



# Dwight Elementary School

*2012 National Blue Ribbon School*

1600 Redding Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824



**Mimi Maniscalco**  
Principal

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November, 2017

Dear Families,

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. In a world that can be harsh and unforgiving at times, *we are so fortunate to be surrounded by children who remind us of what it truly important – kindness, honesty and striving to do your best each day.* As I visit classrooms, the cafeteria and the playground, I consistently observe our young citizens making a concerted effort to understand their world and add their piece in order to make our community even stronger.

*November gave us an opportunity to express our appreciation for veterans and for each other.* Our Veterans Day celebration included coffee and conversation and a festive assembly in which each grade level sang patriotic songs – special thanks to Mrs. Doherty for her leadership and organization. Grade five students read original writing pieces centered on what Veterans Day means to them and our Student Council collected toiletries and candy for the troops. Along with the items collected, students wrote letters to the soldiers overseas.

*This month, we have also been consciously adhering to and demonstrating our understanding of the Dwight mantra – “Work hard and be kind.”* Students have been greeting each other and staff members with a hearty “Good Mornings,” and “Have a Nice Days.” Students and staff have been complimenting each other and recognizing when someone is a bucket filler. There are various classroom activities and buddy classroom experiences that help students remember how important and rewarding it is to build each other up and to be there for each other. I have an office full of beautiful illustrations, notes and handwritten books that students bring and share with me daily that truly fill my bucket!

*Student Government also got into action this month!* The letters that grades three through five wrote in order to get involved with Student Government were thoughtful and clearly demonstrated students’ sincere desire to make our community a better place. In addition to collecting toiletries and making cards for veterans, Student Government also collected coats for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. We so appreciate all of the beautiful gently used coats you donated for those less fortunate. Your modeling is the most powerful example of kindness there is for our children.

*Next month, we will be starting our Winter After the Bell series.* Students and teachers have so enjoyed being able to engage in fun and educational experiences after school. It is such a great way to learn something new or practice a learned skill. We are making a slight adjustment to the process for dismissal for the next session. If your child is enrolled in an ATB course, whether it be 6, 8 or 12 weeks, the default dismissal plan will be that your child will attend the ATB class each week. You only need to write a note if your child is NOT going to attend one week. We are hoping that this will minimize forgotten notes that makes dismissal confusing for the front office, teachers and children. We are fully dedicated to ensuring that all students are safely dismissed each day.

In closing, I wish all of you a restful and joyous Thanksgiving. Our community has a lot for which we are thankful. I encourage you to cherish every moment with your family and friends.

Warmly,

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

Mimi Maniscalco