



DMS Newsflash

J a n u a r y 2 0 2 0

Build a Growth Mindset

As we embark on a new calendar year, it is a great time to help our students continue to build a growth mindset in all aspects of their lives.

As a reminder, you help your child build a growth mindset by:

- 🍏 Talking about it with your child. Ask your child about something difficult s/he encountered during their day. Share how you utilized a growth mindset to be successful in a situation.
- 🍏 Letting your child know it is okay to fail. Failure often happens in life and leads to growth as long as the child keeps trying.
- 🍏 Praising the process. Reward your child for being persistent, working through challenges, and being creative.
- 🍏 Reminding your child that the brain can grow and that intelligence is not fixed.
- 🍏 Encouraging your child to believe in the Power of Yet (i.e. I may not be able to do this **yet**, but I will keep trying and working toward it.)

At school we are focusing on specific character traits to help our students develop a growth mindset.

Character traits that we will focus on through the end of the year include:

- 🍏 January & February: Creative Thinking & Open Mindedness.
Topics reviewed with students will include making mistakes, learning from failure, solving problems, and using feedback.
- 🍏 March & April: Persistence.
Topics reviewed with students will include accepting challenges, grit, and resilience.
- 🍏 May & June: Reflective Thinking. Topics reviewed with students include celebrating success, reaching goals, and identifying growth mindset.

By helping our students develop a growth mindset, we believe they will be more successful in all endeavors. Building a growth mindset will serve our students well both now and in the future.

Happy 2020!

Sincerely,



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Important Dates

January

- 9 Board of Education, District Office
• 7 pm
- 10 Spirit Day • Hawaiian Day • Wear a
Hawaiian shirt or apparel
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Observance • No School
- 23 Board of Education Budget Meeting •
District Office • 7 PM
- 27 PTO Meeting • DMS • 5:30 PM
- 29, 30 Scrapbook Theater presents Disney's
Aladdin Kids • DMS • 6 PM
- 30 Board of Education Budget Meeting •
District Office • 7 pm
- 31 PTO Trivia Night • Westerly Yacht
Club • 6 PM to 8 PM



February

- 5 Professional Development • Early
Dismissal • 12:10 PM
- 5 SPS Parent Presentation on Anxiety •
District Office • 6:30 PM to 8 PM
- 6 Board of Education Budget Meeting •
District Office • 7 PM
- 13 Board of Education • District Office •
7 PM
- 17 Presidents' Day Observance •
No School
- 21 Spirit Day • Wear flannel or a
striped shirt
- 21 Movie Night • 6 PM
- 26 DMS Math & Science Night • 6:30 PM



Anxiety Disorders **Presentation**

Stonington Public Schools
Special Services Office
Presents:

Understanding Anxiety Disorders in Children and Adolescents *A Presentations for Parents and Caregivers*

Wednesday, February 5th, 2020
6:30-8:00PM

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Greta Francis, Ph.D., ABPP

Greta Francis, PhD, ABPP currently is a clinical director for Lifespan School Solutions. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and doctoral degree from Virginia Tech, and is board certified in child and adolescent psychology. She completed her clinical internship and postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic). Dr. Francis is an associate professor in the department of psychiatry and human behavior at The Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University. She is actively involved in the Brown Clinical Psychology Training Consortium, in which she serves as associate director. Her interests lie in the areas of program development, social emotional learning, childhood anxiety disorders, and psychotic disorders in youth.

Topics include: Commons signs/symptoms, appropriate treatment methods, how to best assist your child in managing anxiety and school attendance.

Location:
District Administration Office
(formerly PMS)
40 Field Street
Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Students are welcome to attend with parents/guardians.
Questions? Call the Special Services Office at 860-572-0506 ext 4

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



Second grade is starting a lesson on Impressionism. As students are learning more about this famous art movement they will critique famous paintings from Impressionist painters, such as Monet and Morisot, learn about the history of the movement, and will paint pictures inspired by the loose brushstrokes and beautiful landscapes seen throughout all impressionist paintings. Although today these paintings are largely regarded as beautiful and enjoyed by many, the impressionist painters were known as rule breakers in their day! Their style of painting shocked art scholars. The visible brushstrokes, thick paint, and common subject matter made people think their paintings were messy and unskilled. Today these are some of the most valued paintings ever created.

Music

Mrs. McMinn



This month second graders will build on their note reading and listening skills. They will review reading pitches *so la mi* on a 3-line staff and will add do (what we sometimes call the “home tone.”) Ending on note *do* is what makes music sound like it’s the end of the song! Students will play the melody of “Apple Tree” (using pitches *mi so do*) on Orff instruments (xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels) and will play the fun game that goes with it. Second graders will hone their listening skills to identify the form of music (parts that sound the same/different) in the song, “Troika,” by the famous composer, Sergei Prokofiev. It is a great song for winter! We will also learn one of the students’ favorite folk dances, “Sasha.” It gets everyone up and moving and dancing with many friends in class! A **big** thank you to the Stonington Education Fund and the Blue Monday concert series who awarded DMS music with two new instruments, coming soon! We can’t wait to play the contrabass bars that are going to sound awesome with our Orff instrumentarium. They’re low pitches that will be great for many steady beat activities, accompanying students while they’re singing or playing recorders, and teaching harmonic progression in the older grades. Thank you, SEF!

5th Grade Band

Happy New Year! This month Fifth Grade Band students are working to develop more independence as they start playing more duets and multi-part band arrangements. We have been discussing musical form, and students are using this knowledge to find patterns within music. When students practice at home, I encourage them to apply this same concept and work

on small sections before trying to run through the entire song. For those who are wondering about concerts: Save the date! Our first ever districtwide Band Jamboree will take place on the evening of April 22nd at Stonington High School. It will feature performances from our Fifth Grade Band members, as well as Middle School and High School Bands. Our finale will feature a combined performance with all of our bands playing together! Fifth Grade Band students will also perform at Deans Mill School on April 7th at our annual Art and Music Night. More details are coming soon!

Thank you to Stonington Education Fund and the Blue Monday Concert Series for awarding the band funds to purchase additional instruments to help us continue to expand our instrumentation. We will purchase two new French horns that will be used by our students soon. To all the community members and businesses who made this possible, thank you!

Library

Mrs. Anderson-Halbert



Happy New Year! This month the 5th Graders will explore different careers involving science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics skills. They will also continue with digital citizenship lessons including one about online friendships. Third and fourth graders are learning to work with drag and drop coding with sphero robots. The students are coding a series including movement, sounds, and lights while completing some challenges.

Physical Education

Mrs. LaPalme



This month the second graders will continue to work on their rolling skills. The students will be working on rolling to lead into the game of Gaga ball. The new pit was just finished and the students can't wait to use it! We will use the dodgeballs and gaga balls to work on rolling at stationary and moving targets to help us get ready for the game! All of the warm ups this month will also be targeted toward working together as large and small groups.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Student Illness

Notify the school nurse with the nature of your child's absence. There are some students and staff at DMS who require special monitoring due to their immune systems and susceptibility to viral illnesses, so please inform the nurse as soon as possible when your child is ill so she can take the steps necessary to keep everyone as healthy as possible at school. If your child is diagnosed with the flu or any other severe respiratory conditions, please notify the nurse as soon as possible.

Everyday Preventive Actions Can Help Fight Germs, Like Flu

CDC recommends three actions to fight flu.

1. The first and most important step is to get a flu vaccination each year.
2. If you get sick with flu, take prescription antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them. Early treatment is especially important for the elderly, the very young, people with certain chronic health conditions, and pregnant women.
3. Take everyday preventive actions that may slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like flu. The link below is to a flier which contains information about everyday preventive actions:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/everyday-preventive-actions-8.5x11.pdf>

Administration of Medication / Cough Drops

Medication may be administered in school with a written order from the medical provider and signed by the parent. Medication must be brought to the school nurse by the parent or guardian in a pharmacy-labeled bottle or in the original container. Medication remaining at the end of the school year must be picked up by the parent or it will be destroyed. Cough drops may be given to students with a written note from the parent/ guardian. Cough drops are to be stored in the nurse's office.

Your cooperation is greatly instrumental in helping to keep the DMS community **healthy!** Please reach out to the nurse anytime you have a medical question or concern. We are here to help keep your child safe, healthy, and in school!

How to Wash Your Hands



1. Turn on the sink using warm water and wet hands.
2. Use enough soap to make plenty of suds.
3. Wash on the backside of your hands, between your fingers, around your wrists, and on your palms.
4. Rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds (ABC's or Happy Birthday song).
5. Rinse your hands.
6. Dry your hands using a paper towel.
7. Turn off the sink using the paper towel so you do not get more germs from the faucet.
8. Teach your family how they can wash their hands too!

Nurse Lori

DMSnurse@stoningtonschools.org

TRIVIA NIGHT

TO BENEFIT DEANS MILL SCHOOL PTO

JANUARY 31 @ THE WESTERLY YACHT CLUB
TABLE SET UP STARTS @ 6 WITH TRIVIA @ 7

\$25 TICKETS - BYO FOOD - CASH BAR
INDIVIDUAL TICKETS OR TABLES OF 8 OR 10

COSTUMES & TABLE DECOR ENCOURAGED!
TABLE PRIZES, GRAND PRIZE, & MORE!

THEME: FAMOUS MOVIE, TV, & MUSIC STARS!

21+ EVENT - RSVP BY JANUARY 10
QUESTIONS TO KATIE @ QUINLANPTO@GMAIL.COM

Deans Mill School

ON-ICE PERFORMANCE WITH THE PROVIDENCE BRUINS



INCLUDES TICKET + HAT, POPCORN & DRINK FOR ALL KIDS IN THE GROUP!

FEATURING GREAT SEATS FOR

SUNDAY FEB 9



vs.



3:05 VS. BRIDGEPORT

AT THE DUNKIN' DONUTS CENTER

\$22 PER PERSON

LIMITED TIME
SPECIAL OFFER

FEATURING GREAT SEATS TOGETHER AS A GROUP!

PURCHASE INSTRUCTIONS

To purchase tickets please fill out the order form below and return it to the school as soon as possible with cash or check made payable to the DMS PTO by January 24th. For more information please contact Tracy Brunelle @ (860)334-5379.

_____ # of tickets x \$ _____ = \$ _____

Game Date: _____

_____ # OF KIDS
IN YOUR GROUP

Student's Name: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ Grade: _____

CHECK # _____

Parent Name: _____

CASH \$ _____

Phone (D): _____ Email Address: _____

DMS PTO January 27, 2020 Agenda

1. Call meeting to Order
2. Officers:
 - President- Katie Quinlan,
 - Vice-President- Jenni Adkins,
 - Treasurer- Tracy Brunelle,
 - Secretary- Jennifer Flynn
3. Secretary Report: Minutes from November's Meeting- Approval?
4. Treasurer Report: Approval?
5. New Business
 - a. Principal's Report- Jenn McCurdy & Tom Bousquet
 - b. Up Coming Chair Committee Updates
 - (a) Outdoor Classroom - Laura Jackson
 - (b) 5th Grade Party- Suzy deLabry, Morgan Adair, Liza McBain
 - (c) Trivia Night -1/31 Katie Quinlan
 - (d) Movie Night- 2/21 Jenn Flynn
 - (e) Science & Math Fair- 2/26 Merin Troutman (looking for cochair)
 - (f) Bruins Game- 2/2 Emily McMinn
 - (g) Book Fair- Heidi & Stephanie
 - (h) Art & Music Night k-2 3/19 Jenn Adkins, Emily & Hilary
 - (i) Basket Raffle & Pasta Dinner NEED Committee!
6. Old Business
 - a. Girl's Night Out
 - b. Box tops- Jessica Lindenmayer
 - c. Annual Appeal- Tracy Brunelle
 - d. Giving Tree- Liza McBain- Thank you Liza!!!
 - e. Directory- Thank you Sandra
7. Help Wanted!!
 - a. Treasure Officer for next year
 - b. Chair for Basket Raffle
 - c. Chair for Pasta Dinner
 - d. Chair for new flower pots at DMS
8. Important Dates
 - a. 1/31- Trivia Night
 - b. 3/5- Early Release
 - c. 2/17- No School
 - d. 2/18- Snow make-up day
 - e. 2/21- Movie Night
 - f. 2/26- Math & Science Fair
 - g. 3/16- PTO Meeting 5:30-6:30

Draft: **Deans Mill School PTO Meeting Minutes**

Date: November 25, 2019

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by PTO President, Katie Quinlan at 5:35 p.m.
2. **In Attendance:** Principal- Jenn McCurdy, PTO President-Katie Quinlan, PTO Vice President- Jenni Adkins, PTO Treasurer- Tracy Brunelle, PTO Secretary- Jennifer Flynn, Jessica Lindenmayer, Hillary Biernacki, Mardi Mellow, Danielle McGuire, Jasmine Myers, Timmy Lebling, Renee Maheu, Victoria Lettiero, Susy Diana, Laura Moore, Matt Buck, Roxanne Buck, Ashley Sewell, and Laura Jackson. Introductions were made.
3. **Secretary's Report:** Approval of Minutes- Reviewed 9/16/19 PTO Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve by Jenni Adkins, second by Jasmine Myers. All in favor unanimous.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** As of November 7, 2019 the register balance is \$47,119.95 with \$8,794.19 in uncleared transactions, making a register balance of \$55,914.14. Above information can be found in the reconciliation report by Tracy Brunelle. PTO 2019-2020 Budget Vs. Actual was reviewed with a total budget of \$33,350.00. Motion to approve by Jenni Adkins, second by Mardi Mellow. All in favor unanimous.
5. **New Business:**

Outdoor Classroom Presentation- Presentation given by Laura Jackson. Discussed benefits, cost, location & concept of an outdoor classroom. After open discussion, motion to start a sub committee was made. Motion to approve Jasmine Myers, second by Jessica Lindenmayer. All in favor unanimous. Sub committee will report back to PTO with cost & fundraising projection if needed.

Principal's Report- Principal Jenn McCurdy provided this update.

 - Gaga Pit is being installed and should be ready for December 2019.
 - Reminder to pack students appropriate clothing and footwear for outdoor recess.
 - Student Senate. Fifth graders. Completed Thanksgiving coin drive. Thank you to all who donated to help the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. \$1,500.00 raised. Statewide Pajama Day scheduled for December 13, 2019 to benefit CT Children's Hospital. Information to be sent home. Kindness week will occur in wintertime.
 - During winter holidays, Grade 2 will be organizing & collecting food for annual can drive to benefit United Way. Students can attend staff on staff basketball game if classroom meets minimum amount of can donations.
 - Girls Night Out Program being offered on 12/9/19. Grades 4 & 5. Students can bring an adult female of their choice & discuss puberty & body changes, which is part of the Health & P.E. curriculum.
 - Several custodial changes at DMS. Three custodians are retiring this year. Staff have been reallocated appropriately.
 - A new full time paraprofessional has been hired recently, and as of November 26, 2019 there is a vacancy for another full time paraprofessional position (29 hours/week). Contact Jenn McCurdy if interested.

- The act of students taking buses to destinations other than home is being reviewed in January 2020. The new idea would entail a bus plan for the week, instead of allowing students to change their dismissal plan on a daily basis, as they are currently able to do. Safety has become a concern with daily changes and managing these changes for every student.
- Board of Education has a sub committee that is looking at "Waiting until 8th." Meaning a student would take a pledge to wait until 8th grade to get a smart phone, as cell phone use at school is a distraction. More information to come depending on the direction that the board takes with the matter.

Upcoming Chair Committee Updates:

Girl's Night Out- PTO will donate gift bags that each female student will receive at this event. Motion to approve \$500.00 budget for gift bags, Jessica Lindenmayer. Second, Tracy Brunelle. All in favor unanimous.

Box Tops- Chair: Jessica Lindenmayer. Over 5,000 box tops have been turned in. Continue to use app. and clip box tops. Next collection will be at end of February 2020, and another collection at end of school year.

Annual Appeal- Chair: Tracy Brunelle. Goal is set at \$3,000.00 for this year. Discussed possibly starting collection sooner next school year to allow more time for donations to be matched appropriately by sponsors.

Liaisons Update- Head liaison is Ashley Couto-Tewell. Email lists have been provided to each classroom liaison, so they can contact their respective classroom parents as needed.

Scrapbook Theater- Started November 12, 2019. Held on Tuesday & Thursday nights. Show is scheduled for end of January.

Fifth Grade Party- Chairs: Suzy deLabry, Morgan Adair, & Liza McBain. First meeting has been held & appropriate planning is being made for Bowling Night and Fifth Grade Party.

Giving Tree- this will be the final year that this is being organized by Liza McBain. PTO is seeking a new chair for next school year. Please contact Katie Quinlan or Liza McBain if interested. Tree will be set up early December.

Directory- all information has been gathered and is being sorted and organized. Physical directory expected to be dispersed in early January 2020.

Trivia Night- Scheduled for 1/31/20. Super Stars themed. Possible committee to be formed at beginning of January.

6. Old Business:

Picture Day: Thank you Shanna Garritt and team to make the process smooth. Retakes scheduled for 11/7/19.

Book Fair: Thank you to Heidii Redfern & Stephanie Gagnon for all of your hard work. PTO cash profit was \$2,500.00. Next book fair will be held in the Spring.

Apparel: Chair- Jenni Adkins. Apparel orders have been sent home with students. Extra apparel has been ordered to be kept on hand for sale. Current deficit of \$573.60.

Fall Festival: PTO profit was \$7,303.72. Great turnout this year. Thank you to all who attended, donated, and volunteered.

Movie Night: Was held on 11/15/19. PTO profit was \$745.94. Discussion was held in regard to next Movie Night, to possibly have two movies. One for younger students and then a different movie, later in the night, for older students.

Mum Sale: PTO profit was \$2,245.00. No wreath and poinsettia sale this year. Pequot plant farm has them for sale if you would like to purchase there.

7. Help Wanted:

Chair for Giving Tree with PNC for next year
PTO Treasurer for next year
Chair for Basket Raffle
Chair for Pasta Dinner
Co Chair for Math & Science Night

8. Important Dates:

11/27- Early Release
11/28-11/29- No School/Thanksgiving Recess
12/9- Girls Night Out
12/20- Early Release
12/23-1/1/20 -Holiday Recess
1/20- No School (MLK Day)
1/27- PTO Meeting (5:30 p.m. -6:30 p.m.)

Meeting was adjourned by PTO President, Katie Quinlan, at 6:33 p.m.

Minutes were transcribed by PTO Secretary, Jennifer Flynn.

Science & Math Fair

The Deans Mill School Science and Math Fair will be held at DMS on Wednesday, February 26th, 2020. This is a fun, non-competitive event that allows students to present a Math or Science topic of their choice. **The PTO is seeking one or two parent volunteers** to help with badge/certificate/ribbon preparations and to be present for set up on the day of the fair. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Merin Troutman (merintroutman@yahoo.com) for more information. Registration forms will be sent home with students in late January. See you at the Fair!

