Willis E. Thorpe Elementary School
Danvers Public Schools
1 Avon Rd. - Danvers, MA - 01923
978-774-6946

Brian Reilly, Ed.D.
Principal

Stacey Cook, M.Ed.
Assistant to the Principal

Home of the T.I.G.E.R.s - **T**eamwork - **I**ntegrity - **G**rowth Mindset - **E**mpathy - **R**esponsibility

Dear Thorpe School Community,

It was a cold, but fun week here at Thorpe. We enjoyed the sounds of our chorus and band students as they played in the first school wide concert of the year. Here are some updates for the coming week.

Special Education Update:
Parent Introduction to the New IEP with Allan Blume. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recently made updates to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) form. These changes are intended to strengthen the IEP process and improve the educational outcomes and experiences of students with disabilities in the Commonwealth.

Danvers Public Schools Student Services staff has participated in state-level training beginning this year and has welcomed **Allan Blume** to train additional staff during this transition. Allan is an educational consultant, former special educator, and professor who works with schools across Massachusetts regarding various topics in education. Most of his work focuses on IEP writing and strategies for doing so. Allan has guided school personnel and parents with understanding and implementing individualized education programs, disability awareness, special education process, inclusion, eligibility, Section 504, linking instruction to standards, district evaluation of inclusion and special education provision, as well as assisting school districts with the creation and editing of their District Curriculum Accommodation Plans. Below is a link to a Zoom presentation.

Topic: New IEP Parent Introduction
Link: SEPAC Consortium - Allan Blume
Date/Time: Feb 1, 2024 06:30 OR Feb 29, 2024 06:30
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88657377331?pwd=TjdvRGVrMWIrOFVtSmhBUzE2M1M2Zz09
Meeting ID: 886 5737 7331 Passcode: 987099

Main Office Update:
Mrs. Gagnon and I have switched office spaces! Mrs. Gagnon and the main office are not the first office as you enter the building. The doorway is just to the left of the ST Math Jiji bulletin

board. We believe this will allow for better visibility of who is entering the building as well as making it easier to drop off and pick up students.

Safety Committee Update:
Over the course of the year the members of the District's Safety Committee have been meeting to review the safety protocols we have in-place in the District. The committee has put together a new image (please click the link to view) that represents safety protocols we have in-place in all schools. You will notice that this image includes a new term that we will be using "Stay Put" that will be used for when there is a situation that requires students and staff to stay in their current learning environment and keep the hallways free (for example, a medical emergency). Teachers will be reviewing this image with students. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Kindergarten Registration:
If your child will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2024 please join us for Open Kindergarten Registration. Registration is by appointment only. Please click on this link to sign up for an appointment.

Treats for Tigers:
In January we will be enjoying Treats for Tigers again on 1/26/24. This month's selection was picked by the 3rd grade and is a Birthday Cake Cone. Here is the nutritional information. Please fill out this form to select the Treat option you would like your child to receive for this month. If anything changes, please email me directly.

Student Council Update:
Student council will be holding a Hygiene Product Drive from 1/16 - 1/31 to donate to the organization, Hope and Comfort. We are collecting products such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, and deodorant. Please make sure products are unused and not expired. Bins will be in the front lobby for donations!

Upcoming PAC Sponsored Events:
Please see this link for upcoming PAC sponsored events. While many of the events are for our students during the day, there are many family events that are coming up including restaurant nights and other evening events at Thorpe.

Recess:
Now that we are experiencing colder weather and heading into the winter season I wanted to remind you to be sure to send your child to school with warm clothing for outdoor recess (winter coats, hats, mittens, scarves).

Friday Five:

We have a new tradition here at Thorpe called Friday Five. The Friday Five recognizes students each Friday who have demonstrated one of the Tiger 5 core values each week. These core values are Teamwork, Integrity, Growth Mindset, Empathy and Responsibility. Students are nominated by their teachers or staff in the building and have their names announced Friday morning as part of the morning announcements. Be on the lookout for an email when your student is one of our Friday Five!

Library Books:
Please remember to return any library books that have not been returned yet! We are hoping to be able to recirculate books to new students who have not had a chance to read them yet!

Arrival Update:
We shifted the arrival of students from the front of the school to the cafeteria. Upon exiting the car students should enter the front doors and go down to their grade level spot in the cafeteria. Staff are still out front to monitor the students arriving and help to usher students into the school building. There is no change to the arrival time. **If you are arriving for breakfast, please try to arrive by 8:10 to leave enough time for your child to eat before school begins.**

Visitors to the Building:
I wanted to send a reminder that visitors entering the building should immediately go to the main office upon their arrival. Once there visitors will sign in on the log and Mrs. Gagnon will issue a visitor badge and lanyard. This "visitor" lanyard, which will serve to identify visitors will be required to be returned when the visitor is leaving the building. The visitor will also be asked to sign out of the building.

Reminders:
If your child is going to be absent or late to school, please call the main office at 978-774-6946.

If a student brings their cell phone/smart watch to school, students must leave their cell phones/smart watches/devices in their lockers or backpacks for the entire school day.

Arrival and Dismissal:
Please remember to **drive slowly** when entering and exiting the campus and please **follow the traffic pattern**. If you would like to get out of the car with your student please park in one of the parking spots and walk to the main entrance. Parking **is only** in the designated spaces and locations on the dismissal map.

Please know that Avon Road at dismissal is used as an exit route for students walking. Parking should only be on the right side of the street and please do not turn around during the dismissal process. This is a safety issue.

Please also avoid standing on the sidewalk closest to the main entrance and the walkway by the flagpole. Please stand in the lower circle area. This will allow us to facilitate exiting the building faster and also allow us to monitor our walkers and bikers transitioning up to Avon Road.

Allergy Awareness:

Please remember that every classroom at Thorpe School is a nut free zone. We would like you to confine your child's food intake of peanut butter and/or nut items to our lunch period in the cafeteria. Please do not send in snacks containing peanut butter or nuts to be eaten in the classroom, including snacks listed as being "processed/manufactured in a facility that uses peanuts or tree nuts." This will ensure that playtime and the surface learning areas will be a safe haven for all students. Please also remember to only send foods without nuts on field trips.

DPS is Hiring! Please visit the Employment Opportunities page on our website to view all available positions and apply online.

Upcoming Events:

January 26, 2024- Treats for Tigers

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Brian