



# DMS Newsflash

M a r c h 2 0 1 9

## Dear Parents & Guardians,

## DMS is Open for Learning

We are excited to prepare for our final move and full occupancy of our new school! The month of March will serve as a time of transition as our 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes move into their new classrooms.

### The Schedule

As a reminder, the district cancelled early release days for spring conferences on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, & 22<sup>nd</sup> and made them full days of school to accommodate time needed to move later in the month. Please note: As always, if you have questions/concerns after receiving your child's report card, please reach out to your child's teachers and they will gladly share out pertinent academic information and review questions/concerns. Early release days, with 12:10 PM dismissal, have been added to the calendar on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> to give teachers the opportunity to pack up their classrooms. March 29<sup>th</sup> will serve as a packing and moving day for teachers, and students will not have school. If the project continues to move along as expected and we are able to obtain our Certificate of Occupancy, it is our goal to completely move into the new building by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Once we complete the move to the new building, work will begin for the 1975 wing to prepare for demolition this summer. The project is expected to fully completed prior to the start of the 2019-20 school year.

### Focus on Student Learning

While we are very excited to move into our new learning space, our biggest priority remains student learning. We want to assure you that we carefully planned out this move to minimize interruptions to student learning.

We look forward to utilizing our state-of-the-art building to increase opportunities for your child and further increase student learning. If you have any specific questions about the move ahead, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for your support throughout the building project!

Regards,  
Jenn & Tom



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## PTO News & Announcements

We wanted to say a big thank you to Karen Rollins and all of the volunteers who helped make ACES 2019 such a success! The kids all had such a great time learning new things with their peers. Thank you to the staff, parents, and custodians who stayed late to make this program happen. It was so much fun to have such a diverse collection of offerings for our DMS students to expand their minds.

We also wanted to say many thanks to Merin Troutman and Tessa Getchis for making The 2019 Science and Math Fair such a huge success! What a fun night seeing our kids explore new concepts in math and science. We are so thankful to have an evening each year where our kids can share their math and science projects with their classmates and family.

**Keep clipping your Box Tops!**  
**Every clip counts!**



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

**21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Annual**

## Pawcatuck River Duck Race



Pawcatuck Duck Race ticket sales will take place from Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> until Wednesday April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Packets will be going home on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and the race will take place on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>. Join us for this exciting family event, and support our school!

[details](#)

## Important Dates

### March

- 6 Author & Illustrator Day • Suzy Kline visits
- 7 Kindergarten Concert • 6 PM at DMS
- 8 Professional Development •  
Early Dismissal • 12:10 PM
- 12 Elementary Math Night • SHS • 5:45 PM
- 14 Board of Education Meeting •  
SHS Commons • 7 PM
- 15 Report Cards Issued
- 15 ~~PTO Movie Night • 6 PM~~ **CANCELLED**
- 19 PTO Meeting • 6:30 PM
- 21 World Down Syndrome Day
- 25 Professional Development •  
Early Dismissal • 12:10 PM
- 26 Professional Development •  
Early Dismissal • 12:10 PM
- 29 Professional Development •  
No School



### April

- 2 World Autism Day
- 3 Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
- 10 Music & Arts Night • SHS • 5 PM to 8 PM
- 11 Board of Education Meeting •  
SHS Commons • 7 PM
- 12 Snow Make-up Day • School in Session
- 15-19 Spring Vacation
- 23 PTO Meeting • 6:30 PM
- 24 Secretary's Day

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

### How Can Challenges Help Us Learn?



## Learning Through Challenges

This month, we will continue to build growth mindsets at Deans Mill School! As learners, we are recognizing that we often face challenges and how we learn through those challenges. We know that if we keep on trying, we can growth through these challenges. We are learning about grit and how we can persevere through challenges. We are helping children to understand that challenges happen all the time, and that it is our attitude and effort that help us overcome challenges!

# challenge

noun



an interesting or difficult problem or task; something that requires special effort

**How is a challenge related to growth mindset?**

Accomplishing difficult tasks and facing challenges are important components of growth mindset. On the flipside, people who exhibit a fixed mindset do not embrace challenges or seek out difficult tasks as readily.

Challenges can be fun and sometimes frustrating. The point of a challenge is to have to work hard at something and in the end, you have a payoff, a good grade, a beautiful puzzle or painting, a new skill, and most importantly new **KNOWLEDGE!** Remember to monitor your thinking as you face challenges; talk yourself through, and don't give up!



Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.

WHEN LIFE GETS HARDER, CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO BE STRONGER.

**YOU CAN'T SPELL CHALLENGE WITHOUT CHANGE**

IF YOU'RE GOING TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE, YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO CHANGE.

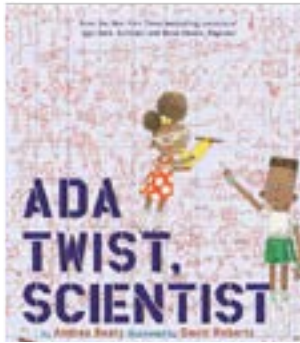


### Grade K -*Rosie Revere Engineer* by Andrea Beaty

Rosie Revere dreamed of becoming a great engineer. Where some people see rubbish, Rosie sees inspiration. Alone in her room at night, shy Rosie constructs great inventions from odds and ends. Hot dog dispensers, helium pants, python-repelling cheese hats: Rosie's gizmos would astound—if she ever let anyone see them. Afraid of failure, she hides them away under her bed, until a fateful visit from her great-great-aunt Rose (AKA Rosie the Riveter!), who shows her that the first flop isn't something to fear—it's something to celebrate. And you can only truly fail, if you quit."

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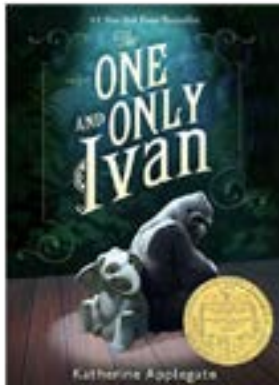
### Grade 1 -*Ada Twist Scientist* by Andrea Beaty

Ada Twist's head is full of questions. Like her classmates Iggy and Rosie—stars of their own New York Times bestselling picture books *Iggy Peck, Architect* and *Rosie Revere, Engineer*—Ada has always been endlessly curious. Even when her fact-finding missions and elaborate scientific experiments don't go as planned, Ada learns the value of thinking her way through problems and continuing to stay curious.



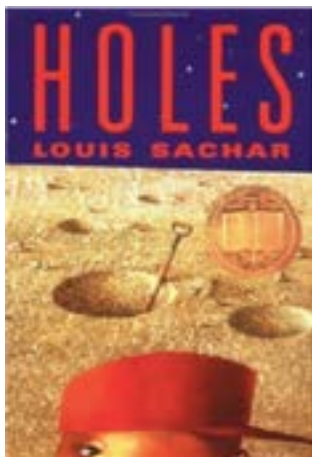
### Grade 2 -*Stuck* by Oliver Jeffers

When Floyd's kite gets stuck in a tree, he's determined to get it out. But how? Well, by knocking it down with his shoe, of course. But strangely enough, it, too, gets stuck. And the only logical course of action... is to throw his other shoe. Only now it's stuck! Surely there must be something he can use to get his kite unstuck. An orangutan? A boat? His front door? Yes, yes, and yes. And that's only the beginning. *Stuck* is Oliver Jeffers' most absurdly funny story since *The Incredible Book-Eating Boy*. Child-like in concept and vibrantly illustrated as only Oliver Jeffers could, here is a picture book worth rescuing from any tree.



### Grade 3 -*The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes.



### Grade 4 -*Holes* by Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.



## Deans Mill School Music and Arts Night

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at Stonington High School

Students will present spring concerts as well as have their artwork on display. The students have been working very hard this year in music and art classes, and are excited to share their talents with you.

5:00PM – 8:00PM	Art show SHS Cafeteria/Commons	
5:30PM – 6:00PM	Grade 1 Concert	(report to the SHS cafeteria at 5:15PM)
6:15PM – 6:45PM	Grade 2 Concert	(report to the SHS choral room at 6:00PM)
7:00PM – 7:30PM	Grade 3 Concert	(report to the SHS cafeteria at 6:45PM)
7:45PM – 8:15PM	Grade 4 Concert*	(report to the SHS choral room at 7:30PM)

### Art Show

The art show will be held from 5:00PM – 8:00 PM in the areas near the auditorium. Students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to view the art show.

\*Please note that 4<sup>th</sup> grade students should view the art show BEFORE their concert as it will be dismantled at 8PM.

### Concert Information

At the conclusion of each concert, students can be picked up in the location where they were dropped off. We ask that families quickly exit the auditorium to make room for the families of the students in the next concert.

Grades 1, 3, and 4 students are encouraged to dress nicely.

Grade 2 students will present: "The Sounds of Moo-sic", so they should wear Farmer/ Country & Western attire.

More information will be coming home with your child.

The PTO will have flowers and snacks available for purchase that night.



Our goal for the year is to keep families informed about grade level curriculum in Music, Art, Library, and Physical Education and how they can support their children at home.

## Music



Mrs. McMinn

Fourth graders are hard at work getting ready for the spring concert in April, and are looking forward to demonstrating their recorder skills! So far, students have learned pitches B, A, G, and E on the recorder. They have played some familiar songs such as "Hot Cross Buns," "Au Clair de la Lune," and "Rain, Rain." Students also composed their own song for the recorder and notated on the treble clef staff. This month we will learn note D so we will be able to improvise in la pentatonic with those five pitches. Students learned that jazz musicians improvise or "make up music on the spot" quite a bit! They take pitches that they know and change the rhythm or melody to make it their own. Some students will be featured "improvisers" at the spring concert. And as always, we continue to work to make beautiful sounds on the recorder by completely covering the holes with our fingers, using "warm, soft air," and "tonguing" the notes "doo" (articulation).

### Save the dates:

Kindergarten concert Thursday, March 7, 2019 6:00 P.M.  
in the DMS gymnasium

Grades 1-4 concerts Wednesday, April 10, 2019 in the SHS auditorium

## Library



Mrs. Anderson-Halbert

Spring means more sports!

Try checking out a book about your favorite sport!

**For younger readers**, some great choices are: *My First Book of Baseball: A Rookie Book* by The Editors of Sports Illustrated Kids, *Goodnight Baseball* by Michael Dahl and Christina E. Forshay, *Get a Hit, Mo!* or *Don't Throw It to Mo!* by David A. Adler, *Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream* by Deloris Jordan and Roslyn M. Jordan, or *Z is for Zamboni: A Hockey Alphabet* by Matt Napier and Melanie Rose.

**For emerging readers**, try books by Matt Christopher, *Who was Babe Ruth?* by Joan Holub and Ted Hammond, *The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend* by Sharon Robinson, Derek Jeter's series *The Contract*, or National Geographic Kids *Everything Soccer: Score Tons of Photos, Facts, and Fun* by Blake Hoena.

**For strong readers**, try *Weird but True Sports: 300 Wacky Facts About Awesome Athletics* by National Geographic Kids, books by Mike Lupica, books by Tim Green, *Big Book of Who: Baseball: The 101 Stars Every Fan Needs to Know* by the Editors of Sports Illustrated Kids.

If you try one of these books, let Mrs. Anderson know if you like it! Or if you have a suggestion of your own, tell Mrs. Anderson all about it. Play ball!

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## Physical Education



**Mrs. Castodio**

It has been a very exciting winter for DMS fourth graders. They have been concentrating on the push-up portion of the CT Physical Fitness Test and just recently completed the test in its entirety. I am so proud of their accomplishments with the test itself, but especially with the push up section and the work they put into getting their upper body muscles ready to reach the state standard and beyond. We had many more students pass than ever before!

Grade 4 students will be finishing up their basketball skills unit and can look forward to some floor hockey soon. Great job, fourth graders! You are awesome!

## Art



**Miss Biernacki**

Music and Arts night for students in Grades 1-4 will be on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at SHS.

Fourth graders have been busy learning about value and form. They just finished a unit on Op Art, or optical illusions, in which they got to see how artists can trick the eye into thinking something on a flat piece of paper looks 3-dimensional. We are now working on creating dragon eyes. We compared pictures of dragons from renaissance paintings and Chinese tapestries and could see that the attitudes towards dragons changed drastically between Eastern and Western cultures. Our dragon eyes are focused on creating the illusion of texture and form on a flat surface by using value. We'll be using a few different mediums including watercolor, watercolor pencil, Sharpie, crayon, and pencil. Some of our dragon eyes will look more friendly than others, but they'll all appear to pop off the page!

## Getting to know

### Mrs. McLeod Grade 2 Teacher

**Favorite thing about DMS:** "The students, families, and the staff. It is truly the most caring group of people that work here. During the past 34 years I have felt blessed to work alongside some amazing educators!"

**Years Teaching in Stonington- all at Deans Mill School!:** "34"

**Hobbies:** "My favorite thing to do in my spare time is to curl up with a great book! I also enjoy taking long walks with Mr. McLeod, traveling, decorating, and spending time with my family."

**Little-known fact about me:** "I had the good fortune of traveling with high school and middle school students to Europe during three summer vacations. While in North Wales we abseiled 70 feet down the side of Penrhyn Castle, ate haggis in Scotland, and toured Venice by gondola. I look forward to many new adventures during my retirement!"



**GAIL MCLEOD**  
FROM SOUTHTON, CT



# Family Fun Math Night

## CALLING ALL MATH KIDS!

*Grab Your Families and Head Out to Stonington High School*

On Tuesday, **March 12<sup>th</sup>**, Elementary Students (K-4) are invited to attend Stonington Public Schools' Elementary Family Fun Math Event at Stonington High School Commons.

Check-in begins at 5:45PM,  
and Math Stations will be available from 6PM-7PM.

Math stations will be **hands-on, super fun**, and will be **organized by grade level**.

To best plan for the fun-filled mathematical event, please return the bottom portion of this form to your school's office by **March 6<sup>th</sup>**.



### Elementary Family Fun Math Event Participation Form

School: **Deans Mill School**

Number of Student(s) Attending Math Event:

Name of Student(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: K 1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: K 1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: K 1 2 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: K 1 2 3 4

Names of Adults Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## IT ALL ADDS UP TO FUN!



# Spotted in February



100<sup>th</sup> Day of School



Jungle Book Kids Performance





# Spotted in February



Movie Night

PTO  
"Soup's On"  
Luncheon for  
Teachers



Singing at  
Providence  
Bruins Hockey  
Game





# ACES Classes



Knitting



Theatre



At Deans Mill School, the renovation work is almost complete. Gilbane and the K-12 Building Committee are planning to request a certificate of occupancy from the Town of Stonington on March 21, 2019. The district is planning to move students and teacher classrooms to their final classroom assignments at the beginning of April. Once the 1975 addition is empty, Gilbane will begin to demolish this building, which will make room to complete the parking lot.

On the first floor, built-in furniture in the classrooms continues to be installed as well as in the teacher breakroom. Where designed, the sinks and water fountains have been installed in the classrooms. Also, the whiteboard and tackboard installation has begun in the classrooms. Overhead HVAC, electrical, and plumbing in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor corridor was completed and inspected, which

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KITCHEN SERVING LINE



CAFETERIA (FACING AWAY FROM WINDOWS)



TEACHER BREAKROOM CABINETRY



SINKS IN CAFETERIA BATHROOMS

allowed the ceiling contractor to install the ceiling tiles along the entire corridor. The corridor floor tiles were installed during the past month.

On the second floor, whiteboards and tackboards are being installed in all the classrooms. Finish painting is following behind to allow for final cleaning on this floor to begin the last week of February. Also, locker installation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor corridor will begin at the end of February. Work in the two stairways is ongoing, with finish painting and ceilings continuing from January. Rubber flooring on the steps will begin immediately after painting is complete.

In the cafeteria, final connections for the kitchen equipment continue and should be completed by the end of the month. Painting and ceiling tile installation in the cafeteria is complete. The floor tiles have been installed on one half of the floor, and the other half will follow in the last week of February.



FIRST FLOOR CORRIDOR



SECOND FLOOR CORRIDOR



SECOND FLOOR CLASSROOM TEACHING WALL



SECOND FLOOR CLASSROOM WINDOWS