



DMS Newsflash

O c t o b e r 2 0 2 0

At-Home Learning Days Support

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As your child continues to acclimate to Hybrid or Distance learning, we wanted to offer you some tips to support at-home learning. We realize some of the different predicaments you are in as you try to best support your child and manage other responsibilities. It is a balancing act for many as some of our parents are working from home while their child learns, while others may rely upon family members or outside organizations to supervise and work with their children. While situations and children are different, here are some insights into how you can make at-home learning most productive for your child:

🍏 **Put structure in place by following a schedule.** While your child is required to attend 2-3 LIVE meets (Morning Meeting, Language Arts, and Math) on an at-home learning day, there is flexibility within the schedule. Please set up specific times for Language Arts and Math that work best to meet your child's learning needs while matching up with your family schedule.

🍏 **Schedule regular breaks for your child.** To chunk the school day, incorporate break times for your child to play with a sibling or pet, go outside, or help with something around the house. Try to keep your child off electronics during break times. Keep these breaks brief (10-15), and schedule them throughout the day.

🍏 **Let your child be challenged.** It is a natural response for a parent or caregiver to want to help a child when he/she is struggling with their academics. We want caregivers to support learning and offer appropriate assistance, but it is okay for your child to struggle at times, and we often learn a lot from mistakes! Let your child struggle through some things and work on some assignments independently. Errors in your child's work allows the classroom teacher to get valuable information on their learning and how to best support them. In some cases, students may be taking classroom and district assessments at home. Remember we want your child's assessments to be a true measure of what he or she can do. Your child's teacher will closely monitor various assessments and student work to appropriately support him/her.

What's Inside

1

Greetings from the Administration

2

Important Dates

Admin Notices

3

Bucket Challenge

Specials Update

4

Nurse's Notes

7

Mental Health

8

Book Fair

9

PTO News

CONTINUED

Allow for movement whenever possible.

We are fortunate to offer a variety of seating arrangements while students are learning in-person at DMS. Try to mimic possibilities at home. Some students may benefit from standing during learning, sitting at a wobbly chair, or reviewing math facts while doing jumping jacks.

Communicate with your child's teacher and the school.

Our teachers and entire staff are here to work with your children and you to provide the best learning environment possible. If you have questions about your child's assignments, learning style, or social/emotional development, please reach out.

We appreciate all of the support you have offered us throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and want to make our current environment as productive and enriching as possible for all of our students.

Sincerely,
Jenn & Tom



Important Dates

October

- 8 Board of Education Meeting
• District Office • 7 PM
- 12 No School • Columbus Day Observance
- 19-11/1 Virtual Book Fair
- 21-22 Early Dismissal for Conferences
• 12:10 PM
- 30 not 10/28 Mismatch Spirit Day (*note date change*)

November

- 3 Professional Development Day • No School
- 10 Virtual PTO Meeting • 6:30 PM
- 11 Veterans' Day Observance
• No School
- 12 Board of Education Meeting
• District Office • 7 PM
- 24 not 11/25 Stonington Spirit Day (*note date change*)
- 25 Early Dismissal • 12:10 PM
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Break



Handbook Revision

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The 2020-21 Deans Mill School Student Handbook has been revised to reflect changes to abide by guidelines related to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Please take a few minutes to read through the contents of the handbook through the attached link. In addition to the link below, the handbook can be accessed through the DMS School Website.

[2020-21 Deans Mill School Student Handbook](#)

Attendance Reminder

Please remember to report **all** student absences or tardies to the main office on all in-person or distance learning days. It is helpful to let your child's teacher know of any absence but attendance is tracked through the main office.



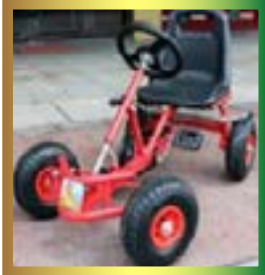
Bucket Challenges 20-21



Bucket Challenge assemblies will either be LIVE streamed or recorded. Goal to participate is 10 buckets per grade level for each challenge.

Go Kart Racing on the DMS Track!

When? Now through November



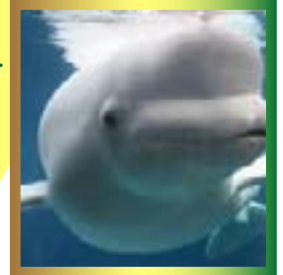
1

Mystic Aquarium Encounter

Earn the chance to participate in a virtual encounter for DMS only with an animal from the Mystic Aquarium. Could it be a seal, shark, otter, or something else?

When? December through February

2



Principals Walk the Plank at NESS

When? March through May

3



Specials Update

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.

We had a great first cycle with our students and are looking forward to seeing more familiar faces in cycle 2! Your child will have one special per cycle. The schedule for specials 10/13/20 through 11/13/20 is as follows:

	Art 	Music 	PE 	Library 
K	Hetu	Lettiero	Romano	Wade
1	Mellow	Watson	McKee	Rovella/Sartor
2	Bocian	Diana	Discordia	Wilkins
3	Whipple	O'Lari	Gill	Rogers
4	Morehouse	Pescatello	Scrimgeour	Durham
5	Salsich	Volpe	Barth	Lance

Remember to check your child's Seesaw (grades K-2) and Google Classroom (grades 3-5) account for weekly assignments, as well as their school email.

If you have any questions, please contact us:

kirsten.anderson@stoningtonschools.org (Library)

hillary.biernacki@stoningtonschools.org (Art)

emily.mcminn@stoningtonschools.org (Music)

cyndi.lapalme@stoningtonschools.org (PE)

Keeping Your Young Children Safe in the Time of COVID-19

IT CAN HAPPEN IN A FLASH WITH A SPLASH

LIQUID AND STEAM BURN LIKE FIRE



KEEPING YOUR YOUNG CHILDREN SAFE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

These are difficult times for everyone, especially for parents juggling the new demands related to social distancing, isolation, and a reduced support network. Keeping your young child safe from the burns and other hazards can be a full-time job!

- Your well-being is as critical as your child's.
- You may worry about taking a break and keeping your child safe at the same time
- There are resources to help both you and your child during this stressful time

Burn and Scald Injury Facts



BURN AND SCALD INJURY FACTS

Burns are very painful.

Recovery from severe and extensive burns is often very long and difficult.

Thermal burns from hot objects like curling, straightening or clothing irons cause most burns.

Hot water causes more than half of all scald burns in children.



BURN AND SCALD PREVENTION TIPS

Keep hot foods and drinks away from the edges of tables and counters.

Put hot items down (like a cup of coffee) before picking up or carrying a child.

Keep children away when you cook by using a highchair, pack n'play, gates, or supervision of another adult.

Cords of appliances should remain out of reach by winding or tucking cords away because children like to pull on cords.

Microwaves should not be used by young children and only with supervision for older children. Plates, cups and foods can be hot enough to burn.

Test water from faucets before washing children's hands, feet, or other body parts. Water can be unexpectedly hot and scald any age child. Check to be sure that the hot water heater that supplies your home is set at or below 120° F.

Supervise children near grills or in the presences of fireworks.



S.T.O.P. : FIRST AID FOR BURNS

S Strip off wet clothes and any jewelry.

T Turn cool water on and run over burn immediately, for at least 3-5 minutes.

O Organize medical assistance by calling 911 if the burn is more than the size of one of your child's palms.*If smaller than one palm, then call Primary Care Provider for next steps.

P Protect burn with a clean dry cloth. DO NOT apply creams, ointments, grease, or other home remedies.



RESOURCES

- **Food/Housing/Crisis Support:** The 2-1-1 Infoline has many resources (housing, utility assistance, food assistance, and crisis support). **Visit www.211ct.org or call 2-1-1.**
- **Child Development Infoline 2-1-1:** (CDI) supports children's healthy development starting from pregnancy with information, support, and referrals to CT programs and services for children and their families. **Call 1-800-505-7000 or visit their website at <https://cdi.211ct.org>.**
- **Parent-Child Supports:** Office of Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs support new parents and their child by answering questions, providing information on early childhood development, and connecting families to resources. You can connect to home visiting virtually during the COVID-19 crisis by calling **800-505-7000**. Medical Questions: Most primary care providers offer virtual visits. Call your primary care provider or the baby's pediatrician for specific questions/concerns.
- **Talk Line for Parent Support:** The "CT When it Builds Up, Talk it Out" talk line is for any parent who needs support. **Call 833-258-5011** to speak to a trained professional or visit **www.talkitoutct.com**.
- **Child First:** Helps to heal and protect children and families from the effects of chronic stress and trauma by fostering strong, nurturing, caregiver-child relationships, promoting adult capacity and connecting families with needed services and supports **<https://www.childfirst.org/our-network/state-affiliates/connecticut>**.
- **Abuse in Your Relationship/Unsafe at Home:** Bilingual advocates are available at CT Safe Connect for safety planning counseling, online restraining orders, and a safe connection to local domestic violence organizations for ongoing support, 24/7. Services are confidential, safe, free, and voluntary. Visit **<https://ctsafecconnect.com> or call 888-774-2900**.
- **Mental Health and Substance Use Support:** Call the access line 24/7 at **800-563-4086** or visit **<https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Programs-and-Services/Finding-Services/Finding-Services>**.
- **Warm Line:** The Warm Line is a mix of self-directed, empowering support and education that includes resources

Hearing and Vision Screenings

In October, hearing and vision screenings will be conducted on students in our schools as required by the Connecticut General Statutes for grades K-5. If a vision or hearing problem is suspected, the student will be rechecked at a second screening. If further consultation is recommended, families 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. If you have any recent updates from your child hearing or vision doctor, please provide them to the nurse as soon as possible.



Please help us to keep the DMS community healthy!

Our goal is to keep DMS as healthy as possible, especially during the pandemic, and we are asking that you follow the [Parent/Family Responsibility Form - Health Safety Requirements](#) and continue to evaluate your child daily before sending him or her to school.

As you know it is also cold, flu, and allergy season!

Please keep your child home if he or she is ill, and follow the "24 Hour Rule" for illnesses. Inform the nurse if your child has been diagnosed with the flu or any other communicable illness. If your child suffers from allergies, please speak with his or her doctor and manage symptoms as needed.

Prevent Flu and Illness

- Get a flu shot
- Cover nose and mouth with a tissue if you cough or sneeze
- Wash your hands with soap and water often
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth
- Maintain social distance
- Wear your mask



Mask should cover your mouth and nose, snug to the face.

Here is a link for CDC recommendations on flu prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/index.html>



Nurse Lori



Lori Tavares, BSN, RN
DMSnurse@stoningtonschools.org

Mental Health **Notes**

As the 2020-2021 school year gets underway, we know that Distance Learning days require students to shift from traditional learning styles. Below are some strategies and suggestions to help your students be successful while learning from home.

Top 10 Tips for Successful Distance Learning Days



MAINTAIN ROUTINES

- 1 Treat distance learning days just like an ordinary school day. Students should go to bed and wake up as they typically would for school.

MAKE A SCHEDULE

- 2 A picture or written schedule can help to keep track of the larger time blocks of the day and what activity is taking place when.

USE A CHECKLIST

- 3 It can be helpful for students to check-off tasks as they are completed.

SET TIMERS

- 4 Set timers to provide an audible cue that it is time to move to another task/activity. These can be especially helpful for live meets.

TAKE BREAKS

- 5 Plan breaks into the day that offer the opportunity to move and disconnect from the computer.

ALTERNATIVE SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

- 6 Explore different options such as standing at the table, laying on the floor, or balancing on a yoga ball.

CLEAR WORK ENVIRONMENT

- 7 Try to reduce the number of distractions (visual and auditory) within your learners immediate work area.

ALLOW FOR MISTAKES

- 8 We are all working to develop a growth mindset. Mistakes help us to learn and help our teachers know what we still need to work on.

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

- 9 Catch your child when he or she is doing the "right" thing and offer verbal praise.

BE FLEXIBLE

- 10 Be flexible with your child and yourself. Some days will be better than others, and that is okay!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher and/or a member of the mental health team if you have any questions or concerns.



IT'S SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR TIME!! *This school year is very different in many ways, but we are still able to bring the Scholastic Book Fair to you with ease and comfort in your own home, **100% ONLINE!** The Online Book Fair will run for 2 weeks, October 19th (12am EST) through November 1st (12am EST).*

During this time you will receive FREE shipping, directly to your home, on Book-Only orders over \$25. You may purchase additional non-book items but in order to receive free shipping you must spend the first \$25 in books.

Access our Book Fair through our homepage link - <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/deansmillelementaryschool> We will send this out in an email as well as post on the DMS PTO Facebook page as we get closer to the Fair going live. Be on the lookout for more information to come! As always all purchases benefit our school. More importantly let's keep our kids active in reading and expand those home libraries!

Thank you DMS Families for your continued support and love of books!

Co Chairs:

Heidii Redfern heidijredfern75@gmail.com

Stephanie Gagnon sgagnon7@gmail.com

ONLINE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR FALL 2020 DATES:

OCTOBER 19TH, 12AM EST - NOVEMBER 1ST, 12AM EST

DMS BOOK FAIR HOMEPAGE

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/deansmillelementaryschool>



Spirit Wear

Deans Mill School

LEARN. INSPIRE. GROW TOGETHER

Show your School Spirit with DMS Logo Apparel

#1



Short Sleeve Crew Neck T Shirt

100% cotton, Forest Green
Gildan Brand, Runs true to size.

#2



Short Sleeve V Neck T Shirt

100% cotton, White
Gildan Brand (adult, unisex fit)
L.A.T. Brand (youth, runs small, size up)

#3



Long Sleeve Crew Neck T Shirt

90/10 cotton/poly blend, heather grey
Next Level Brand (adult, unisex fit)
Gildan Brand (youth, true to size)



#4

Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt

50/50 Cotton/Poly Blend, Gildan Brand, Black, Runs true to size.



#5

Reusable Canvas Tote

10 oz. cotton canvas, Forest Green 22" handle



#6

Snapback Hat

100% Cotton Twill
Pro-style crown with snaps size adjuster

Deans Mill School

LEARN. INSPIRE. GROW TOGETHER

Oldest Student's Name: _____

HR Teacher & Grade: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Email: _____

Orders due by October 16th

Adult Sizes

#	Description	Price	AXS	AS	AM	AL	AXL	A2XL	Onesize	Quantity	Total
1	Short Sleeve Crew Neck T Shirt	\$10									
2	Short Sleeve V Neck T Shirt	\$10									
3	Long Sleeve Crew Neck T Shirt	\$15									
4	Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt	\$22									
5	Reusable Tote Bag	\$12	—	—	—	—	—	—			
6	Snapback Hat	\$12	—	—	—	—	—	—			
										TOTAL:	

Youth Sizes

#	Description	Price	YXS	YS	YM	YL	YXL	Onesize	Quantity	Total
1	Short Sleeve Crew Neck T Shirt	\$10								
2	Short Sleeve V Neck T Shirt	\$10								
3	Long Sleeve Crew Neck T Shirt	\$15								
4	Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt	\$22								
5	Reusable Tote Bag	\$12	—	—	—	—	—			
6	Snapback Hat	\$12	—	—	—	—	—			
									TOTAL:	

Return form with cash or check made payable to DMS PTO in envelope labeled: Apparel Order
Questions? Please email Jenni Adkins at jenniadkins16@gmail.com
 Orders will be sent home with your oldest child 2 weeks after our total school order is placed.

**The families of students who are full distance learning will be contacted via email
 when their apparel will be ready for pickup from the DMS front office.**

Mum Sale

Thank you to everyone in the DMS community, as well as local businesses, who supported this year's PTO mum sale. Even with a quick turnover this year, we did a great job with just shy of 1000 plants sold and a PTO profit of \$1,978. A big thank you to Pequot Plant Farm as well, for supplying us with such beautiful mum plants each year.

**Thank
you!**



Thank you!

from the DMS PTO!

Smile.Amazon.com



The AmazonSmile Foundation recently surpassed \$200 million in donations to charities world-wide! Our thanks go out to you, Deans Mill Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization supporters, and every supporter who shops at smile.amazon.com. This is a great moment to remind you to continue generating donations for Deans Mill Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization by shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/20-1092780 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app.

How to select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile:

On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you need to select your charitable organization, **Deans Mill Elementary School PTO**, to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile will result in a donation. It couldn't be easier!

It's so easy to
**Help Our
School!**
by shopping at
**smile.Amazon
.com**

**\$200 million donated
to charities**

Shop at smile.amazon.com or with
AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon
Shopping app to generate donations.

amazonsmile



A+ School Rewards



DEANS MILL SCHOOL PTO

Dear Supporter:

Welcome back to the start of a new school year and to a new year of A+ School Rewards! This year's A+ Program runs from August 7, 2020 through March 13, 2021.

Our school, Deans Mill School, **ID#:07852** has the opportunity to participate in and earn **CASH** from A+ School Rewards, a great fundraising program run through your local Stop & Shop!

Former Supporters:

You DO NOT need to re-register your card if your school selection(s) remains the same as last year.

New Supporters or Existing Supporters Wishing to Make Changes:

- Beginning *July 1, 2020*, visit stopandshop.com and select "SIGN IN" at the top right to log into your online account. Once logged in, you may select or modify your school choice. • If you do not have an online account, visit stopandshop.com and click "REGISTER". Follow the prompts to create your online account. Once logged in, follow the same instructions as noted above.
- You'll need your 13-digit STOP & SHOP CARD number and the School ID number. If you need assistance, call 1-877-366-2668 option 1.

To earn points:

- Use your registered STOP & SHOP CARD each time you shop at any Stop & Shop, and you will earn CASH for our school. You can confirm your school selection by logging into your account. • Earn points when shopping on line (delivery or pick up).
- At the end of each month, your points are calculated and converted to CASH rewards. These CASH rewards for our school are updated monthly. You can track our progress when you sign in to your online account.
- Our school will receive one CASH rewards check at the end of the program and can use this cash for any of our educational needs.

Also, please encourage your family members and friends to support our school. This could result in more cash rewards for our school!

Thank you for supporting our school.



A+ REWARDS PROGRAM 8/7/20 – 3/13/21

OUR SCHOOL: Deans Mill School

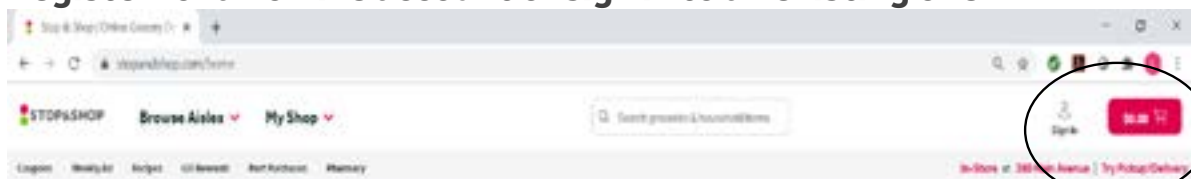
OUR ID#: 07852

Rewarding Your School is STILL as easy as 1-2-3!

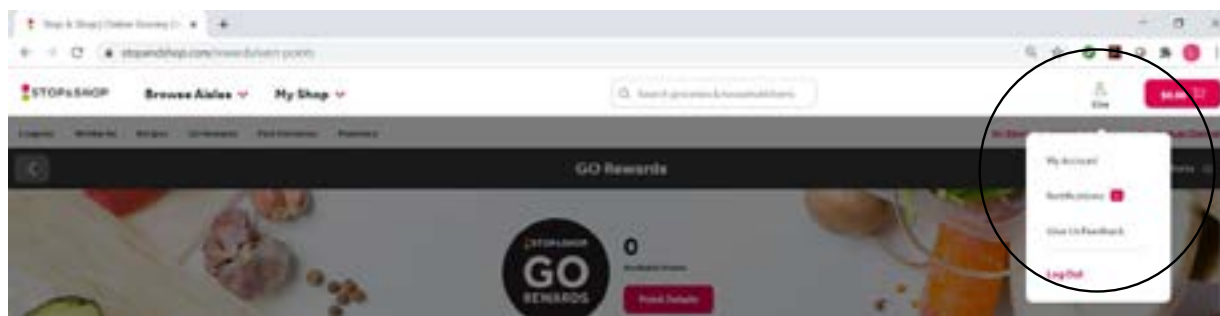
Get Started at STOPANDSHOP.com

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

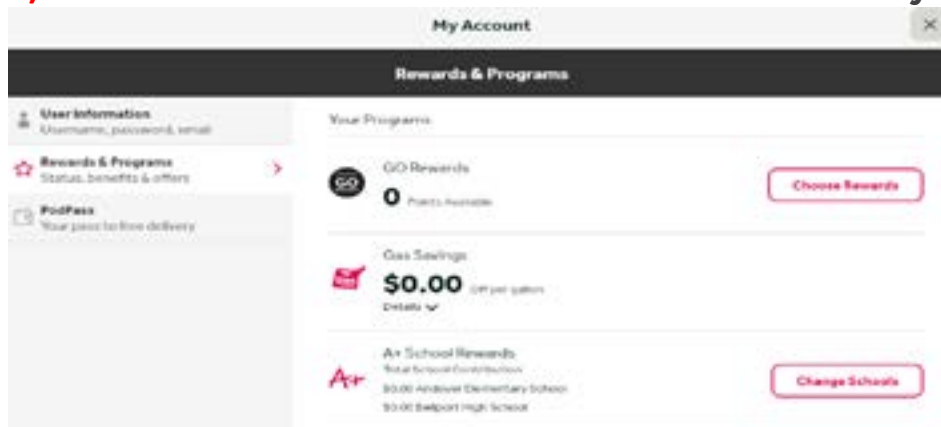
1) Register for an online account or sign in to an existing one:

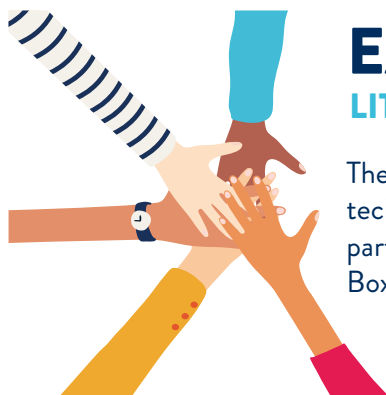


2) Access your account settings



3) Choose REWARDS & PROGRAMS then A+ to select your school(s)





EARN CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

LITTLE BY LITTLE WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

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

LOOK
FOR THE
LABEL:

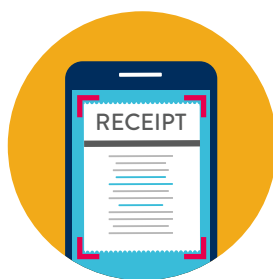


HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



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 YOUR SCHOOL

Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated online.

SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES ONLINE?

You can still earn Box Tops for your school with your e-receipt!

See how at [BTFE.com/emailgroceryreceipts](https://www.btfec.com/emailgroceryreceipts)



BOX TOPS CLIPS

You may occasionally find an old Box Tops clip on packages in stores. **You can still clip them and send them to school**, as long as each clip has a valid expiration date.

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE BOX TOPS APP AT [BTFE.COM](https://www.btfec.com)

© General Mills

DON'T HAVE THE BOX TOPS
APP YET? DOWNLOAD IT NOW:



It's so easy to
**Help Our
School!**
with Box Tops

Draft: Deans Mill School PTO Meeting Minutes**Date: September 15, 2020**

1. **Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order by PTO President, Katie Quinlan at 6:32 p.m.

2. **In Attendance**: Principal- Jenn McCurdy, Vice Principal- Tom Bousquet, PTO President- Katie Quinlan, PTO Secretary- Jen Flynn, Elyse Hicks, Ashley Tewell, Erin Janicek, Denise Kelly, Tracey Strelczuk, Claudia Hoddersen, Gregg Landry, Karen Balestracci, Joanna McClenathan, Merin Troutman, Aviva Kende.

3. **Secretary's Report**: No secretary minutes to approve as the previous PTO meeting was an informal, virtual meeting on April 29th.

4. **Treasurer's Report**: Beginning balance was \$54, 056.00. Register balance as of 9/15/20 is \$48, 823.80. Motion to approve by Tracey Strelczuk. Second, Ashley Tewell. All in favor unanimous. 2020-2021 Budget vs. Actual has a total projected budget of \$24, 460.00. Motion to approve by Ashley Tewell. Second, Merin Troutman. All in favor unanimous.

5. **New Business**:

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

-Students have been doing excellent with new schedule & daily attendance rate is 98% or higher.

-Academic routines are being slowly introduced. Please continue to be patient & supportive with live streaming glitches.

-Tech. Department is working to address an easier log in for K-2 with chrome books as well as address any issues with touch screens for the younger grades.

-Drop off and pick up procedures going well. Please don't arrive before 3:25 p.m. for pick up, as it causes traffic build up.

- SPS offering free breakfast & lunch to all students until the end of 2020, or until federal funding runs out.
- If you would like to order food for the days that your child is home, please use the link on SPS website, under Food Services, to do so.
- Tom Bousquet, Vice Principal, provided update in regard to Spirit Days which will be held one time per month. Mostly all will be held on Wednesdays, to include all students.
- Bucket challenges will also be held to maintain normalcy.
- DMS has a YouTube channel now & has the ability to live stream within the classrooms.
- Exploring possibility of virtual field trips for the school year.
- COVID numbers continue to be monitored for our area. Hybrid model must be successful before ever transitioning to additional days of in person learning.
- Thank you to all families for the donations, support, and patience for a great start to the school year.
- Individual yoga mats are being used for outdoor learning and are working well.

Upcoming Chair Committee Updates

Mum sale: Tracey Strelczuk. Orders due by 9/17. Pick up mums at Pequot Plant Farm from 9/18-9/25. Can pay by check or PayPal. First come, first serve.

Calendar update: Calendar will be projected on a month to month basis. Zoom meetings will be included on this.

Apparel: Jenni Adkins. Apparel sale will be run in October for a few weeks.

Box Tops: Tracy Brunelle. Register online to earn money for DMS. Also keep in mind to register for Stop & Shop rewards, as well as Amazon Smile. Information will be included in the October

Newsflash, in regard to signing up and registering for the above mentioned programs.

Liaisons: Sign up to be included in Virtual Back to School Night. Liaisons will be needed for each classroom.

Custodians Day: Jenni Adkins. October 2nd. Plans are underway to show appreciation for DMS custodians for all of their hard work and dedication to our school.

Book Fair: Heidii Redfern & Stephanie Gagnon. Book Fair will be held virtually in October. More information will be included in the October Newsflash.

Old Business

Donation Drive: \$10,000 worth of school supplies were donated. Supplies for teachers & students were all included.

Outdoor Classroom: Approximately \$4,000 has been spent so far on yoga mats, picnic tables, umbrellas, and white boards.

Beautification: Potted plants have been completed.

Recess Equipment: \$2,400 worth of equipment has been purchased. It is color coded by grade.

Behind the mask project: All teachers provided a photo of themselves that was made into a pin that they could wear each day at school. This enables the students to see their teachers faces, despite wearing masks.

Kindergarten Orientation: Kindergarten Orientation was held on August 27th and was a success. Students were able to meet their teachers & visit their classrooms.

Meeting was adjourned by PTO President, Katie Quinlan, at 7:27 p.m.

Minutes were transcribed by PTO Secretary, Jen Flynn