



DMS Newsflash

J u n e 2 0 2 2

DMS Celebrations 21-22

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As the 2021-22 school year comes to a close, we wanted to take the opportunity to reflect and celebrate some of the great things that happened this year at Deans Mill School. There is no doubt that we all faced challenges as we continued to navigate the COVID 19 pandemic while trying to shift to more normalcy. Despite all the changes, we watched our students learn, build resilience, develop friendships, and learn how to problem solve. At DMS, our theme for the year was "Glow & Grow," and students and staff focused on celebrating ways they "glow" and focused on ways they wanted to "grow."

Here are some "Glow" from this past school year:

- 🍏 We observed students close some academic gaps related to the pandemic. To help students close these gaps, classroom teachers differentiated their instruction and identified specific skills to focus on. Through the Response to Intervention Process, we identified and supported Tier 2 and Tier 3 students. In addition to our regular programming, we implemented the Early Bird Readers Program and Morning Math Stars to give specific students extra support while not taking away from the regular school day.
- 🍏 We put an emphasis on Social Emotional Learning and implemented the Second Step Program K-5. Relationship building and connectedness were a focus in every classroom.
- 🍏 We focused on increasing engagement in both whole group and small group instruction by using a variety of strategies to increase students opportunities to participate and respond to the instruction. This provided students more opportunities to respond to instruction and participate.
- 🍏 We offered a variety of after-school enrichment activities such as Student Leadership, Fairy Tale Stem, Unified Sports, Theater Stories, Girls on the Run, and more!
- 🍏 As the year progressed, we were able to hold some of our schoolwide, community, and PTO Activities. We held a "Grow & Glow" assembly to start the year, held a Holiday Sing-a-Long, had an Olympic Themed Reading Week, Kindness Week, and spirit days. We held a 5th Grade Celebration of the Arts Night and we are planning a schoolwide Field Day to finish off the year.
- 🍏 Our PTO brought back Cultural Enrichment with the Yale Singers, in-person book fairs, held a Basket Raffle, and a Color Run!

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As we begin to close out the 2021 - 2022 school year, we want to thank the DMS community for their continued support and your commitment to your child's education. We value the strong partnerships we have built with families and look forward to more community building events next year! We continue to look for ways to "grow" as a school and community and are thankful for the feedback and involvement.



Congratulations to our graduates!



Important Dates

June

- 2 Grade 5 Celebration of the Arts at DMS
 - 5:15-6:15 PM ~ Art Show
 - 5:30-6:00 PM ~ Grade 5 Concert
- 3 Science & Technology Day at DMS (students only)
- 9 Board of Education Meeting • District Office • 6:30 PM
- 15 DMS Field Day (Rain date: June 16)
- 21 Last day of school • Early Dismissal • 1:25 PM



Summer Academy 2022

Stonington Middle School
Summer Academy 2022

Incoming Grades 6-8

July 12-14

July 19-21

July 26-28

August 2-4

8:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Classes held at Stonington High School

You do not need to attend all 4 weeks to participate

- Spanish Culture Club
- Internations Sports & Games
 - Invisible Math
- Digital Photography 1 & 2
 - Graffiti Math Art
- Wellness and Health Eating
 - Art Studio

Note: registration forms were due by May 28th.
Contact Tina Eisenbeis with questions:
teisenbeis@stoningtonschools.org



End of year medication pick up

Please make arrangements to pick up your child's medication from the nurse. All medication must be picked up by the parent/guardian at the end of the school year. Any remaining medication not picked up will be destroyed.

Next year's medication orders

Medication (prescribed and over-the-counter) may be administered in school with a written order from the medical provider and signed by the parent. Medication must be brought to the school nurse by the parent or guardian in a pharmacy-labeled bottle or original container. With permission from the medical provider and parent/guardian, students are allowed to self-administer inhalers and Epipens. Medication remaining at the end of the school year must be picked up by the parent or it will be destroyed.

Blank medication authorization forms are located under forms on the Stonington Public Schools website, Health and Wellness, Forms.

Health Tips and Safety tips

Preventing Sunburn: Sunburn can happen within 15 minutes of being in the sun, but the redness and discomfort may not be noticed for a few hours. Don't forget to apply sunscreen to your children prior to going outside to play.

Wear safe shoes: For safety of the children on the playground and climbing stairs in the building, we request children not wear flip flops or slip-on shoes while at school.

Dress for the weather: Students will be going outside every day for recess now that spring has arrived. Remember to dress your children appropriately for the weather.

Tick Season: There have already been spottings of ticks found on staff and students. Please be sure that you are checking your child regularly.

How can I prevent Lyme disease? Check yourself and your family daily for ticks. Look especially in the hair, at areas of the body that bend, in the belly button, in and around the ears, and where pants/underwear waistbands touch the skin. Dress in long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and tuck the pants into socks whenever possible when playing in woods or in tall grass. Use products that are tick-repellent on your skin while outdoors, and treat your clothing with a product that contains permethrin.

Allergy season VS COVID-19

As you know, allergy season is here in New England. Please be advised that many symptoms are also consistent with COVID-19. Please be sure to check with your child's doctor and manage symptoms accordingly. If your child needs to take allergy medicine, please remember to give it to him or her before school.

As the 2021-2022 school year comes to an end, I want to thank all of the families, students, and for doing such a fantastic job keeping our DMS community **healthy!**
Have a **great** summer!

Nurse Lori
DMSnurse@stoningtonschools.org

BLUE MONDAY

2022 CONCERT SERIES

July 11 - Ward Hayden and the Outliers

Opening Act: Sondra Levine

July 18 - Otis and the Hurricanes

Intermission: Alex Hatch (SHS Student Act)

July 25 - Sugar Ray and The Bluetones

Intermission: Maggie Welch (SHS Student Act)

**ALL SHOWS - RAIN OR SHINE
6 - 8 PM AT MYSTIC RIVER PARK
RAIN LOCATION MYSTIC GERMAN CLUB
54 Greenmanville Ave., Mystic, CT**



*Pawcatuck
Neighborhood Center*

Blue Monday Concerts are free, family friendly events held outdoors at the Mystic River Park. Concerts have the generous support of sponsors (individuals, businesses and foundations) which allows Blue Monday to fund music education in our local schools, and provide food assistance to the neediest in our community. Blue Monday is part of the Stonington Education Fund, a 501(c)3 non-profit that seeks to promote excellence in Stonington's Public Schools through effective use of private donations and grants. All concert attendees are also welcome to bring a jar of peanut butter or any other non-perishable canned good to the show for donation to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center food pantry.

Follow us on Facebook at "Blue Monday"

Blue Monday - Feeding the Body and Soul!



M I N U T E S

Draft: Deans Mill School PTO Minutes May 17, 2022

1. **Meeting was called to order** at 5:35 P.M. Introductions were made.
 2. **In Attendance:** Principal Jenn McCurdy, PTO President Katie Quinlan, PTO Vice President Jenni Adkins, PTO Treasurer Rob Winslow, PTO Secretary Jen Flynn, Matt Irvine, Susan Isif, Erin Vincent, Jamie Morton, Lizzie Lillie, Jasmine Myers, and Ashley Tewell.
 3. **Secretary's Report:** Reviewed minutes from March 2022 meeting. Motion to approve. First, Jenni Adkins. Second, Susan Isif. All in favor unanimous.
 4. **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance in our account is \$47,348, as of 5/15/22. Motion to approve. First, Matt Irvine. Second, Jasmine Myers. All in favor unanimous.
 5. **New Business, Principal's report:** Jenn McCurdy provided this update.
 - ***Kindergarten registration** has been held. Screenings have taken place. 64 students are registered for next school year. Orientation to be held in August.
 - ***Budget** has passed. Hiring for new positions is in the works. Current vacancies include Gr. 4 teacher, Academic Interventionist, & 5 paraprofessional positions. Also, substitute teaching positions are available. Contact Jenn McCurdy or Tom Bousquet if interested.
 - ***SBAC testing** is being held. Besides makeups, testing is complete for Grades 3 & 4. Grade 5 still doing the Math PT and NGSS test.
 - ***Unified Sports Update.** We ran a Grades K-2 and Grades 3-5 Unified Sports Groups. Students had fun developing skills, playing games, and most importantly building relationships with others. We will resume our Unified Programs in the Fall of 2022.
 - ***CT Welcoming Schools Protocol** - Training on Thursday, May 19th and Welcoming School Committee visit at DMS on May 24th. Includes 4 DMS parents, 1 community member (Selectwoman Downie), 1 teacher, 1 paraprofessional.
 - *The Initiative aims to make parents feel welcomed, to celebrate the diversity of the school community, and set unique goals to improve how inviting the school appears to its community, which ultimately have a positive impact on student achievement.
- Looking for PTO Vice President for next school year.**
- Color Run:** Meredith Kyle. May 21st. More volunteers still needed for this event. 277 participants are signed up.
- 5th Grade Celebration of the Arts:** June 2nd @ 5:15 P.M. Will take place at DMS. Concert held in gym, and art will be on exhibit. Hoping for this event to return for all grades, next year. Science & Tech. Day: Jennifer Rothman. June 3rd. In person events will be held for all grades. Butterfly releases will be done this day as well, with every class, in the outdoor classroom. Field Day: Katie Quinlan. June 15th, Rain Date June 16th. Full day. Bounce houses. Games. Water games. Relays. Field Day Committee working hard on this event. Every student will get a t-shirt.
- 5th Grade Party:** June 20th. Tracy Brunelle. Almost at goal. Planning is going well. Sign Up Genius will be sent out for volunteer help.
- Head Liaisons:** Ashley Tewell. Teacher Appreciation Week was successful. End of year planning/gifts are next on the agenda. Thank you classroom liaisons for all of your help!

6. **Old Business:** Thank you to all of our chairs!!!!

Bowling Event: Jen Flynn. March 20th, 2-4 p.m. Was successful. \$355 profit. Would do next school year.

Spring Book Fair: April 1st-8th. Stephanie Gagnon-Ragsdale. Co-chair is needed for next book fair & also hoping to form a committee. Approximately \$3,000 profit.

In Cultural Enrichments: Ruth Peterle-Dzurec. Acapella group was a success. Thank you! Willy Wonka Performance: April 8th & 9th. Two performances. 5th grade party sold flowers. Great performance!

Duck Race: April 30th. Tracy Brunelle. Successful event.

Basket Raffle: Thank You, Susan Isif!! Successful event. \$4,300 profit. Possibly pair with a pasta dinner in the future. Two chairs would be needed for this event, if it is held.

Teacher / Staff Appreciation: Thank you Morgan Adair!! Each day had a different theme and was very successful.

Beautification: Thank you Erin & Milos Janicek! Everything looks beautiful and is growing well.

***Motion to approve sprinkler system, and sod for outdoor classroom.** First, Jasmine Myers. Second, Jenni Adkins. All in favor unanimous.

7. **Important Dates:** May 30th, No School June 8th, Early Release June 21st- Early Release & Last Day of School

8. **Events we would like to do next:** Fall Fest & Math and Science Fair

***Meeting adjourned** at 6:15 P.M.

***Next PTO Meeting** will be held in fall. Have a great summer!!

DEI Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Welcoming Schools

All four schools completed their [CT Welcoming Schools](#) walkthroughs as of May 25th. Principals shared out the key recommendations for improving their schools at the Leadership Team meeting on Thursday, May 26th. Some of the recommendations included improvements in the outdoor/indoor signage, providing documents in languages other than English, more welcoming onboarding for new families and students, and updating the school websites. Formal written reports will be sent to each principal within the next two weeks.

Family members of these teams are invited to join the newly formed Curriculum, Climate and Conversation Teams next fall to increase opportunities for families to exchange information with district and school leaders.

High Five Fridays

Stonington Police Officers have started a wonderful new collaboration with Stonington Public Schools (SPS). On Friday mornings for the remainder of the school year, officers will be outside greeting staff and students as they arrive at school. The officers will be giving high fives and fist bumps to all in celebration of finishing the week of teaching and learning. Deans Mill participated on Friday, May 27th, West Vine Street School is on deck for June 3rd and Stonington Middle School for June 10th. SPS is enormously grateful to our officers for their service as they keep our schools welcoming and safe.