

Dear DPS Community:

Here are a few items of interest for the week:

Safe and Supportive Schools

Autism Acceptance Month: As we enter into the month of April, we think of many things: April showers, springtime temperatures, and the month dedicated to Autism. Historically, many of us have celebrated Autism Awareness month during April, often wearing blue and displaying multicolored puzzle pieces indicative of the Autism symbol. Currently, the Autistic Community recognizes the infinity loop with rainbow or gold colors as a replacement for the puzzle piece in celebration of neurodiversity. In addition, instead of wearing blue in recognition of Autism Awareness, we are encouraged to **“Wear Red Instead for Autism Acceptance”**. The District would like to encourage all staff and students to participate in #WearRedInstead Fridays in Danvers throughout the month of April in honor of Autism Acceptance. The key mission of Autism Acceptance Month is to educate the new generation in fostering acceptance and kindness towards the autistic community. *Ella Autie*, the story of a 4th grader with autism battling society, is a great way to educate your kids during this month and start important conversations.

[Northeastern University Center for the Study of Sport in Society](#): Last Friday and Saturday, we welcomed facilitators from Northeastern University's *Center for the Study of Sport in Society* to train members of the Danvers Public Schools community on issues of social justice and equity as part of their "Don't Hate the Player" curriculum module.

Capitalizing on the power of sports and the dynamics of team sports, the workshop provided tools, guidance, and resources on how to enter into and sustain the difficult conversations that are affecting so many parts of society. Icebreakers, small group work, videos, personal stories, and a variety of interactive activities were utilized to help convey hypothetical and real-world examples to participants. Two groups were trained: one group of adult teachers, parents, administrators, coaches, community members and another group of Danvers High School students.

Healing & Unity Experience (HUE): On Saturday, June 4, 2022, DanversCARES and The Danvers Human Rights and Inclusion Committee are hosting a Healing & Unity Experience (HUE). In the wake of recent media coverage that has caused pain and division in the community, the goal of this event is to bring people together to share cultures and promote friendship.

The event, made possible by an initial grant from the Boston Bridges Initiative, will be held at Danvers High School from 10:00am to 2:00pm. A variety of groups, organizations, and entertainers from all different cultural backgrounds are being invited to share with the residents of Danvers. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn and interact at different tables/activities and enjoy lunch provided by one of the food trucks that will be on-site. The planning committee is looking for volunteers and sponsors/groups to be involved. To learn more, please contact Andy St. Pierre at stpierre@danvers.org.

Meeting Updates

SEPAC Meeting: SEPAC's next meeting is on April 6th from 6:30 to 8:30pm and will include a virtual presentation on *Basic Rights: Evaluation and Eligibility for Special Education*. This is a virtual event, so there is plenty of room for participants. However, **pre-registration is required**. We hope to see you there!

[Evaluation and Eligibility Virtual Flyer 4.6.2022.pdf](#)

Kindergarten Orientation: The Danvers Public Schools will host a Kindergarten Orientation Meeting for the parents/guardians of incoming Kindergarten students on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:30pm in the Danvers High School Auditorium. At that time, teachers and administrators will present you with specific information about the academic and social curriculum of this important kindergarten year. Notification concerning school assignments for kindergarten children will be given to families at this meeting.

If you have not yet registered your incoming Kindergartner for the 2022-2023 school year, please contact us at Kregistration@danvers.org to make an appointment.

Best Wishes,

Keith Taverna & Mary Wermers

This e-mail has been sent to you by DANVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT. To maximize their communication with you, you may be receiving this e-mail in addition to a phone call with the same message. If you no longer wish to receive email notifications from DANVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT, please [click here](#) to unsubscribe.

To view the DANVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT privacy policy, please [click here](#).

