



# Dwight Elementary School

*2012 National Blue Ribbon School*

**1600 Redding Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824**



**Mimi Maniscalco**  
Principal

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December 17, 2014

Dear Parents,

December serves as a time to take inventory, and to create hopes and dreams for the New Year. As the principal of Dwight, when I take inventory, there are many accomplishments that warrant acknowledgement. At Dwight, both students and staff have been engaged in purposeful, rigorous and reflective work. When I visit classrooms, and ask students what they are working on, not only can they articulate the lesson objective, but; they can also reflect on where they are in their own learning. Teachers have dedicated themselves to providing students with specific feedback in order to help each child progress toward the learning goal. In addition, teachers are focused on asking students questions that invite them to think at high levels across subject areas.

As a school community, we have adopted a community building program from Responsive Classroom called CARES – Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self Control. We use all school meetings, buddy classroom time, our Buddy Bench, and classroom activities to help students understand that together we can build a productive warm environment in which to work and grow. Our inventory list also includes the start of Student Council, Newspaper Club, and coding in the LMC! We have a strong foundation on which to build.

Based on our inventory list and looking forward, our community can examine our hopes and dreams for the New Year. Where do we want to go next? How can we continue to improve? Who are we at Dwight? What is our main purpose? At Dwight, we believe that the teaching and learning process is paramount. While we adhere to our Fairfield Public Schools curriculum and benchmarks, the path we take with each student to achieve, is unique. Some students need more support, some need more extension. We are so fortunate work with a PTA and parent community that supports the education of the “whole child.” This year, we look forward to wonderful enrichment that is provided by the PTA. We also look forward to working together as a team to support all of our unique learners.

As we prepare for the holidays, and or New Year, take time to acknowledge the accomplishments and traditions among your family and friends. Then, honestly and bravely, set goals for the New Year and beyond. It’s difficult to break old habits, and venture into new territory. Aim high for 2015. Try something new. Work alongside of us in our work with your talented, beautiful children. Nightly reading, discussion, math problem solving, exploration, and exchanging thoughts and ideas at home will help your child, and our community in growing productive, creative citizens that will someday lead our world.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mimi Maniscalco".

Mimi Maniscalco