Dear Dawe School Families and Friends,

I hope that you are all doing well! I hope that all of you enjoyed your winter vacation and Happy New Year! Our Dawe Dragons worked very hard and accomplished many great things during the year 2017, now it is vital that we continue on with the progress to make 2018 a great year!

I wanted to use this Principal Newsletter as a way to pass along some important updates and information regarding various events occurring here at the school in the very near future!

**Caught with Character School-Wide Initiative:**

**This Month’s Character Trait is Self-Control.** Please be sure to include this in your everyday conversations with your children at home during the month of January!

**Next Month’s Character Trait is Integrity/Honesty.** As we get closer to the month of February, please begin discussing what the trait “Integrity/Honesty” means with your children at home. Integrity and Honesty are an important foundational trait that directly correlates to a student’s success both in and out of school.

**Makerspace at the Dawe:**

The Dawe School is currently in the process of converting our traditional technology classroom into our very own Makerspace. Makerspaces provide hands-on, creative ways to encourage students to design, experiment, build and invent as they deeply engage in science, engineering and tinkering. A makerspace is not solely a science lab, woodshop, computer lab or art room, but it may contain elements found in all of these familiar spaces. Mr. Relihan, our Technology teacher, is helping to spearhead the charge due to his passion in the field of technology and engineering. By transitioning our technology classroom into a Makerspace, we will be able to provide our students with a collaborative learning area where they have access to a wide variety of materials and equipment in order to create, modify, and develop projects that are a part of hypothetical real-world situations (*i.e.* designing and building an emergency airdrop package parachute system). Students’ participation in these engineering/design challenges will further promote their 21st Century Skills.
Dawe School Book Swap:

Prior to winter vacation, the Dawe School Literacy Leadership Team hosted a book swap to share a collection of new reading materials for students’ time off from school! Students were asked to gather all of their gently used books to bring to school between December 11th and December 14th. When the students brought their books to school, they gave them to their classroom teachers so that they could be submitted to the Book Swap.

On Tuesday, December 19, students were able to “shop” for as many books as they brought in to swap (ex. if a student donated 3 books, they had the opportunity to come home with 3 different/new books). The goal of the Book Swap was to get a new book in every student's hands to read over vacation! By the end of the swap, OVER 1,000 BOOKS WERE SENT HOME! Thanks to all of your generous donations, many students were able to take home at least 1 or more books!

Winter Concert:

On Friday, December 22nd, Dawe School students, parents, families, and friends were treated to a beautiful concert where our 4th and 5th grade chorus and band performers sang/played songs of the season and other sensational selections. Our Music teacher, Mr. Weigel, and our band instructors, Ms. Dorgan, Mrs. Horan, and Mr. DeFrias, led our Dawe Dragons through their wonderful performances and inspired them to play/sing with passion! Our Dawe Dragon teachers also got into the festive spirit by participating in a Holiday/Ugly Sweater Contest! It was a great day had by all!

4th Grade’s “Holidays Around the World”:

On Wednesday, December 20th, our 4th Grade Dawe Dragons held their annual Holidays Around the World event in our cafeteria. For their projects, our 4th grade students had to select a holiday from around the world, research it, and develop a poster board that identified the most important aspects of their holiday! This event was amazing and every student did a wonderful job! I could not believe how creative our Dawe Dragons were and it was nice to have such a great parent/family member turnout for the event!
5th Grade Spelling Bee:

Our Dawe Dragon 5th graders participated in a spelling bee on Thursday, December 21st! This spelling bee involved only our 5th grade Dawe students; however, this event acted as great practice for when the 5th graders compete later in the year for a chance to earn a spot at the district-wide 5th grade spelling bee! Eleven students participated in the finals of the Dawe Dragon 5th Grade Spelling Bee. After many rounds, the finalists were narrowed down to the Top 3, and then to 1 Top Speller. Congrats to all!

R.A.P. (Realize Anything’s Possible) Assembly:

A big “thank you” goes out to the PTO for funding the R.A.P. assembly for our Dawe Dragons and to all of you for the generous donations you made during this year’s Fun Run. The assembly was a huge success and the two hip-hop artists were able to spread a multitude of positive messages (believe in yourself, if you work hard you can achieve anything, judge people on their character and not on the way they look) in a style that was both interesting and entertaining for all of our Dawe Dragons. During the assembly we had a student “rhyme-off”, a teacher vs. student dance battle (of course the students won!), and the cafeteria was filled with students’ smiles during the assembly’s entirety.

REMINDERS:

1. New “One-Way Signage”: Be sure to follow the roadway direction of the new one-way signage that has been installed at the school site during all hours of the day and every day of the week. The installation of this one-way signage was explained in the letter I sent home Monday, November 20th. By following these new signs we are creating a safer school environment for all of our Dawe Dragons. I appreciate your cooperation with this new traffic pattern protocol.

2. School Hours: Students are marked tardy if they are not in the front doors of the school when the 8:30 bell rings. Students arriving after the 8:30 bell must be signed in at the office by an adult.

3. Winter Clothing for Outdoor Recess: Just as a quick reminder, now that the temperature we are experiencing during morning/afternoon recess is sometimes in the low 30’s and will only be getting lower as winter approaches, please make every effort to send your child to school with a jacket so that they are warm while playing outside. If you have any trouble at all obtaining a jacket for your child, please reach out to me via a phone call or email.

4. Parking Lot Etiquette: As you enter and exit the school parking lot, please drive at a slow rate of speed and be attentive to the crosswalk to ensure the safety of our students. Additionally, please be aware of and do not
utilize the designated parking spaces that are intended for the school vans. Furthermore, do not attempt to pass the school buses when they are parked and have their STOP signs out.

5. **School Snacks:** Please be sure to provide your child with a snack to be eaten during snack time each day. Due to allergy and school wellness policies, we are not able to provide students with snacks and we do not allow them to share with one another.

### Upcoming Important Events:

- **Popcorn Friday’s will be starting back up in January! Be on the lookout for a PTO flyer with more information!**
- January 2\(^{nd}\) – School Re-opens after Winter Break
- January 2\(^{nd}\) – Safety Patrol Training
- January 9\(^{th}\) – School Council
- January 10\(^{th}\) – Parent Engagement Center Event – Family Zumba at the Hansen School @ 6:30
- January 12\(^{nd}\) – *Block Kids* Building Competition for 1\(^{st}\) Graders
- January 13\(^{th}\) – PTO Sponsored Night at Altitude Trampoline Park
- January 15\(^{th}\) – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School
- January 18\(^{th}\) – PTO Meeting
- January 25\(^{th}\) – Early Release/Professional Development
- February 8\(^{th}\) – 2\(^{nd}\) Grade Safety Medication Assembly
- February 19\(^{th}\) – Start of February Vacation

Have a fantastic rest of your week and weekend! All of us here at the Dawe truly appreciate all of your support from home! A strong partnership between the school and home makes every student’s educational experience that much more meaningful and successful!

Sincerely,

Mr. Cancellieri
Principal

*If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.*