



Dwight Elementary School

2012 National Blue Ribbon School

1600 Redding Road
Fairfield, CT 06824



Mimi Maniscalco
Principal

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January 2017

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break and a strong start to the new year. January is an excellent opportunity to take personal inventory and acknowledge what went well and what might need some improvement. At Dwight, we are so proud of the many accomplishments of our students and community at large. I am a firm believer that if we give students opportunities to grow and challenge themselves, they will.

As many of you know, our school participated in [Fairfield University's Poetry for Peace](#) contest in the fall. The contest encourages students to create original poems of what peace means to them. Kindergarten through Grade 8 public and parochial schools from both Bridgeport and Fairfield are invited to enter. Over the last four years, we have had at least five winners per year. This year, we had thirteen winners who will be honored at Fairfield University on January 24 at 6:00 PM at the Quick Center! Our winning poets this year are: Alexandra V., Peter H., Bryce A., Pierson A., Aileen C., Mary R., Elizabeth S., Jasper R., Ella C., Owen P., Kailee S., Stuart K., and Teagan S. We are so proud of our winners and of all students who participated. In March, we will have two assemblies at which all poets will be invited to read their poems right here at Dwight.

Our teachers and students have been working hard to build flexible mindsets which enable them to persevere toward meeting self-selected goals. We began this work last year as a school community using Carol Dweck's mindset research and embedded district PD. Last year, one of our parent coffees focused on building flexible mindsets as well. This year, I have chosen a book for a parent book club that I invite you to read along with me. The book is entitled **Mindsets for Parents Strategies to Encourage Growth Mindsets in Kids** by Mary Kay Ricci. I'd like to have our book club meeting on Tuesday, February 28 at 9:00 AM at Dwight so we can have lively discussion and share strategies. In partnership with you, we can build kids who are confident problem-solvers who challenge themselves in healthy productive ways.

There are a couple procedures I'd like to review. First, if you drive your children to school, please know that we have to close the back door at 8:55 AM. If you arrive after that time, please park your car and check your child in at the front office. All staff need to report to their teaching assignments at 8:55 AM. Please do not drop students off in the driveway and have them walk up to the back door; it is unsafe. Also, for the After The Bell classes, the teacher or company providing the class should contact you directly to let you know where to pick up your child at 4:30 PM. The location will be either the back door, front door or door outside the APR. It is the responsibility of the After The Bell provider to bring your children to the door and have you sign them out – Safety first!

Thank you for your support in the work we do with your children each day. We have a wonderful community of which I am proud to be a part. Best wishes for the best year yet!

Respectfully,

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

Mimi Maniscalco