



Dwight Elementary School

2012 National Blue Ribbon School

**1600 Redding Road
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Mimi Maniscalco
Principal

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Dear Parents,

February is in full swing at Dwight; for such a short month, it is chock full of fun, festivities and educational opportunities. This year, we have expanded Diversity Day into a week-long event celebrating cultural diversity, generational diversity, celebration of the individual, and diversity related to special cognitive or physical challenges. This week will commence on Tuesday, February 16 and conclude on Friday, February 19. You will be invited in by classroom teachers to share a tradition or story that reflects your heritage. In addition, teachers are requesting that grandparents visit to communicate what it was like when they grew up and/or what it's like to be a senior member of society. Our PTA has graciously treated us to an assembly in which Brazilian Dancers will perform for us. Grade 5 students will complement our cultural diversity focus by sharing projects they created that reflect their heritage as well.

As is customary in February, classes will celebrate Valentine's Day with crafts and cards that convey kindness and love! I have already seen beautiful handmade mailboxes that bring back wonderful memories from when I was a child and eagerly awaited receiving cards from my friends and teachers. We will complement Valentines Day with an all school assembly focused on gratefulness and the message that grateful people are happier than those who are not; this will be lead by Safety Patrol. Our Safety Patrol attended a leadership conference last month which so profoundly inspired them that they want to share their learning with the entire school community!

I also want to communicate that Dwight had ten Poetry for Peace winners this year who were honored at Fairfield University last Friday evening at a kindergarten through grade 8 poetry reading. Students read thoughtful inspiring poetry that left adults smiling, tearful and pensive. Our winners and all other Dwight participants will be invited to read their poetry again at our March all school assembly that is focused on literacy in honor of Dr. Seuss. I am regularly amazed and humbled at the gifts, talents and bravery of our community of learners.

In closing, please remember to provide your children with appropriate outerwear for recess. We utilize a tool called the Child Weather Watch chart to make decisions as to determine whether we have indoor or outdoor recess. This chart takes into consideration both the wind-chill and temperature. In addition, we assess the safety of our grounds. It is our goal to take students out each day whenever possible and safe; appropriate clothing helps students enjoy and feel comfortable during the winter months.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,

Mimi Maniscalco

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