Dear DPS Community,

I hope that you all had a peaceful Thanksgiving and relaxing long weekend. The holiday season is upon us and there is a great deal happening in our community to share with you.

The Town of Danvers and Chabad of the North Shore will be holding their annual Danvers Public Menorah Lighting tonight at 5:30pm on the lawn outside of the Peabody Institute Library. The Human Rights and Inclusion Committee also published their quarterly newsletter today.

D.E.E.P. will be hosting this year’s Downtown Holiday Festival on Saturday, December 4th, starting at 2pm. The tree lighting will take place at 5pm.

As in past weeks, we will continue to communicate with our families and the community frequently. In an effort to make it easier to find information, we have added a “Communications” tab on the main page of the Danvers Public Schools website. This is where you would go, for example, to find recaps of our School Committee meetings, including our November meeting.

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving and strengthening our school culture and climate, we have strengthened our partnership with the Anti-Defamation League. The ADL will be providing additional professional development to our faculty and staff, and we will also be using their resources to support administrators, faculty and staff in responding to incidents of bias and hate the moment it occurs. More information about student programming and community engagement will be forthcoming this month.
Yesterday, the high school held its first Climate, Culture and Transparency session with parents. 15 people attended and Mr. Federico reported that it was a very productive conversation. He will be providing more information about it in his next email to DHS families. HRMS has its first Climate and Culture session scheduled for December 2nd, and Mr. Norton will share his thoughts about it in his next email to HRMS families.

Finally, a reminder that it is helpful if our nurses have a copy of your student’s vaccination records. A copy can be emailed to our school nurses. We continue to closely monitor our positive COVID cases. Please remember to provide your student with clean masks.

Thank you for all that you are doing at home and in our community to support our students.

Warm regards,

Lisa Dana