

DMS Newsflash

N o v e m b e r 2 0 1 9

Dear Parents & Guardians,

DMS School Goals

We'd like to update you on our Deans Mill School goals for the 2019-2020 school year. To create our focus areas, we formulated our goals based on schoolwide data, curriculum needs, parent feedback, and school climate data. The purpose of these goals is to maximize learning opportunities for students and create an environment in which all students can best meet their potential. This year's goals include:

- 🍏 Ensuring the implementation of a robust and comprehensive curriculum that meets the needs of all learners. To support this goal, we are focusing in on foundational reading skills with our young learners, focusing in to assure that **all** students are making adequate growth, developing new curricula in PE/Health, Art, & Music, and utilizing our Elementary Program Facilitator to make sure teachers are well supported with curriculum implementation.
- 🍏 Continuing to facilitate the ability of teachers to utilize student-centered learning strategies in all classrooms to increase cognitive engagement for all students. To support this goal, our teachers will be using a wide variety of student-centered learning strategies and participating in professional learning that focuses in on best practices for student-centered learning.
- 🍏 Continuing to support a positive school climate within Deans Mill School students, staff, and parent community. To support this goal, our staff will be focusing on regular communication with parents/guardians. In addition to conferencing, phone calls, and emails, we will utilize social media (Instagram) to highlight student learning, utilize progress reports to update parents on how students are progressing (since we no longer have spring conferences), and continue promoting positive behavior.

With the support of our staff and school community, we are most confident that we will be able to provide our students with a vigorous learning atmosphere that meets their learning and social/emotional needs. As always, our partnership and support with you is important and valued!

Sincerely



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Specials Update

Our goal for the year is to keep families informed about grade level curriculum in Art, Library, 5th Grade Band, Music, and Physical Education, and how they can support their children at home.

Art

Miss Biernacki



Kindergarten students have been exploring movement within space the use of various types of movements. The students have been working on body control and within their own personal space as well as general space. The students also worked on rolling the ball to a target, as well as self-toss and catching skills. This month the students will focus more on movement skills such as shuffling, galloping and running. In addition, the students will work on balance and coordination through dribbling a ball with their feet and kicking a ball at a target.

Music

Mrs. McMinn



Kindergarten students have been getting into a routine in music class. We begin with vocal exploration, sing our “welcome song,” and perform movement to music. Then we either play instruments, learn a new song, or play a game. This month, students will learn the difference between high and low sounds- with their voices, bodies, and instruments. Students will use their ears to listen to the differences in these sounds. One of the things that students learn is that high and low refer to pitch and not volume (loud and quiet). Sometimes that’s a bit tricky! In addition to working on finding their singing voice and keeping a steady beat, we will also sing some favorite songs for Thanksgiving, such as “Mr. Turkey” and “Who’s That Struttin’ ‘Round?” I invite you to sing with your children at home, in the car, wherever! Have them share songs they are learning in music with you. To help them improve with steady beat, put on some music and have them pat the steady beat on their lap, (or a variety of body parts). We say that a steady beat is like a heartbeat or the ticking of a second hand on a clock. Have fun!

Fifth Grade Band

Most students have been playing their instruments for about four weeks now! During this time we have practiced playing several songs by ear. Students recently received their band lesson books and we are starting to read music in class. Please make sure your child brings home his or her band book to practice, and then brings it to school with his or her instrument on band days. I recently emailed a folder with downloadable accompaniments for the band book. If you didn’t receive this message, reach out to me at lindsey.macnabrenauld@stoningtonschools.org. The accompaniments provide a great backup track that makes practice fun! In coming weeks, students will be able to earn spots on our “Band Wall of Fame” by performing assigned songs during class. Thanks for your continued support of your children, and for continuing to encourage them to practice their instruments! They are making excellent progress.

CONTINUED

Library*Mrs. Anderson-Halbert*

Students are settling into a great routine. The first 10 minutes of each class is spent on keyboarding. If your children wish to practice at home, please have them log into their Typing Club school account, keep their eyes on the screen, and their fingers on the home row keys. After keyboarding, we are finishing our OzoBot robot stories and preparing to present them to the class. The students have been working really hard at making the robot's movements and the story come together. Finally, the last 10 minutes of class is spent with book look and book check out. With over 19,000 books to choose from, the time goes quickly. Overall, the students are adjusting well to all the transitions and this new class.

Physical Education*Mrs. LaPalme*

Kindergarten students have been exploring movement within space the use of various types of movements. The students have been working on body control and within their own personal space as well as general space. The students also worked on rolling the ball to a target, as well as self-toss and catching skills. This month the students will focus more on movement skills such as shuffling, galloping, and running. In addition, the students will work on balance and coordination through dribbling a ball with their feet and kicking a ball at a target.

Important Dates**November**

- 5 Professional Development Day
 - No School
- 11 Veterans Day Observance
 - No School
- 14 Board of Education Meeting
 - (the former Pawcatuck Middle School) • 7 PM
- 15 Movie Night • Disney's Aladdin (PG Rated) • 6 PM
- 18 PTO Meeting • 5:30 PM
- 27 Spirit Day ~ Stonington Bears Day
 - Wear Brown & White
- 27 Early Dismissal • 12:10 PM
- 28-29 Thanksgiving Recess • No School

December

- 12 Board of Education Meeting
 - (the former Pawcatuck Middle School) • 7 PM
- 20 Spirit Day • Wear Your Favorite Holiday Clothing
- 20 Early Dismissal • 12:10 PM
- 23-1/1 Holiday Recess



Flu Season is Here

While sharing is wonderful, please be mindful of the items being shared among peers during school and on the bus. Sometimes NOT sharing is caring!



Flu
Season
Ahead

PLEASE DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR CHILDREN

Do not share items that will spread germs such as:

- Water bottles
- Chapstick ~ lip gloss ~ make-up of any kind
- Food ~ remind your child that there is no food sharing allowed at school!

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or cough into your elbow!

**Wash hands frequently, especially before eating.
How should you wash your hands?**



- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel, and use the towel to turn off the water.

Help prevent the spread of illness

Please keep your child home when he or she is ill. Follow the "24-Hour Rule". The child should remain home until the temperature has remained normal, without the use of fever-reducing medications, for 24 hours. The "24-Hour Rule" also applies for vomiting and diarrhea. Please notify the school nurse with information regarding illness/injury.



Dress appropriately

Weather changes quickly, and students will continue to have outdoor recess. Dress appropriately, including coats, hats, mittens, etc. It is always safe to wear layers in school.



Make a Mental Health Note

It seems that with each school year there is a new social media platform that is attracting students. It can be hard to keep up with the latest and greatest apps. Below are some of the more popular social media apps and tips to keep your child safe while they are using social media.

Popular Apps: (For additional information about these apps visit SmartSocial.com.)

- VSCO
- TikTok
- Instagram
- Snapchat
- Facebook
- WhatsApp
- YouTube
- Musical.ly

Basic guidelines to share with your kids for safe online use:

- Establish family rules for internet use.
- Never post or trade personal pictures.
- Never reveal personal information (i.e., address, phone number, or school name or location).
- Use only a screen name and don't share passwords (other than with parents).
- Never agree to get together in person with anyone met online.
- Never respond to a threatening email, message, post, or text.
- Always tell a trusted adult about any communication or conversation that made you uncomfortable.

Basic guidelines for parental supervision:

- Spend time online together to teach your kids appropriate online behavior.
- Keep the computer in a common area where you can watch and monitor its use, not in individual bedrooms. Monitor any time spent on smartphones or tablets.
- Bookmark kids' favorite sites for easy access.
- Check your credit card and phone bills for unfamiliar account charges.
- Find out what, if any, online protection is offered where kids could use a computer without your supervision (i.e., after school programs, friends' houses)
- Take your child seriously if he or she reports an uncomfortable online exchange.

Green Zone

Here are the few apps SmartSocial.com considers to be a starting place for Teens and Tweens:



ClassDojo
Ages: 4+



Pinterest App
Ages: 13+



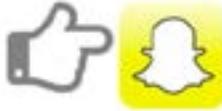
Facebook App
Ages: 13+

Gray Zone

Parents should participate in these apps with students to keep them safe. These apps can be good (and bad) for your Teens and Tweens.



Minecraft
Ages: 7+



Snapchat App
Ages: 13+



Bitmoji App
Ages: 13+



Fortnite: Battle Royale
Ages: 12+



VSCO App
Ages: 12+

Red Zone ANONYMOUS APPS

Here are the apps SmartSocial.com considers to be **NOT** safe for Teens and Tweens



Ask.fm
Ages: 13+



Kik Messenger App
Ages: 17+



**Tik Tok app
(made in China)
Age: 12+**

The Tik Tok app is a music video social media platform. Tik Tok was purchased by the creators of Musical.ly and Musical.ly discontinued their app and transferred all of their users to the Tik Tok app. This app is popular because it mixes self-deprecating humor with the latest pop music songs. In our experience, apps like Tik Tok can allow strangers to direct message your children (and consume a large amount of time, without creating a positive online footprint for your student. [Watch our Tik Tok safety video.](#)



Lasso App
Ages: 12+



Roblox
Ages: 17+



Lipsi App
Ages: 13+

Dear Deans Mill School Community,

Attention Fifth Grade Parents

We will be having our first **planning meeting** for the Fifth Grade End-of-Year Party on Wednesday, November 13th at 7:00 PM at Breakwater in Stonington Borough.

Please come with ideas for fundraising and party planning to celebrate our fifth graders' final year at DMS!

Any questions? Please contact your co-chairs: Suzy de Labry, Morgan Adair and Liza McBain.

Mum Sale

Thank you to everyone in the DMS community, as well as local businesses, who supported this year's PTO mum sale. This was the largest mum sale to date, with over 1100 plants sold, and a profit of \$2200. A thank you to Pequot Plant Farm as well for supplying us with such beautiful mums each year. Thank you!

Fall Festival

I am so excited about the great turnout we had for the DMS Fall Festival! There were so many families throughout the event having fun and spending quality time with each other. We reached our goal and even did better than last year, bringing in over \$7,400!! This is DMS PTO's biggest fundraiser of the year, but what we really like to see is bringing the community together as a whole.

Thank you to our Business Sponsors: Arruda Real Estate, Big Y, Blast, Blue Bird Day, Canonchet Farm, Coastal Air Flight School, Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Dunkin' of Groton, Fields of Fire, The Fun Company, J & R General LLC, McQuade's Marketplace, Mel's Downtown Creamery, Mystic Luxury Cinemas, NESS, Paddle Surf RI, Penguins Otter & Others, Storage Place, Stop & Shop, SuzAnne by the Sea, Universal Package Store, Westerly Health Center.

Thank you to our Family Sponsors: Harvey Family, Hoddersen Family, Kasprzak Family, Lindenmayer Family, Loughlean Family, Milde Family, Nichols Family, Olmstead Family, and Quinlan Family. Your donations help us make the event go above and beyond. A special Thanks to The Olmstead Family for the fantastic flyers and posters!

Thank you to The Mystic Fire Department for bringing the smoke trailer for the kids to explore and learn.

Thank you to the Stonington Ambulance, Quambaug Fire Department. and The Stonington Police for coming, making our kids feel safe, and educating them on fire safety.

Thank you to our Food Sponsors: Bogue's Alley, Dog Watch Mystic, Main Street Pizza, Mystic Pizza II, Somewhere in Time, Stonington Pizza Palace, and Margie West.

Between **volunteering parents, high school students and staff**, thank you for all your help. We can come up with as many different ideas to do for events but without the manpower to pull it off, they are just ideas.

My last and biggest thank you goes to the Fall Festival Committee: Morgan Adair, Jennifer Adkins, Jennifer Flynn, Megan Graham, Emily Harvey, Claudia Hoddersen, Sarah Loughlean, Liza McBain, Cameron Nichols, Heather Pescatello, Katie Quinlan, Caity Serra, Michelle Stone. This was a great group. I thoroughly enjoyed and looked forward to our meetings. Girls, **thank you!**

Deans Mill PTO Presents:
Movie Night at Deans Mill School



Disney's Aladdin (PG rated)

When: November 15th

Time: Doors open @ 6 p.m. & Showtime is 6:30 p.m.

Where: DMS Cafeteria

Bring your own low chairs or blankets

Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase

Tickets are \$3 per person, or \$12 max per family

Cash or Check Only

Children under 4 are Free

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Any questions can be sent to Jen Flynn via email at:

jennifercarangelo@gmail.com



EARN CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL

NO MORE CLIPPING. ALL YOU NEED IS YOUR SMARTPHONE.

The NEW and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online.

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THE NEW
LABEL:



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



BUY BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

You can find Box Tops on hundreds of products throughout the store.



SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

Use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



EARN CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL

Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated at BTFE.com.

You do not need to clip or send Box Tops labels to school.



BOX TOPS CLIPS ON PACKAGES

Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store as packages transition to the new Box Tops labels. **You can still clip these and send them to school.** Please make sure each clip has a valid expiration date.



BUY
BOX TOPS
PRODUCTS



CUT
OUT THE BOX TOP
FROM EACH PACKAGE



SEND
YOUR BOX TOPS
TO SCHOOL

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE BOX TOPS APP AT BTFE.COM

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LOOK FOR BOX TOPS ON HUNDREDS OF PRODUCTS!

THE ALL-NEW BOX TOPS IS HERE!
DOWNLOAD THE APP:



CLIP: Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, but you can still send unexpired clips to school. Every valid Box Tops clip is worth 10¢.



SCAN: If you see this label, **do not send it to school.** Use the new Box Tops app to scan your store receipt within 14 days of purchase. The app will find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.



BEVERAGES

- Nestle Pure Life Water .5-Liter 24, 28, 32,35-Packs
- Nestle Pure Life Water 8 oz. 6, 12, 24 & 56-Packs
- Nestle Pure Life Water 11.15 oz 6-Pack



HOUSEHOLD CLEANING

- Lysol® Disinfectant Spray
- Lysol® Disinfecting Wipes
- Lysol® Toilet Bowl Cleaner



MEALS & SIDES

- Annie's® Baking Mix
- Annie's® Brownie Mix
- Annie's® Cake Mix
- Annie's® Cookie Mix
- Annie's® Mac & Cheese
- Annie's® One Pot Pasta
- Annie's® Soup
- Hamburger Helper™
- Chicken Helper™
- Tuna Helper™
- Old El Paso™ Beans
- Old El Paso™ Taco Kit
- Old El Paso™ Tortillas
- Old El Paso™ Shells



SNACKS

- Annie's® Bunny Cookies
- Annie's® Bunny Grahams
- Annie's® Cheddar Bunnies
- Annie's® Cheddar Squares
- Annie's® Cookies
- Annie's® Crackers
- Annie's® Fruit Snacks
- Annie's® Granola Bars
- Annie's® Popcorn
- Annie's® Snack Bars
- Annie's® Snack Mix
- Bugles™
- Cascadian Farm™ Granola
- Cascadian Farm™ Granola Bars
- Cascadian Farm™ Protein Bars
- Cereal Treat Bars
- Chex™ Mix
- Fiber One™ Bars
- Fiber One™ Brownies
- Fiber One™ Cheesecake Bars
- Fiber One™ Cookies
- Food Should Taste Good™ Chips
- Fruit by the Foot™
- Fruit Roll-Ups™
- Gardetto's™
- General Mills™ Fruit Snacks
- Gushers™
- LARABAR™ Kid
- Mott's® Fruit Snacks
- Nature Valley™ Bars
- Nature Valley™ Biscuits
- Nature Valley™ Bites
- Nature Valley™ Granola Cups
- Nature Valley™ Layer Bars
- Nature Valley™ Snack Mix
- Nature Valley™ Squares
- Nature Valley™ Wafer Bars



CEREAL & BREAKFAST

*Bagged cereals do not participate

- Ancient Grains Cheerios™
- Annie's® Cereal
- Annie's® Toaster Pastries
- Apple Cinnamon Cheerios™
- Apple Cinnamon Toast Crunch™
- Banana Nut Cheerios™
- Basic 4™ Cereal
- Big G Cereal Breakfast Pack (8 Pouches)
- Berry Berry Kix™
- Birthday Cake Cookie Crisp™
- Blueberry Cheerios™
- Blueberry Chex™
- Blueberry Toast Crunch™
- Boo Berry™
- Cascadian Farm Cereal™
- Cheerios™
- Cheerios™ Oat Crunch Cinnamon
- Chocolate Cheerios™
- Chocolate Chex™
- Chocolate Lucky Charms™
- Chocolate Peanut Butter Cheerios™
- Chocolate Toast Crunch™
- Cinnamon Chex™
- Cinnamon Toast Crunch™
- Cinnamon Toast Crunch™ Churros
- Cinnamon Toast Crunch™ Shreds
- Cocoa Puffs™ Cereal
- Cookie Crisp™ Cereal
- Corn Chex™ Cereal
- Count Chocula™
- Dippin Dots™ Cereal
- Drumstick™ Cereal
- Fiber One™ Cereal
- Fillows™ Cereal
- Franken Berry™
- French Toast Crunch™
- Frosted Cheerios™
- Frosted Lucky Charms™
- Fruity Cheerios™
- Girl Scouts™ Cereal
- Golden Grahams™
- Honey Kix™
- Honey Nut Cheerios™
- Honey Nut Cheerios™ Crunch
- Honey Nut Chex™
- Kix™ Cereal
- Lucky Charms™
- Maple Cheerios™
- Mermaid Cereal
- Multigrain Cheerios™
- Nature Valley™ Cereal
- Nature Valley™ Granola
- Oatmeal Crisp™ Cereal
- Peach Cheerios™
- Peanut Butter Chex™
- Peanut Butter Chocolate Shreds™ Cereal
- Protein Cheerios™ Oat & Honey
- Pumpkin Spice Cheerios™
- Raisin Nut Bran™
- Reese's Puffs™
- Rice Chex™
- Star Wars™ Cereal
- Strawberry Toast Crunch™
- Sugar Cookie Toast Crunch™
- Toasted Coconut Cheerios™
- Total™ Cereal
- Trix™ Cereal
- Vanilla Chex™
- Very Berry Cheerios™
- Wheat Chex™
- Wheaties™



FROZEN

- Annie's® Bagel Pizzas
- Annie's® Pizza Bagels
- Annie's® Pizza Poppers
- Cinnamon Toast Crunch™ Bites
- Pillsbury™ Mini Cinnis
- Pillsbury™ Pancakes
- Pillsbury™ Toaster Scambles
- Pillsbury™ Toaster Strudel
- Totino's™ Party Pizza (4-pack only)
- Totino's™ Pizza Rolls



REFRIGERATED & DAIRY

- Annie's® Biscuits
- Annie's® Cinnamon Rolls
- Annie's® Crescent Rolls
- Yoplait® Go-GURT® Yogurt
- Yoplait® Go-Gurt® Dunkers
- Yoplait® Kid
- Yoplait® Multipack



SCHOOL & OFFICE SUPPLIES

- Boise® POLARIS® Premium Paper
- Boise® X-9® Paper
- Paper Mate® Arrowhead® Erasers
- Paper Mate® Clearpoint® Mechanical Pencils
- Paper Mate® Colored Pencils
- Paper Mate® Comfortmate Ultra™
- Paper Mate® Correction Pens
- Paper Mate® DryLine® Products
- Paper Mate® Eagle® Pens
- Paper Mate® Eraser Mate®
- Paper Mate® Expressions® Erasers
- Paper Mate® Flair® Felt Tip Pens
- Paper Mate® Flexgrip® Elite
- Paper Mate® Flexgrip® Ultra
- Paper Mate® Gel Pens
- Paper Mate® Flexgrip® RT
- Paper Mate® Handwriting
- Paper Mate® Holiday
- Paper Mate® Infinite Lead
- Paper Mate® Inkjoy® Ballpoint Pens
- Paper Mate® Inkjoy® Gel Pens
- Paper Mate® Inkjoy® Stylus 2-in-1
- Paper Mate® Lead Refills
- Paper Mate® Liquid Flair®
- Paper Mate® Liquid Paper® Fast Dry
- Paper Mate® Markers
- Paper Mate® Mirado® Woodcase Pencils
- Paper Mate® Pens
- Paper Mate® Pink Pearl® & White Pearl® Erasers
- Paper Mate® Profile®
- Paper Mate® Profile® Elite
- Paper Mate® Quick Flip™
- Paper Mate® Sharpwriter® Mechanical Pencils
- Paper Mate® Speederase
- Paper Mate® Write Bros. Pens
- Paper Mate® Write Bros. Mechanical Pencils

CLIP-ONLY PRODUCTS

A few brands have opted not to participate in the digital program; however, you can still find Box Tops clips on these products during the packaging transition. Be sure to send them to your school before they expire.

- Select Finish® Products
- Select Hefty® Products
- Select Kleenex® Products
- Select Reynolds® Products
- Select Scott® Products
- Select Ziploc® Products

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