



DMS Newsflash

F e b r u a r y 2 0 2 0

Since the winter break, we have witnessed an uptick in the number of students who are bringing personal electronic devices, including cell phones and smartwatches, to school. While electronic devices can be beneficial for parent & child communication or in emergency situations, these devices can negatively impact the educational environment and create distractions.

SPS & DMS POLICIES WITH REGARD TO ELECTRONIC DEVICES

While students may possess electronic devices, privately owned technological devices may not be used during the school day, including at lunch, recess, and on the bus (Stonington BOE policy 5131.81b). Stonington Public Schools is not responsible if a personal cell phone or electronic device is lost, stolen, or damaged at the bus stop, on the bus, on a field trip, at a school-sponsored event, or at school.

For safety reasons, students may possess wireless devices before and after school activities. However, personal cell phones and electronic devices should not be visible and must be turned off and remain in the student's locker during the school day. If a cellular device is visible or smartwatch is being used during regular school hours without permission and is a distraction to the educational environment, the student will be asked to put the device in his or her locker. If the distraction continues and/or the device is being used in a way that is not respecting the privacy of others, the student may be subject to disciplinary consequences and confiscation of the device. Parents, upon appearing at school, will be given the confiscated device.

Our policies and procedures with electronic devices have been created to maximize learning time, respect student privacy, and encourage our students to make responsible decisions with their electronic devices. As our older students start to explore social media, we are working to educate students and parents about appropriate use and potential pitfalls. Stonington Youth Officer Paige recently came into DMS to speak to our 5th grade students about online safety and how to appropriately utilize electronic devices.

Please refer to "Social Media Vs. Tweens" on page 2 of this issue for more information on helping your child navigate social media and the online world.

Thank you for your support and for working to ensure your child engages in the appropriate and safe usage of electronic devices.



Personal Electronic Devices

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Important Dates

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 100th Day of School (pending no further school cancellations)
- 13 Board of Education • District Office • 7 PM
- 17 Presidents' Day Observance • No School
- 21 Spirit Day • Wear flannel or a striped shirt
- 21 DMS PTO Movie Night • 6 PM
- 26 DMS Math & Science Night • 6:30 PM

March

- 2-6 Read Across America Week
- 2-6 DMS Book Fair
- 10 SPS Elementary Math Night • Stonington High School • 6 PM
- 12 Board of Education Meeting • District Office • 7 PM
- 16 PTO Meeting • Deans Mill School Cafeteria • 5:30 PM
- 20 Spirit Day • Wear Yellow to Support Downs Syndrome
- 27 DMS Basket Raffle & Pasta Dinner • 5 to 7 PM • DMS

Please Note

Social Media vs. Tweens



Do you know what is really happening with your tween on social media? Popular apps like TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram may seem like innocent fun, but they are actually far more dangerous for tweens than people think. Social media apps are the #1 cause of bullying (both online and offline) and decreased self-esteem among tweens. They are also the most frequently visited sites for online predators. All social media sites are not recommended for children under the age of 13. However, if your tween does have a social media account, be sure to take necessary precautions.

Here's what you can do:

- **Make sure your child's accounts are set to private in the privacy settings**
- **Have your child give you his or her passwords for all accounts**
- **Monitor what your child is posting, liking, sharing, and commenting on**
- **Check your child's private messages**
- **Be sure you and your child have met in person everyone who is following their accounts**
- **Do not allow your child to share or post any identifying information (ex. address, pictures wearing school apparel, phone numbers)**

Want to know more? Go to <https://smartsocial.com/> and sign-up for the weekly newsletter to be informed on the latest trends and dangers developing in social media.

Family Math Night

Grab your family and head to Stonington High School!

It's time to have some fun with math!



Tuesday, March 10th
• 6PM - 7PM

Elementary Family Fun
Math Event (K-5)
at SHS Commons



**Save
the
Date!**

Fifth Grade Party Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2020
at Breakwater
~ More information to follow ~

**Save
the
Date!**

Science & Math Fair



Calling YOUNG SCIENTISTS to the 2020 DMS Science and Math Fair

WHO: Kindergarten – Fifth Grade

WHEN: Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 6:30-8PM

WHERE: Stonington High School Cafeteria/Commons

WHAT: Explore personal curiosities about science and/or math. At the fair, students present what they've learned with a poster, activity and/or hands-on demonstration*

*NO open flames, live animals or large projectiles. Food projects are allowed however food/candy handouts are not permitted.

- Students can work alone or in a group (max 4 people)
- The Fair is non-competitive; students show work at their comfort level
- Sponsored by the DMS PTO
- Co-chairs: Merin Troutman 860-460-2364; merintroutman@yahoo.com
Tessa Getchis 860-367-4602; tessagetchis@gmail.com

Complete the registration form below and return to your teacher by Friday, February 7, 2020
OR email project submission to merintroutman@yahoo.com. An email confirmation will be sent when registration is received.

→→Need an idea? Search “DIY Science Projects for Kids” online to get started!

Name of Student(s)

Grade/Teacher

e-mail

.....
.....
.....
.....

Project title:

Short Description:

.....

.....

Do you need (check box): Electrical outlet? ☐ Extra demo/floor space? ☐

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



Third grade students have just started a new project about atmospheric perspective. We are looking at photographs of mountains so we can see for ourselves that distant, far-away mountains appear lighter and less clear than those that are close. Using atmospheric perspective to convey distance in paintings has been observed as far back as the 16th century! After learning about atmospheric perspective, we will draw mountains and use tints to paint them dark to light. Also, **all** students should be bringing home a progress report from their specials classes between now and the first week in February. Please contact me with any questions. Please note: Music and Arts Night for K-2 is March 19th!

Music

Mrs. McMinn



This month third graders will conclude their recorder unit. It has been fun and challenging for students to learn a new instrument and how to play notes *mi*, *re*, *do* on the recorder. They learned how to play "Hot Cross Buns," "Mary Had a Little Lamb," "New Year Recorders," and how to improvise or "make up music on the spot." A lot of jazz and blues music features players who improvise. Students took turns playing "question" and "answer" phrases with partners. Their "question" had to end on "*mi*" and the "answer" had to end on "*do*" to make it sound final, just like a regular conversation. If you have a recorder at home, I encourage you to keep practicing and creating music. I look forward to having the students continue their recorder skills next year in 4th grade! Save the dates: Sunday, February 9, 2020, 3:05 P.M. 4th and 5th grade general music students will sing at a Providence Bruins hockey game. All DMS families are invited to attend the game Thursday, March 19, 2020, Music and Arts Night Grades K-2 in the DMS gymnasium.

5th Grade Band

Fifth grade band students have started to prepare for their upcoming April performances! (Grades 3-5 Music and Arts Night on April 7th, and Band Jamboree on April 22nd). We have practiced playing songs with solo, soli and tutti sections, and we will apply this to some of our band pieces in the coming month. Recently students have been improvising and echoing rhythm patterns. We often make a musical game out of this! Ask your child to explain "Don't Drop the Ball/ Don't Drop the Beat." We will continue to examine musical form in the songs we play, which will help students to practice more systematically, approaching sections of songs rather than simply trying to run straight through all of their music. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging your children to practice at home, and in helping them to bring their instruments to school on band days.

CONTINUED

Library**Mrs. Anderson-Halbert**

Wow! It is hard to believe that we have come to the half-way point in the school year. During the Spring Semester, all Library Media classes will be taught by our certified Elementary Librarian, Kirsten Anderson-Halbert. During library time, depending on grade level, students will participate in author studies, parts of a book, differences between fiction and nonfiction, basic online safety, writing a research paper, plagiarism, and copyright, using the library catalog/organization and simple computer coding. Also, we welcome Ms. Leslie Dwyer as the new Library Paraprofessional. She will continue assisting Mrs. Anderson in the library. Rachele Limberakis, our district's Technology Integration Specialist, will be teaching STEM classes at West Vine Street School for the remainder of the year.

Physical Education**Mrs. LaPalme**

This month, third grade students will start to work on basketball skills. The students will work on fundamentals of basketball while continuing to work on their fitness.



Save the Dates!

Deans Mill School Music and Arts Nights Held at DMS**Thursday, March 19, 2020**

5:00 PM – 7:15 PM Grades K-2 Art Show
 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM Grade K Concert
 6:15 PM – 6:45 PM Grade 1 Concert
 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM Grade 2 Concert

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

5:00 PM – 7:15 PM Grades 3-5 Art Show
 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM Grade 3 Concert
 6:15 PM – 6:45 PM Grade 4 Concert
 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM Grade 5 Concert
 (Band and general music students)

**Save
the
Date!**

Dental Health

February is National Children's Dental Health Month

To properly brush your teeth you will need to be prepared. You should have:

- a toothbrush
- fluoride toothpaste
- floss
- mouthwash (optional)

Now let's get started!

- Wet your brush with a small amount of water. Put a small amount of toothpaste – about the size of a pea – on the toothbrush.
- Insert the toothbrush into your mouth to your gum line and use gentle, short circular strokes to brush your front teeth.
- Brush the outside surfaces of your teeth, making sure to get the back molars and upper areas of your chewing surfaces.
- Flip the toothbrush upside down to get the inside surface of your top front teeth. Flip it back around to get the inside surface of your bottom front teeth.
- Brush your tongue to get rid of any bacteria buildup, or plaque, that has gotten stuck there during the brushing process.
- Spit out the remnants of toothpaste, saliva, and water into a clean sink. Finish by rinsing your mouth with cold water.
- Don't forget to floss between each tooth.
- Have regular dental checkups, at least every six months.
- Change your toothbrush every three months.

The Community Health Center Mobile Dental Clinic will be coming to Deans Mill School in April. If you would like your child to receive convenient dental exams through the Mobile Dental Program, please email the school nurse and request a form to be sent home with your child.

(see flyer on following page)

Absence and Illness Policy

It is imperative during the cold and flu season that you are reminded of the illness policy. Notify the school nurse with the nature of your child's absence. Some students and staff at DMS 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. ** DMSnurse@stoningtonschools.org

"24-Hour Rule"

If a child complains of illness, has a temperature over 100 degrees, or is judged to be ill by the nurse, parents/guardians will be called. 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. If seen by a medical provider, please provide a doctor's note.

Nurse Lori

DMSnurse@stoningtonschools.org

Phone: 860-535-2235

Fax: 860-535-2392

CONTINUED

Community Health Center, Inc. Mobile Dental Program is at your school!

In-School Services Provided

Oral Health Services include:

- Screenings
- Exams
- Cleanings
- X-Rays
- Sealants
- Oral Health Education
- Restorative Care

The following fees/charges apply to Community Health Center, Inc.'s Mobile Dental Program:

- For patients enrolled in HUSKY/Medicaid, services are 100% covered with no additional fees or charges.
- For patients with private dental insurance, services are billed to insurance. Patient/Family is responsible for any deductible and/or co-pay.
- For patients with no dental insurance the following fees apply:
 - \$30 for Dental Hygiene visit (cleaning, x-rays, fluoride)
 - \$18 per visit for exam by the Dentist
 - \$25 per visit for sealants



Please keep this sheet for your records.

Questions or concerns? Call 860-347-6971 ext: 3796.

You can also enroll online: <http://www.sbhc1.com>

Mobile Dental Services are a division of Community Health Center, Inc.

www.chc1.com | Facebook/CHCInc | Twitter[@CHCConnecticut]

Spotted in January



Hawaiian Day



Leadership
Conference



PTO is looking for the following chair positions:

- Chair for Pasta Dinner
- Chair for Science & Technology Day
- Co Chair for Math & Science Fair



February Box Top Collection!

Please send in your Box Tops
by February 14th!

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

TIME TO TURN IN YOUR BOX TOPS!

SEE THIS... CLIP IT

NO MORE CLIPPING
SCAN YOUR RECEIPT
SEE HOW AT BTFE.COM

SEE THIS... SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

See what's NEW at the

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Dates, Times, and Place

Come join us March 2nd - March 6th for the Spring Scholastic Jungle Book Fair! Celebrate Read Across America week by exploring the newest titles available to intrigue the minds of our young readers. The Book Fair will be located in the school gymnasium. Family night extended hours are available and open to friends and family on Wednesday, March 4th from 4-7 p.m. Volunteers will be needed to help run the fair. Be on the look out for a Sign-Up Genius link and email. Any help is so greatly appreciated! Please join us to help support our school and get your children excited to read with some WILD new books!

Thank you!
Any questions, please contact us!



All purchases benefit our school!

DMS PTO PRESENTS

MOVIE NIGHT

DISNEY'S LADY & THE TRAMP (PG) 2019
FEBRUARY 21ST AT 6:00 P.M.

DMS CAFETERIA

Doors open at 6 p.m.

Showtime 6:30 p.m.

Bring low chairs or blanket

Pizza, Snacks & Drinks

Available for Purchase



**Tickets are \$3.00 per person. \$12 max.
per family. Cash or Check only.**



**All kids must be accompanied by an
adult. Email Jen Flynn with any
questions at
jennifercarangelo@gmail.com**

***Please use double doors in cafe to
enter school, to assist with traffic
flow***