

DAYTON AVENUE SHARK BITES

Sharing Small Pieces of Big Moments

CELEBRATING TALENT...

Dr. Watkis

This is always a beautiful time of the year. As we look around outside, we see all the flowers blooming and trees turning green. Our children are also blooming, they are growing academically, socially and emotionally. They are beginning to appreciate their unique talents and skills. One of the most notable areas to see growth was in our musical. I had pleasure of seeing our 5th and 6th grade performance of Mary Poppins Jr. and I was speechless! Students grew into their roles and shone brightly. Congratulations to all friends in cast and crew!

And as we celebrate various accomplishments, let us remember to thank our teachers for their hard work with our students. Teachers, we appreciate you! Let us take some time to thank teachers during teacher appreciation week.

Throughout this school year, I will continue to share some small pieces of our big moments in our monthly newsletter and on Instagram. I hope that you will take some time to read each newsletter and if you're not doing so yet, please follow us on Instagram.

@principal_das

SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT'S INSIDE:

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SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND PBIS

Leader in Me

Habit 8 - Find Your Voice and Inspire Others to Find Their Voice

This month we are exploring Habit 8. Habit 8 is new to us this year and we are proud to integrate it as we continue our Leader in Me journey.

People who have found their voice focus on expanding their circle of influence, being trustworthy, building trust, combining the voices of others, and working to create a shared vision. They take pride in sharing their passion, working together to achieve goals and empower others, and remaining balanced.

We will encourage our students to think about what they are good at and enjoy doing. We will encourage them to be proud but not boastful and inspire them to use their expertise to help and inspire others.

Here's a recap of the Habits that we have covered.
Start with you...

Habit 1 - Be Proactive (You're in Charge)

Habit 2 - Begin With The End In Mind (Have a Plan)

Habit 3 - Put First Things First (Work First, Then Play)

Then play well with others...

Habit 4 - Think Win Win

Habit 5 - Seek First To Understand, Then To Be Understood

Habit 6 - Synergize (Together is Better)

Habit 7 - Sharpen the Saw.



Attendance Goal

Shout-out to each healthy student who shows up for school on time! We recognize your commitment to meeting your personal goals.

Our Student Leadership team has been committed to helping us track our progress in meeting our school attendance goal of 95% or higher each day. This month our average attendance rate was 94%.

CELEBRATIONS

3rd Grade

Third graders visited the Long Island Explorium Children's Museum of Science and Engineering and were engaged in hands on activities applying scientific knowledge. Students utilized the mathematical idea of a quadrat, a standard method of measurement in archeology and ecology, to quantify findings in their "dig site" of sand or soil and buried artifacts. Students explored their site by carefully unearthing the artifacts, tracking the type and location of their evidence, and constructing a plausible story about what might have happened at the site.



4th Grade

Fourth graders classes attended a field trip to Connetquot State Park. Students participated in various hands-on activities that support our Science Curriculum. They had the opportunity to model sound waves using a slinky and cups. Conversations could be heard discussing the meaning of wavelength, amplitude, and frequency. Students shared how they feel, hear, or see sounds. They also observed that sound is caused by vibrations and energy using a tuning fork and ping pong ball.

Our future engineers built structures in jello using toothpicks and marshmallows. They experimented to determine if their structures are earthquake-proof by testing them in a "shaky" pan of Jell-O. They discovered that some building styles are more stable than others. After observing the outcomes, they had an opportunity to reinforce their structure and test it again. The culminating activity was a hike through the woods and a visit to the fish hatchery.



5th Grade

This vibrant bulletin board created by 5th graders celebrates Earth Day while spotlighting key environmental issues facing our planet today. Featuring eye-catching visuals, educational facts, and inspiring messages, it serves as a creative and informative reminder of the importance of sustainability, conservation, and collective action.

The thoughtful display encourages viewers to reflect, engage, and take steps toward a greener future. It showcases student-made posters highlighting critical environmental issues and creative solutions. From combating climate change and stopping overfishing, to reducing plastic pollution in our oceans, each poster reflects the students' passion and awareness for protecting the planet. It's a powerful display of young voices taking action and inspiring others to think globally and act locally.



CELEBRATIONS

6th Grade

On Earth Day, students had the opportunity to apply their classroom learning in a meaningful and engaging way. Drawing on their recent science lessons about alternative energy resources, they conducted research to deepen their understanding of how renewable energy can benefit the planet.

Students explored topics such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal power, examining both the science behind these technologies and their real-world applications. Through independent projects, group discussions, and presentations, students connected their scientific knowledge to current environmental issues, fostering both curiosity and a sense of responsibility toward protecting the Earth.



Art

Fifth graders have been working hard on a top secret project this month. They listened to the fable "The Lion and the Mouse" and discussed how it feels to be the younger, smaller kids starting in a new building. When they realized they were the older kids, the lions, in Dayton they decided to do something special for the incoming third graders, the mice. Each fifth grader recreated one second grader's drawing of a minion as a sculpted figurine. They then designed packaging and boxed the figurines to give to the 2nd graders as a welcome to Dayton Avenue School.



Library

Spring is blooming in the library! Over the past few weeks, students have been diving into their books and taking time to reflect on what they've read. Each student has written a short summary of a book they've enjoyed, which is now displayed on a colorful raindrop or flower as part of our hallway theme: "April Showers Bring May Flowers."

This creative project is more than just decoration — it's a celebration of reading, reflection, and sharing stories with others. When students talk about what they're reading, they encourage their classmates to try new books and grow as readers themselves. It's a wonderful way to support Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw by making time for meaningful, joyful reading and self-expression.



CELEBRATIONS

Music

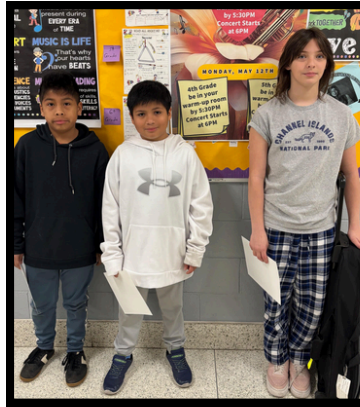
Congratulations to these musicians who are being recognized this month. Keep on making music!

Band

4th Grade - Roberto Ventura Javiel

5th Grade - Mikayla Miller

6th Grade - Jordyn De La Cruz Camey



Chorus

3rd Grade: Roberta Snyder-Brennan

4th Grade : Owen McCue

5th Grade : Vivian Kling

6th Grade: Braiden Hickey



Orchestra

4th Grade - Cadence Stuckey

5th Grade - Sara Stolworthy

6th Grade - Ignazio Visco



STEAM

Students have been putting the finishing touches on their Project-Based Learning (PBL) projects. The time, effort, and creativity that have gone into these collaborative works are truly impressive.

To see all of the amazing projects, we invite you to attend the STEAM Fair on May 1st from 6-8 PM at the Jr./Sr. High School. In addition to student projects, the fair will feature a variety of STEAM-related activities—perfect for a fun family night!



CELEBRATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CAST AND CREW OF MARY POPPINS JR!



STAYING HEALTHY CHAT WITH NURSE GROSSKOPF



UPCOMING DATES

May 6 - SMPTA Meeting @ South Street 7pm
May 7 - BOE Meeting 7pm
May 8 - DAS 6th Grade Spring Concert
May 8-9 - SMPTA Mother's Day Plant Sale
May 12 - DAS 4th & 5th Grade Spring Concert
May 13 - DAS Shared Decision Making

May 19 - 3rd Grade Leadership Day 9:15am
May 20 - 4th Grade Leadership Day 9:15am
May 21 - 5th Grade Leadership Day 9:15am
May 22 - 6th Grade Leadership Day 9:15am
May 23, 27 - Schools & Offices Closed
May 26 - Schools & Offices Closed - Memorial Day



Attendance Matters

Our school day begins at 8:30 and ends at 2:53. It is important that students arrive to school by 8:30 and remain in school until classes end at 2:53. Please let us know when your child(ren) will not be in school and call or send in doctor's notes so we may excuse absences for illnesses.

Updated Discipline Matrix

We updated our Code of Conduct and Discipline Matrix. All misconduct is always taken seriously and this matrix is designed to support fairness. Every incident is thoroughly investigated to support students in making better choices, not only to punish. Please find a copy of our matrix at our school webpage.



ParentSquare

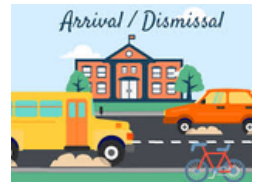
Communication

We use ParentSquare to stay in touch with our families. Download the app in the App Store or on Google play to receive important texts and other messages. You have the option of choosing how to receive information (such as text and email), when you receive them (immediately or at a set time) and in what language.



Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast is served every day at 8:15am. All students at Dayton Avenue may receive one free breakfast every day. Students may also receive one free lunch every day. A la carte items are available for purchase.



Student Dropoff and Pickup

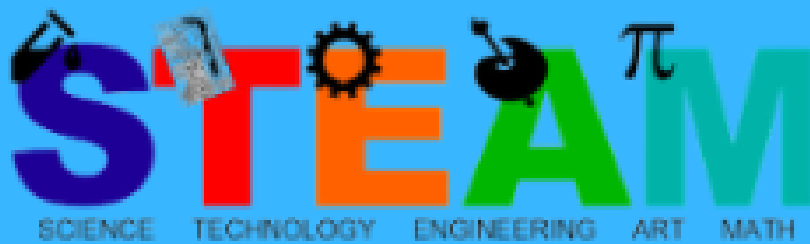
Students may be dropped off beginning at 8:15am. Students attending extra help on the day assigned by their teachers may be dropped off at 8am.

Students being picked up are dismissed from the main entrance. We begin dismissing students being picked up at 2:53. Please send in a note if your child will be picked up at dismissal. Be sure to include the full name of the person picking up and that person should be prepared to show their license. All students must be picked up by 2:55. Students not picked up by 2:55 will be put on their home buses.



Chromebooks

We use Chromebooks everyday. Students need to bring them in fully charged. Leave chargers at home



Dear K-6 ESM Families,

You are cordially invited to attend:

WHAT: 4th Annual K-6 STEAM Night

WHEN: Thursday, May 1, 2025

TIME: 6pm - 8pm

WHERE: Junior-Senior High School



Join us for an evening of exploration, excitement, and educational opportunities in the **Gyms and Cafeterias**.

We look forward to seeing you there! Let us know if you plan to attend by clicking here to [RSVP](#).

Thank you!



The 2025 STEAM Planning Committee

