Quote of the Week: “Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations.”

—Dr. Mae Jemison, first African-American female astronaut

Two of our fabulous students at the very successful “Sweetest Dance”. Thank you PTA for your imagination.

The Westport Y Gymnasts Exhibition Team who demonstrated the importance of having a growth mindset during the presentation on Friday.

Vision

We are a diverse community of learners and it is important that we celebrate the history that we all share. Build in time this month to incorporate Black History into your instructional plan. Below is a link to a website that offers ideas. [http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/bhm-curriculum-resources-gradesK-5.html](http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/bhm-curriculum-resources-gradesK-5.html)

Teaching & Learning

Attendance

- There were 235 perfect attendance students for January! This is a huge decline from previous months, but we know that there have been legitimate illnesses. **Students should not come to school if they are sick, but vacations should occur when there is no school.** February Perfect Attendance Stars will get a coupon to the school store!!!!!!
  
  Below are other attendance reminders:

  - An attendance message goes out each day. **Parents**-please call the school if your child is sick so that we can change the attendance to excused. **Teachers**- please take attendance by 10:00 am.
  
  - Although we mark sick days as excused, the state monitors excused and unexcused absences. A student is considered truant if they are absent more than 4 days in one month and 10 days for the year. 18 absences for the year is considered chronically absent.

  - **Holiday vacations are unexcused absences.**

Socioemotional Wellness

This week we will continue to focus on Social Skills/Fairness. This week I am eager to meet with the team who went to Restorative Practices Training so that we can discuss how this fits into our socioemotional planning.

Extended Day

1) The 5th Grade Carver Program is moving along smoothly! Students must maintain excellent attendance to keep their seat.

2) Students in grades 3-4 will have the opportunity to attend our annual SBAC College & Career Program. The program will begin on March 18th. Applications will go out next week. Stay tuned!

3) We will have the Springboard Summer Program again this summer. The [official dates](#) are July 8th- August 9th, Mon.-Fri (8-1). Students who are required, are mandated to attend, but just as last year, we will have seats to invite more students. **Plan your vacation around the identified dates.**
Community Engagement

- Our next SGC (6:00pm) and PTA (7:00pm) meetings will be on **Thursday**, February 21st. The PTA has a new and improved agenda where everyone begins together and breaks into groups based on language needs. We want all of our families to feel valued. **A light dinner will be provided.** There was great attendance last month and important decisions were made. The SGC will focus on the mid-year School Improvement outcomes.
- Fridays are School Spirit Fridays! Everyone is encouraged to wear Cougar Gear or all blue! **Please purchase your Cougar Gear!**

Safety & Security

Thank you so much for your cooperation with drop-off and pick-up. Many parents are parking in the handicap, fire, or drop off spaces. This is very dangerous. Moving forward, parents who need to go beyond the main office in the mornings will need to wait until the Security Officer completes his scan of the outside area. Next month we will focus on the dismissal process. Thank you to Mrs. Johnson for her feedback.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Professional Development</th>
<th>Shout-outs</th>
<th>Looking Ahead</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 11th- Subcommittees</td>
<td>1) Al of the parent and staff volunteers involved in the set-up and clean-up for the Sweetest Dance. What a success! Special shout-out to Amy Elliott who involved her entire family with the preparation. 2) Antonio and the Kitchen Team for putting things back together after the dance on Friday.</td>
<td>Feb. 14th, 15th, 18th – No School</td>
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<td>Feb. 25th- Trauma- Informed</td>
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<td>Feb. 20th- K-2 January Perfect Attendance Breakfast</td>
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<td>March 4th- Parent Empowerment</td>
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<td>Feb. 21st- 3-5 January Perfect Attendance Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conferences</td>
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<td>Feb. 27th- STEM Expo</td>
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<td>March 11th- Staff Survey</td>
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<td>Classroom Winners Announced</td>
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<td>Note: Please check the Staff Calendar for info. About Data Team Meetings and District PD Dates</td>
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The School Store is OPEN, but students must be in school by 8:45 to participate!

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