms, please do as soon as possible.

Food Allergy Awareness

Did you know that one in every 13 children suffers from life-threatening food allergies? With Halloween around the corner, it is time to think about our food allergy friends! Most kids look forward to food-centered events such as Halloween, but for those children with food allergies it can be a stressful time. Launched in 2014 by Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE), the Teal Pumpkin Project® promotes safety, inclusion, and respect for individuals managing food allergies. This movement offers an alternative for kids with food allergies, as well as other children for whom candy is not an option, and keeps Halloween a fun, positive experience for all! Please consider having non-food treats at your door for our allergy friends and display a teal pumpkin or sign so parents and children know your house is a safe stop.



For more information on the Teal Pumpkin Project and free printables visit:
<https://www.foodallergy.org/education-awareness/teal-pumpkin-project>.

Construction Update

October 2018

Our new school continue to progress! Students and staff have been enjoying learning and moving through the new building. While the building is certainly occupied, the construction company continue to work on punch list items, along with testing and balancing of mechanical systems.

Construction of the existing building remains on schedule. Most recently, underground plumbing and electrical work in the first floor corridor and bathrooms were completed. This progress allowed concrete slabs to be poured in those areas. Once slabs were in place, the construction team began to lay out classroom walls on the first floor. Underground plumbing and electrical work has begun in the kitchen and will continue through early October. Second floor wall framing is nearly complete. A mason is also completing work to enclose the building at areas where the perimeter walls were removed from demolition. In the areas where future sidewalks will be placed, the site contractor continues final grading and preparation.



AREA B WEST ELEVATION EXTERIOR VIEW



INTERIOR VIEW OF CONNECTING CORRIDOR



1ST FLOOR BATHROOMS NEW SLAB



NORTH ELEVATION EXTERIOR VIEW

CONTINUED



1ST FLOOR CORRIDOR NEW SLAB



2ND FLOOR FRAMING AND IN-WALL ROUGH-IN



1ST FLOOR UNDERGROUND AT CLASSROOM WING



KITCHEN UNDERGROUND ROUGH-IN

It is exciting to see the ongoing progress with the building project. **DMS is open for learning!**

Our goal for the year is to encourage students to gain a better understanding of the ways in which they can increase their performance in the areas of art, library, music, and physical education. Students will be provided with ideas and challenges on specific skills to enrich performance. In addition we hope to share a variety of resources with you.

Music

Mrs. McMinn



We are enjoying our new music room! There is enough space for movement as well as having the Orff instruments (xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels) set up at the same time! Students in Grades 1 through 4 reviewed instrument “dos” and “don’ts” and have been demonstrating these in class. The students always enjoy accompanying their singing and being creative with these instruments.

Fall is the perfect time of year to join extracurricular music groups or to start instrumental lessons. What students learn in music class will transfer to their lessons/rehearsals and vice-versa. It will solidify their learning and increase their musical ability. There are various choruses/choirs to join in the area. One local group is the Chorus of Westerly. It is open to singers ages 9+ and they recently started an ensemble especially for ages 7-9. www.chorusofwesterly.org. You could also join your own church choir! Calvary Music School offers private lessons on a variety of instruments. www.calvarymusicschool.org. In addition, there are many private music instructors in the area. Feel free to contact me if you’d like further recommendations.

Physical Education

Mrs. Castodio



Boy has it been a busy start to the school year! Students have been learning new routines in our new gymnasium, new warm-up exercises, and the beginnings of new games. Fourth graders are hard at work preparing for their physical fitness tests, and have completed one test already. They are also currently training for the mile run, and I am proud of their efforts for this test of endurance.

Keeping physically fit is a challenge for all of us. Finding the time to fit physical activity into our daily routines is essential to good health and wellness. I encourage you to spend time outdoors as much as possible. With the beautiful leaves of October all around us, I challenge you to take a thirty-minute walk or jog around your neighborhood or favorite scenic spot and enjoy the sights and sounds of fall. You’ll feel refreshed, and the walk or jog will do wonders for keeping your body heart- healthy.

Art

Miss Biernacki



Happy fall! The leaves are changing and the contrast of vibrant orange leaves against the bright blue sky (complementary colors!) is a thing of beauty. Embrace the autumn foliage by visiting local parks and gardens to marvel at the colors. Bring a sketchbook along to draw and collect leaves, pressing them in between the pages. The Florence Griswold Museum hosts the [Wee Faerie Village](#) every year, a magical experience for children. The museum will even be open Columbus Day 10 AM-5 PM and admission is free for visitors under the age of twelve. Spending a quiet day at home? Go outside and collect colorful leaves with your child. Coating the leaves in a layer of Mod Podge® will preserve the color and keep the leaves from crumbling. Get creative! These leaves could become a garland, mobile, or a beautiful collage.

Library

Mrs. Anderson-Halbert



We are lucky to have independent bookstores in our towns! This month I challenge you to check out Bank Square Books or the Savoy Bookshop. Not only is it a great way to look at new books, but they also have some awesome events! Tuesday, October 9th check out Matt de la Pena (author of *Last House on Market Street*) and Christian Robinson talking about their new picture book, *Carmela Full of Wishes*, at the Garde Arts Center! Tickets are free, but reserve them ASAP! This is a great way to support local business, as they support us! Check out their website for more information on events at www.banksquarebooks.com.

Getting to know

Ms. Gavitt Secretary

We are thrilled to have Ms. Gavitt as a new secretary at DMS this year! While Denise is new to DMS, she is not new to the Stonington Public Schools. Denise was originally employed in 1995 as a lunch aide at WVSS when her children entered school. In 1997, she became the secretary at WVSS and then transferred to MMS in 2009. When an opening at DMS became available, Denise decided to transfer back to the elementary level because she always enjoyed seeing the little kids as they start their schooling.

Favorite thing about DMS so far: "Everyone at DMS has been so welcoming and supportive with my transition from MMS. Each day I learn something new, just like the kids."

Hobbies: "gardening, shopping of course, and going to flea markets to find interesting things."

Fact about me: "I love being a mom of two and grandmother of (almost) four! I love my dog, Bailey!"

Looking forward to this school year: "being able to recognize the students and parents. Also look forward to participating in some of the fun activities DMS has on their calendar of events."



DENISE GAVITT
FROM PAWCATUCK

PTO News & Announcements

Dear Deans Mill School Community,
Thank you so much to everyone who bought mums from the PTO mums sale. We sold 784 mums, and our profit was around \$1,553! Thank you so much to Pequot Plant Farm for making the pick-up process so convenient for our DMS families. We are so grateful for your support!



Fall Box Top Collection!

Please send in your Box Tops by October 17th!

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Lindenmayer at (540)760-2467 or jslindenmayer@gmail.com



Fall 2018 Enchanted Forest Book Fair!

November 2nd - 9th

Be on the lookout for information coming home with your student at the end of the month and parent volunteer opportunities!



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Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards

2018-2019

OUR SCHOOL: Deans Mill Elementary School PTO

OUR ID# 07852

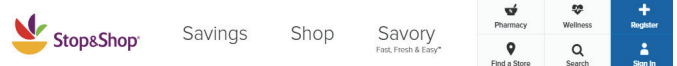
A+ REWARDS PROGRAM 9/7/18 - 3/16/19

REWARDING YOUR SCHOOL IS STILL AS EASY AS 1-2-3!

GET STARTED AT STOPANDSHOP.COM

FOR ASSISTANCE CALL 1-877-366-2668 OPTION #1

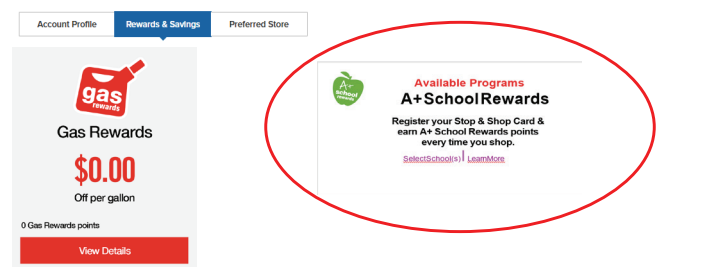
1) Register for an online account or sign in to an existing one



2) Access your account settings



3) Select your preferred school(s) to reward



DMS Fall Festival

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Mystic Middle School

11-3pm

Free Admission

a fantastic community event featuring

Fun for the whole family! Kid activities including: games, pony rides, petting zoo, crafts, bouncy houses, fantastic food, and yummy baked treats for sale. Have fun with our family photo station!

Willing to volunteer? We'd love to have your help!

Contact quinlanpto@gmail.com.

**Please return your advance ticket order to school by
FRIDAY, October 5th!**

Tickets can be used for games, crafts, activities and food. # of Tickets will vary depending on food/activity.

40-pack Tickets ____ x \$35 each = \$ ____ • 60-pack Tickets ____ x \$45 each = \$ ____

Tickets will be for sale on the black top. Festival day ticket price is \$1 each. Prepaid tickets will be available at the ticket sales table. All games, activities, and food will be tickets only.

I'd like to be a sponsor of this great fundraiser AND get a 25 pack of tickets!

☐ Bronze=\$75 ☐ Silver=\$100 ☐ Gold =\$250 ☐ Platinum =\$500

All sponsors will receive a complimentary 25-pack of tickets!

We are pleased to recognize our sponsors at the event.

What is your family or business name, so that we may properly credit you?

TOTAL FOR TICKETS AND DONATIONS \$ _____
Make checks payable to "DMS PTO"

Name of adult ticket holder _____ Phone # _____

Email address of adult ticket holder _____

Need a helping hand with the tickets? Helping Hands is here to help! This organization will provide confidential financial assistance for those who have a hardship. Please contact your principal directly to receive a helping hand for this event.

Stonington believes in education



SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

support students' ability to learn and
teachers' ability to teach.

THEY ARE EXPERTS IN



Learning



Behavior



Mental Health



School Systems

THEY PROVIDE

- Academic, behavioral, and mental health supports
- Evaluation, assessment, and data analysis
- Consultation with teachers and families
- Culturally responsive services
- Crisis prevention and response



THEY SUPPORT

- Struggling and diverse learners
- Student achievement and well-being
- Safe and supportive learning environments
- School-family-community partnerships
- School-wide data-based decision making

THEY SERVE

in schools and
other educational
and clinical settings.



RECOMMENDED RATIO

1 school psychologist per **500-700** students

**Lowering barriers to learning is critical to
children's success in school.**

Contact your school psychologist to find out
how they can help.

School Psychologists:
Helping Children Thrive • In School • At Home • In Life
www.nasponline.org

NASP 
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
School Psychologists

We hope this provides you with more
information about our role.

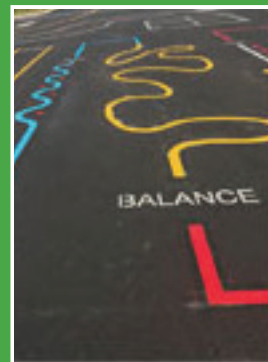
Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you
have any questions.

Sincerely,

Miss M(oniz) & Mrs. R(obenhymer)

alexis.moniz@stoningtonschools.org

kara.robenhymer@stoningtonschools.org



Blacktop Play Area

