



# Dwight Elementary School

*2012 National Blue Ribbon School*

1600 Redding Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824



**Mimi Maniscalco**  
Principal

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August 18, 2014

Dear Dwight Families,

It's hard to believe that the summer is coming to an end and that we are preparing for a new school year. This summer was a busy productive summer for my family and me. We spent a great deal of time travelling around the country watching my sixteen year old son, Reece, play baseball. It was inspiring to observe so many young men chasing their dream of becoming a major league baseball player. Although they know their chances are slim, they put in 100% effort into methodically reaching their goal. A quote that one of Reece's trainers shared with me evoked a great deal of personal reflection which is directly connected to the work our Dwight community does with students. "A dream without a plan is just a wish." As adults, we need to help our little ones set goals and specific plans in order to achieve them. This year at Dwight, we will work together to ask students intriguing real-world questions, to set goals in which they are invested and passionate, and to identify where they are and how they can progress toward their goals. We will also focus on building a safe and nurturing environment so that students can take responsible risks in order to reach their full potential.

**We have wonderful new additions to our staff for the 2014-15 school year.** In kindergarten, we added a new section and Alicen Gachi is taking a year's leave of absence leaving two vacancies; filling those positions are Nicole Kalamaris and Katie Lahiff. We have also added a third section of second grade; filling that opening is Lindsay Molgano. Mark Maura, from Burr Elementary School will serve as one of our grade three teachers along with Susan Blum, our literacy coach from last year, and Elaine Casale who is moving up from grade two. Melissa Barbiero is moving up to grade five. Our new IIT/Gifted teacher is MaryJo French, our new part time language arts specialist is Karli Smith, and our new Math Science teacher is Jessica Kensek. We also have two speech and language pathologists who are new to Dwight, but come with vast experiences from both inside and outside our district: Nancy Winstead and Carol Held. Last but certainly not least, we have a new head custodian: Liz Mrozek. Dwight is growing and moving forward with an incredible staff to work with you and your children.

This year, we will use Infinite Campus for the vast majority of our communication. We will also maintain our website as it is a great vehicle for graphics, videos and links. Our PTA is supporting our effort to go green. They will be communicating with you through Dragon Tales and the PTA website. Our new PTA president, Jen Lubarsky, will be sending out valuable information to you this week. **Please make sure you join our INCREDIBLE PTA. Please also volunteer in some way. There are many opportunities that can be done from home or here at school.**

Here are some important dates of which you should take note:

August 27, 2014

11:00 AM

New Families Tour – Please meet in the front office

August 27, 2014

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

All School Visit Followed by PTA all school picnic

August 28, 2014

8:45 AM

First Day of School – Bring your camera!

August 28, 2014

9:00 AM

PTA Coffee Hour - APR

September 17, 2014

6:30 PM

Open House

One other date and time of which I'd like to make you aware is **August 29 at 2:00 PM. We will be having our first lock down drill.** This year, I will let you know ahead of time when we are having a lock down. Since this is the first one of the year, I also provided you with the time. It is of the utmost importance that we regularly practice both fire and lockdown drills. I so appreciated your cooperation last year as we increased and fine-tuned our safety procedures and protocols. I will look forward to your continued support this year.

Please look for communication from the PTA and from me! We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our students.

Enjoy the last lovely days of summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi Maniscalco