



Dwight Elementary School

2012 National Blue Ribbon School

**1600 Redding Road
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Principal

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Dear Parents,

It finally feels that "spring has sprung!" I attended our little league's opening day this morning amongst community members on a sunny baseball field that my son played on for years. We returned to the field to witness my now 18 year old son receive a scholarship in honor of one of his most beloved coaches. The vision of little boys dressed in their town-sponsored uniforms, the sound of a young player singing our National Anthem, and the feeling of being surrounded by community members was a strong reminder of the privilege it is to live in Fairfield, Connecticut. A quote that is posted in my kitchen says, "Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things." These are the days, despite the complexity of our society that we all need to cherish with our children.

Last month, as you all know, complexity made its way into Dwight. We evacuated our building in response to a threat that was called into our building. It has been determined that it was a "swatting" incident. At no time were we in danger, but the situation was unnerving to our staff and to you, I'm sure. Since the incident, we have taken several steps to ensure that we are best prepared for any unsuspected incident. On April 29, we are having an all school meeting at which I will tell students that we will be practicing two different situations: a lockdown and an evacuation. Sgt. Weihe of the Fairfield Police Department, has suggested that all schools practice a wide variety of drills to build confidence and flexible thinking in unexpected situations.

So yes, it is hard to maintain the innocence and simplicity of childhood in a society that has factions of disruption and negativity; but, it is our job to ensure that our youngest citizens are able to enjoy the freedom, kindness and wellness that can be obtained in our school community and in the community at large. Thank you as always for partnering with us to build a safe and beautiful world for our children.

Respectfully,

Mimi Maniscalco