



Dwight Elementary School

2012 National Blue Ribbon School

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Principal

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Dear Families,

Well, March certainly has "Come in like a lion." Thank you again for your support this week. I am relieved to report that all students returned to school on Thursday and conducted business as usual. Our teachers and staff have debriefed with me and a member of the police department. We will do so again this week now that we have had an opportunity to reflect. Both the police department and Central Office commended our community, parents included, on its ability to follow protocol and keep all students safe and calm.

On a more positive note, March is Dr. Seuss's birthday month. At Dwight, we honor Dr. Seuss by celebrating literacy. This month, we had a wonderful family evening in which students heard stories read aloud by Dwight staff and had an opportunity to snuggle with their family to read favorite books. In addition, we have **March Madness** going on at Dwight this month. Staff has chosen sixteen fantastic picture books that are being read in buddy classrooms. We are narrowing down Dwight's favorite picture book. We are down to the final four. I can't wait to see which book wins! In keeping with the theme of literacy, this month's parent coffee centers on building the love literacy with your children at home. It will be lead by our language arts specialists, Karen Carelli and Karli Smith. Don't miss it! It is **THIS Monday, March 21 at 9:30 AM.**

Additionally, we begin **Spring Conferences** in March. Teachers are prepared to talk about your child's academic and social progress. Teacher have a wide variety of assessment data to share with you including both formal and informal assessments. **Day conferences are on March 30 and April 6; evening conferences are on March 31.** Please remember that these are half days, and our PTA has provided mini After the Bell classes for students! They have been very popular.

Finally, CMT and SBA testing will begin this month as well. Grade 5 students will take the Science CMT on Tuesday, March 22. Grade 3 students will begin SBA testing on March 29. You can support your child by ensuring that they get a good night's sleep, eat breakfast, and encourage them to do their best. Assure children that their best is all we expect. There will always be some questions that they don't know, and that is OK. All of our students are familiar with the work we have been doing focused on Carol Dweck's Mindset. Remind them to have a growth mindset when going into their testing situations - which includes perseverance, working through hard problems, and knowing that they can achieve in all areas if they try their best.

Spring is around the corner! Enjoy looking for the signs in nature.

Respectfully,

Mimi Maniscalco

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