

OCTOBER 2024

# DAYTON AVENUE SHARK BITES

Sharing Small Pieces of Big Moments



**SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT'S  
INSIDE:**

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## **WELCOME BACK!**

**Dr. Watkis**

I love the beginning of each school year and the excitement it brings for the entire family. As the summer vacation came to an end, we were all getting excited for the new beginnings that naturally come with each year. This year, I looked forward to getting to see the incoming 3rd graders one more time and meeting new families. There was so much excitement among students and their families!

On September 4, we rolled out the red carpet to welcome our students. They returned excited to see old friends, make new friends, meet their new teachers and restored the life to our building. It has been exciting to see our students settle in and begin their journey on their individual paths to becoming successful students. I enjoy hearing about their goals and I look forward to celebrating accomplishments with them.

As we move through this year, I will share some small pieces of our big moments in our monthly newsletter and social media. I hope that you will take some time to read each newsletter.



# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND PBIS

## Leader in Me and PBIS

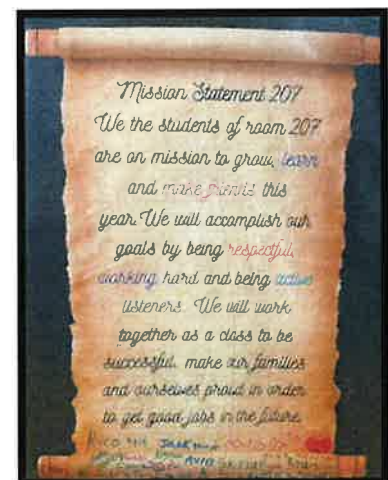
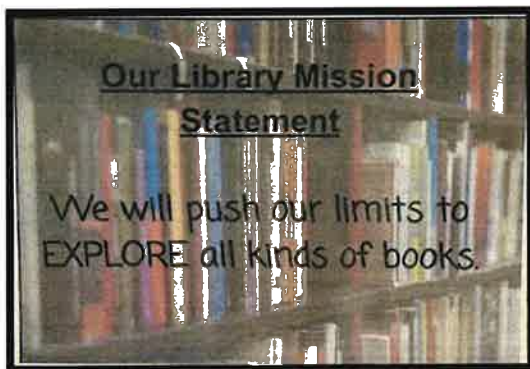
We will be continuing our journey with Leader in Me this year! We will use Leader in Me framework and resources to continue to support our students' leadership growth. As we continue to use Leader in Me curricular resources, we will help our students to develop competency in various areas which includes Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision Making. Our students will learn how to practice understanding and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others and establish and maintain positive relationships. I will also share some resources that families may use.

Beginning this month, our students will explore and apply a habit each month. October's habit is - Be Proactive. This habit teaches children that they are in charge of themselves and encourages them to develop a "can do" attitude.

We also incorporate PBIS into our everyday practices to improve student behaviors. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is another area in which we support student behavior. We started the year discussing respect for ourselves, each other and our school. Students participated in team building activities and of course, we dedicated time to focus on our mindsets!

This year, we will continue to use student portfolios. Student portfolios will help us to display the achievements of our students. Students have created "Widely Important Goals" for themselves and are committed to doing their best to meet their goals. Throughout the year, we will take the time to celebrate the achievements of our students. And of course, we look forward to celebrating with our families on our Leadership Days in the spring!

Would you like to encourage habit building at home? Please feel free to use the parent engagement resources that have been shared with you.





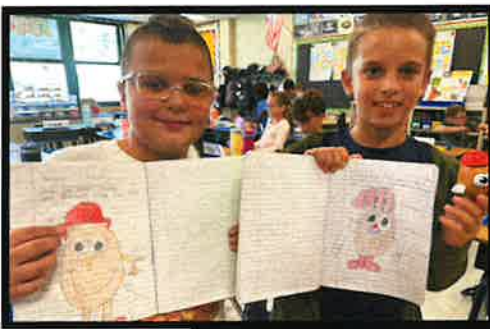
# CELEBRATIONS

## 3rd Grade

Third graders are beginning to rise up as our newest leaders. During the first few weeks of school, our 3rd grade teachers organized activities to foster team building, made new friends, and grew as leaders. as we move through each habit, Dayton's newest students will emerge as strong leaders!



## 4th Grade



Fourth graders kicked off our science unit with a fun and creative activity, focusing on the key skills of making observations, creating models, and labeling details. Each group observed their own unique Mr. Potato Head, then drew detailed models to capture their observations. This hands-on project helped reinforce the importance of accuracy and attention to detail in scientific exploration!

## 5th Grade

Fifth grade were students observed shifting shadows and played a game of shadow tag. Students measured their shadows at three different times throughout the day, observing that the sun appears to travel across the sky from east to west.



## 6th Grade

It was a day filled with learning, adventure, and plenty of smiles! Our 6th graders visited Sunken Meadow State Park where they explored nature and completed team building activities.

As part of the nature exploration activities, students hiked the scenic bluff trail, observed local flora and fauna, learned about the park's unique coastal ecosystem and Long Island's local nature and forestry, and its importance to our environment.

Students participated in team-building activities including physical games and worked with one another to problem solve during team competitions.



## Library

In library class, we recently read *The Magical Yet* by Angela DiTerlizzi, which sparked wonderful discussions about the students' goals for the year ahead. They enthusiastically shared their own "magical yet's," coming up with inspiring goals that reflected their dreams and the challenges they're eager to tackle.

This beautifully illustrated story invites readers to explore perseverance and the limitless potential within us all, reminding us that even when we face obstacles, there is always a "yet" that opens the door to future possibilities. It's truly exciting to see their heartfelt and imaginative responses as we embark on this journey together, showcasing their potential for growth both inside and outside of school!



## STEAM

Students jumped back into STEAM with team building challenges. Students worked on collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking. Perseverance was key because each challenge came with its own constraints. Some of these challenges included cup stacking, building the tallest tower out of paper, Lego communication, figuring out how to fit your head through an index card, and more! Students took notice of the new technology in the STEAM room, including 3D printers and a Glowforge. We're looking forward to a wonderful year.





## Music

This year, our 3rd graders will be introduced to styles of music and the emotions that various music evokes in the listener. They will learn to appreciate more of the diverse features of music. There is definitely excitement among our 4th graders as they continue on their musical journey by being in specific ensemble groups this year. Can you imagine the satisfaction of being able to produce your first notes on a new instrument? Soon they will have the confidence of our 5th and 6th graders who are beginning to explore new music with their big goal of performing for our school community in our concert in December.



## Hispanic Heritage Month

Students in Spanish class were introduced to Hispanic Heritage Month, what it means to have a heritage and some famous Hispanics who have made contributions to our society. Among these Hispanics were Frida Kahlo, Sonia Sotomayor, Isabelle Allende, Celia Cruz. As a school, we all extended our learning and focused specifically on two dances - Salsa and Bachata and the music that accompanies these dances.





# STAYING HEALTHY CHAT WITH NURSE GROSSKOPF

## Meet The School Nurse

Mrs G.(Linda Grosskopf,RN)

Dayton Avenue Elementary School

Phone: 631-801-3090

Fax- 631-878-6404

### Childhood

I grew up in Cortlandt Manor, NY, a small town near Bear Mountain. Science was always my favorite subject. Reading, roller skating and playing on the soccer team were my hobbies. I lived with my parents, an older brother and 2 dogs, Muffin and Cappy.


### Education and Experience

I went to StonyBrook University for Nursing. I have been a Neonatal Intensive Care Nurse for over 20 years, and 14 years ago I decided to switch careers and entered Pediatric Nursing. I have been Dayton's school nurse for over 14 years and have also spent countless hours working as a Telephonic Triage Nurse during the COVID pandemic.

I have lived in Manorville for 15 years with my husband Freddy, 4 children- Nick, Pat, Aimee and Jenna, and 2 dogs- Oscar and Onyx. My favorite place is Cupsogue beach, where you can find me all summer long reading my favorite books!

### What Dayton means to me

Dayton is my second family. I am so honored to work with the amazing staff, and feel proud to work here everyday. I LOVE children, all children, and take my job as the only health care provider in the building very seriously. I encourage anyone to call me directly with any health issues or concerns that develop during the school year. Please notify me of any changes in medication, recent surgeries or injuries, or any other important information that you feel I should be aware of while I am caring for your child.



# UPCOMING DATES

**October 3-4** - Schools & Offices Closed - Rosh Hashanah

**October 8** - Shared Decision Making Meeting

**October 9** - Picture Day

**October 14**- Columbus Day (School's Closed)

**October 16** - SMPTA Meeting at DAS



## REMINDERS



### Attendance Matters

Our school day begins at 8:30 and ends at 2:53. It is important that students arrive to school by 8:30 and remain in school until classes end at 2:53. Please let us know when your child(ren) will not be in school and send in doctor's notes so we may excuse absences for illnesses.



ParentSquare

### Communication

We use ParentSquare to stay in touch with our families. Download the app in the App Store or on Google play to receive important texts and other messages. You have the option of choosing how to receive information (such as text and email), when you receive them (immediately or at a set time) and in what language.



### Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast is served every day at 8:15am. All students at Dayton Avenue may receive one free breakfast every day. Students may also receive one free lunch every day. A la carte items are available for purchase.

### Student Dropoff and Pickup

Students may be dropped off beginning at 8:15am. Students attending extra help on the day assigned by their teachers may be dropped off at 8am.

Students being picked up are dismissed from the main entrance. We begin dismissing students being picked up at 2:53. Please send in a note if your child will be picked up at dismissal. Be sure to include the full name of the person picking up and that person should be prepared to show their license. All students must be picked up by 2:55. Students not picked up by 2:55 will be put on their home buses.

### Chromebooks

We use Chromebooks everyday. Students need to bring them in fully charged. Leave chargers at home

