Principal Newsletter
Monday, December 3rd

Dear Dawe School Families and Friends,

I hope that you are all doing well! It has been very busy here at the Joseph R. Dawe, Jr. Elementary School! The teachers and students have been participating in fun activities and there is a strong sense of excitement surrounding the learning taking place inside each classroom. The temperature is getting colder outside, so please be sure to dress your children appropriately when sending them off to school – we will try to have outdoor recess as much as possible.

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

The excitement and buzz surrounding our Caught with Character program here at the Dawe Elementary School is still going strong! It was such a great moment seeing the students who were acknowledged for their respectful behavior during the month of November receiving their certificates in front of the whole school and getting their pictures taken to be hung in the lobby. The 20 minute Caught with Character assembly we held last month included a singing performance by our very own Mrs. Macdonald (2nd Grade Teacher), a digital read aloud of the story, “Teamwork Isn’t My Thing and I Don’t Like to Share”, and the dispersal of Respect certificates. This month the Character Trait students and teachers will be/have been focusing on is Cooperation. Teachers have been purposefully including the terms cooperation, teamwork, collaboration, and support in their everyday communication with their students and have even included it in their daily classroom routines and lessons. This month, teachers will be sending me “Moments of Cooperation” via email to include in my morning/afternoon announcements. I am so proud to say that my email inbox is usually inundated with these “moments” – WAY TO GO DRAGONS!

Next 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!
Dawe Dragons Take Over Barnes & Noble

Our annual takeover of the Walpole Barnes & Noble was another great success this year! There was a great turnout of Dawe Dragon students, parents, family members, and teachers! During the event at Barnes & Noble, those in attendance were treated to a special guest read-aloud by Mrs. Sewyck, Mrs. Macdonald, and Mr. Cancellieri. Additionally, our very talented 4th and 5th grade chorus performed holiday tunes in order to spread cheer throughout the audience. The Dawe School is lucky to have such a supportive community and this well-attended event stands as great proof of that.

Celebrating World Kindness Day at the Dawe

When Mrs. Buschenfeldt, the Dawe School Guidance Counselor, saw a video online called, “Abby’s Pay it Forward Project”, it inspired her and her Dawe school colleagues to show it to their Dawe Dragons. After viewing the video in classrooms across the school, the Dawe students made THANK YOU and APPRECIATION cards for the Stoughton Police Department and delivered them on World Kindness Day (November 13, 2018). Way to go Dawe Dragons!
**Dawe Staff Concert for our Dragons**

As a part of our incentive-based Fun Run prizes, our Dawe Staff put on a concert for our students the day school let out for Thanksgiving break. During the performance, our Dawe Dragons were treated to a variety of pop songs that were chosen by some of our top-earning classrooms. The entire assembly was very exciting and during its conclusion, our students even came onto the stage to dance along with their teachers! Please be sure to ask your child(ren) about the teacher performance – I am sure it is something they will never forget!

**Clothes for Colder Weather**

Just a quick reminder, now that the temperature we are experiencing during the morning/afternoon recess times is sometimes in the low 50’s and will only be dropping 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.

**Mrs. Perry’s Art Update**

The artists at the Dawe Elementary School are currently in their second year of exploring our choice-based art room. A choice-based or TAB (Teaching for Artistic Behavior) classroom is an environment in which students are treated as independent artists. Students are offered a multitude of choices and materials in order to create art that is personally meaningful to them. Each week students are able to create works of art using ideas that they develop on their own, while continuing to still learn skills and concepts that are appropriate to their age level.
The four centers that we have open so far are drawing, collage, sculpture and painting. The fiber arts and architecture centers will be opening soon. Responsibilities in these centers include learning how to properly take care of materials and how to use them in an appropriate manner, how to create pieces of art that utilize the many skills they are learning on a weekly basis and how to create connections between their own work and the work done by contemporary and past artists.

By far our most popular center is the sculpture center. Students are encouraged to make 3D art out of recycled materials such as cardboard, small wood scraps, plastic and foam. That being said, we are greatly in need of donations to keep this center up and running. Items such as empty food boxes that are cereal size or smaller, clean yogurt containers or any other type of small plastic recyclable, paper towel tubes, foam trays (no meat trays please) are all treasures that we could use. Other types of materials such as scrapbook paper, ribbon, and beads are welcome too. Be creative! Due to heavy demand we will not be able to continue this center throughout the year unless we have a steady stream of donations. Remember, nothing needs to be purchased! Clean recyclable materials or items that you have around the house are perfect!

I am also very happy to report that you can now catch a glimpse of what is going on in the art room by joining us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram!

Follow us at..........  
Twitter: @daweartists  
Facebook: Dawe School Artists  
Instagram: dawe.school.artists

More information about Teaching for Artistic Behavior can be found at:  
https://teachingforartisticbehavior.org

REMINDEERS:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Popcorn Fridays and School Store: The school store will be open in the school lobby every Friday morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. There is a wide variety of items for sale! Additionally, popcorn will be sold every Friday for 50 cents a bag! Thank you to our PTO!

Upcoming Important Events:

- December 3rd – Holiday School Store
- December 4th – School Council
- December 6th – Parent Teacher Conferences
- December 10th – 5th Grade Medication Safety Presentation
- December 13th – PTO Meeting at 6:30
- December 20th – Dawe School Book Swap
- December 21st – Winter Concert  
  - 9:00 - Family and Friends  
  - 10:15 - Dawe School
- December 24th – January 1st – Winter Break
- January 17th – PTO Meeting at 6:30
- January 18th – PTO Adult Social
- January 21rd – No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 22nd – School Council
- January 24th – Early Release
Have a fantastic rest of your week! 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.*