

DAYTON AVENUE SHARK BITES

Sharing Small Pieces of Big Moments



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WE ARE UNIQUE IN MANY SPECIAL WAYS

Dr. Watkis

Every spring, I look forward to seeing flowers begin to bloom. The uniqueness in nature makes me think of the diversity in people, in our communities, our schools and families. Like flowers, we all have a feature that makes us unique and that requires us to be cared for in special ways to allow us to fully bloom. This month, we bring to the forefront and discuss autism to raise awareness.

We will also acknowledge our military-connected students. The different ways their parents and guardians serve our country shape the experiences of our students. We applaud them for their resilience.

Take some time to celebrate your uniqueness this month.

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



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND PBIS

Leader in Me

In April, we will explore Habit 7 - Sharpen the Saw. People who Sharpen the Saw value the importance of self care because it puts them in a position to be prepared to do everything they must do. This Habit focuses on taking care of the body by eating right, exercising and getting enough sleep. We are encouraged to spend time with family and friends. We are reminded that we learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. And we are challenged to find meaningful ways to help others. These practices are important because when we sharpen the saw, we are preserving and enhancing the greatest asset we have - ourselves. We regularly renew our body, mind, hearts and spirit.

We will value

- Taking care of our bodies, mind, heart and spirit
- Helping others in meaningful ways
- Spending time with family and friends
- Learning in different places
- Learning how to become a better person

Here's a recap of the Habits that we have covered.

Start with you...

Habit 1 - Be Proactive (You're in Charge)

Habit 2 - Begin With The End In Mind (Have a Plan)

Habit 3 - Put First Things First (Work First, Then Play)

Then play well with others...

Habit 4 - Think Win Win

Habit 5 - Seek First To Understand, Then To Be Understood

Habit 6 - Synergize (Together is Better)

And don't forget to take care of yourself!



Attendance Goal

Shout-out to each healthy student who shows up for school on time! We recognize your commitment to meeting your personal goals.

Our Student Leadership team has been committed to helping us track our progress in meeting our school attendance goal of 95% or higher each day. This month our average attendance rate was 93%.

CELEBRATIONS

3rd Grade

Third graders stepped back into history. Our young historians explored the World Fair with special guests from the the New York Historical Society using maps, special artifacts and postcards.



4th Grade

A Journey Through Time

Our 4th-graders took a step back in time to explore what life was like in the American colonies. Through a special museum walk, they examined pictures of daily life, jobs, and school during colonial times. As they looked closely at images, they noticed interesting details and asked great questions about how people lived long ago.

Students were fascinated by how different life was in the past compared to today. This hands-on experience helped bring history to life, and our students gained a deeper understanding of how much our world has changed over time.



5th Grade

Fifth grade students took a field trip to Caleb Smith State Park. They took part in a hike, learning about the ecosystem that makes up Long Island. They had meaningful discussions about decomposers, secondary and primary consumers. The students also conducted experiments that pertained to the three phases of matter. Lastly, they played a food web game, starting with the sun and progressing through the primary and secondary consumers and how each organism gets its energy.



CELEBRATIONS

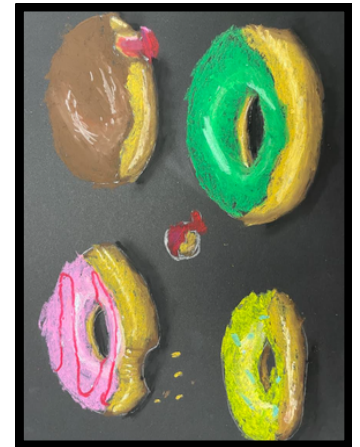
6th Grade

Students conducted a lab to explore how temperature affects evaporation which ties into their study of extreme weather and human impact; particularly the phenomena of increased drought and flooding over the last several years. They used soda bottles containing humidity sensors and placed hand warmers under half of the cups filled with wet and dry soil to simulate different temperatures and soil conditions. The other half of the cups in the experiment were left without the added heat. The students observed how the warmer temperatures caused the water in the bottles to evaporate more quickly, mirroring the impact of heat on water sources during extreme weather events. Through this hands-on activity, they gained a deeper understanding of how temperature influences evaporation rates and how such processes can be impacted by human activities and climate change.



Art

Fifth grade students studied the artwork of American artist Wayne Thiebaud. They loved his use of bold shadow and repetition when he created his works of sweet treats. They created these delicious looking oil pastel donuts in a similar style focusing on repetition and adding bold shadows.



Library

Students focused on Habit 6 from *The Leader in Me*: “Synergize - Together is Better!” We discussed how everyone has unique talents and perspectives, and when those are respected and brought together, amazing things can happen. Habit 6 isn’t just for school — it’s a skill we use in everyday life: in families, friendships, sports, clubs, and eventually in the workplace. Synergy is about solving problems in creative ways by truly listening to others and building on each other’s ideas.

To experience synergy in action, students worked in small groups on a fun challenge: building a LEGO tower without speaking. It was a tricky task that quickly showed how important communication is in any group project. Afterward, we talked about how real synergy involves both clear communication and respect for every team member’s ideas.

It’s been a meaningful and memorable week in the library, and students are learning that “Together is Better” isn’t just a saying — it’s a way to live and lead!



CELEBRATIONS

Music

Congratulations to these musicians who are being recognized this month. Keep on making music!

Band

4th Grade - Marc Camey Alvarado

5th Grade - Damian Berkowitz

6th Grade - Ronan Seyfarth



Chorus

3rd Grade: Giuseppe Morrone

4th Grade : Aria Bencini

5th Grade : Nicholas Pesci

6th Grade: Olivia Luck



Orchestra

4th Grade - Liliana Velasquez

5th Grade - Gabrielle Rodriguez

6th Grade - Cayden Hahn



STEAM

Students are kicking off their big Project Based Learning projects!

Our sixth graders are designing mini golf courses using pizza boxes. Fifth graders are exploring the world of stop-motion animation, bringing their creative ideas to life. Meanwhile, our fourth graders are building arcade games out of cardboard, inspired by the documentary Caine's Arcade. Finally, our third graders are designing jigsaw puzzles using Canva and the Glowforge.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed items to be used for our BIG projects. Your support makes these projects possible!

STAYING HEALTHY CHAT WITH NURSE GROSSKOPF



MEASLES

WHAT IS IT

Measles is an extremely contagious viral infection that has a high level of airborne transmission and can cause severe complications in children less than 5 years old.

Only humans get measles, not animals

HOW IT SPREADS

Measles is spread by coughing and sneezing, and droplets can live in the room for over 2 hours.



SYMPTOMS

Fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes
2-3 days later Koplik spots develop which are white inside the mouth
3-5 days later a head to toe rash will blossom with small flat red spots that can become raised bumps

COMPLICATIONS

- Ear infections
- Pneumonia
- Hospitalization
- Diarrhea



MMR VACCINE

Both the MMR and MMRV vaccines protect you from measles.

Children need 2 doses of this vaccine at:
12-15 months old and
4-6 years old

UPCOMING DATES



April 2 - DAS Spring Picture Day

April 3 - SMPTA Meeting @ Dayton 7pm

April 8 - DAS Shared Decision Meeting

April 9 - BOE Meeting 7pm

April 14-18 - Schools & Offices Closed - Spring Recess

April 23 - BOE Meeting 7pm

April 24 - SEPTO Carnival 6-8pm

April 25-26 - DAS Musical - Mary Poppins Jr.



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 call or send in doctor's notes so we may excuse absences for illnesses.

Updated Discipline Matrix

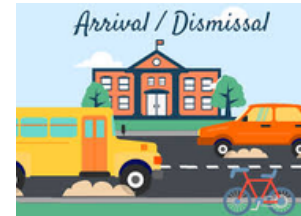
We recently updated our Code of Conduct and Discipline Matrix. All misconduct is always taken seriously and this matrix is designed to support fairness. Every incident is thoroughly investigated to support students in making better choices, not only to punish. Please find a copy of our matrix at our school webpage.



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.



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



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.