

DANVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT



Dear DPS Community –

Here are this week's items of interest:

Black History Month – February is Black History Month and all seven schools in the District are learning more about the impact Black Americans have had on our society. At the elementary level, classroom teachers and library aides will integrate read-aloud books to learn about the impact Black Americans have made on our culture, to listen to empowering and affirming stories with Black protagonists, and to expand their knowledge and perspective about the contributions of Black Americans to our country's history. At the secondary level, in homerooms, students will listen to the contributions of Black Americans who have significantly contributed to the history and culture of the United States.

In honor of Black History Month, the Human Rights & Inclusion Committee and the Danvers Historical Society are co-sponsoring, *Deliverance: The Story of Dill*, an interactive Zoom program presented by Sheila Cooke-Kayser. Inspired by an article written by Anne L. Page in the 1890s, Cooke-Kayser, a Danvers Historical Society volunteer, set out to learn more about who Dill was, what happened to her, and why Anne wrote about her. The presentation will be held on February 16th at 7pm. To request access to the program, email dhs@danvershistory.org.

Social Media – Are you struggling to keep up with the media and tech platforms your kids are using? [Common Sense Media's Parents' Ultimate Guides](#) can help keep you up to date and answer your questions about all the latest trends. Whether you're trying to figure out if a new app is safe for your teen or if a popular game includes blood and gore, this guide offers helpful information.

Members of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) created this graphic reminding people to think before posting on a social media app:

Before you...

THINK...



T - Is it true?



H - Is it helpful?

I - Is it inspiring?



N - Is it necessary?



K - Is it kind?

Students Against Destructive Decisions Club

COVID-19 Testing – There is still time to opt in to the new At-Home Testing program. Just complete this form (one for each child): [Opt-In Form/At-Home Testing for Students and Staff](#). Once you opt in, every other week your student(s) will receive a box that contains two (2) at-home rapid antigen tests. Those participating in the program are encouraged to test every Wednesday. This program is at no cost to children, families, or DPS staff. We will continue to offer testing at school for students and staff that develop symptoms during the school day. Please [click here](#) for directions on test administration. Our updated [Family COVID Information Sheet](#) is now available online, with updated information regarding the new testing program.

School Committee Meeting – The next School Committee meeting, which will also include the annual budget presentation, is scheduled for February 14, 2022 at 7:00pm, in the Multi-Purpose Room at HRMS. At this meeting, the School Committee will also discuss masking in schools following the announcement of the State lifting the mask mandate as of February 28th.

Best Wishes,

Keith Taverna & Mary Wermers

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