



# John Dewey Parent Communication

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Mrs. Clotman, Assistant Principal

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## Parents and Guardians:

Black History Month is celebrated annually in the United States, Canada, in the United Kingdom and in Germany. It is also known as African-American History Month in the United States. The purpose of Black History Month is to remember both the important people of African descent and the important events in Black history. Black History Month began in 1926 as an annual week-long celebration called Negro History Week, created to encourage education about America's Black history. By 1929 it had gained nationwide support. In 1969, leaders of Kent State University's Black United Students proposed a month-long celebration, which took place one year later in February 1970. In 1976 the United States government officially recognized Black History Month.

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## ON TIME EVERY DAY and STAY ALL DAY!

What do we mean by this phrase? We mean business, that's what! We want every John Dewey scholar to be college, career, and life ready and it all starts in elementary school. Developing habits of being on time and engaged in learning every day is so important for lifelong success. The impact of lost instructional time due to excessive absences is huge! Every minute does count when it comes to learning.

When one scholar, or several scholars arrive late to class their unpacking disrupts the learning of all scholars.

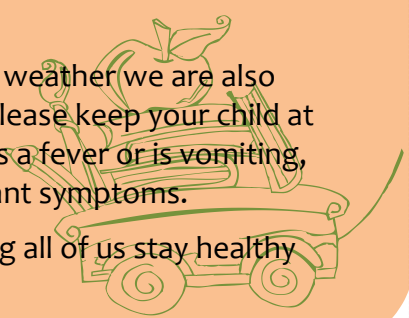
But really, what's so bad about being ten minutes late? Well, think about it. If a scholar was late just that short ten minutes each day, by the end of the school year that is a total of 1,800 minutes, or 30 hours of instruction...WOW! Every Minute Counts! Thank you for all you do to get your child to school on time every day!

## Cold Weather and Flu Season!

It is that chilly time of year at John Dewey. If you don't believe it, stop by the growing mountain of jackets, sweaters, and hats in the lost and found pile in the cafeteria! As a parent we know how expensive winter clothing can be—especially since kids outgrow them in one season. Please remember to write your child's name inside each coat or sweater so that we can return it as soon as it is found.

Along with the chilly weather we are also facing FLU season. Please keep your child at home if he or she has a fever or is vomiting, or has other significant symptoms.

Thank you for helping all of us stay healthy for great learning!





### Interesting Black History Month Facts:

Black History Month is celebrated in February in Canada and in the United States.

Black History Month is celebrated in October in the United Kingdom.

Throughout history, many important events in Black history have occurred in February. It was chosen as the month to celebrate Black History Month because the Black abolitionist and writer Frederick Douglass was born in this month, and so was Abraham Lincoln, who played an important role in shaping Black history.

In 1619 the first enslaved Africans (20) were brought to the U.S. on a Dutch ship.

The demand for slaves in the U.S. increased in 1793 when Eli Whitney's new cotton gin was introduced.

In 1808 Congress banned the importation of slaves.

In 1849 Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery. She later helped about 300 other slaves gain their freedom by escaping through the Underground Railroad.

The 13th Amendment of the United States Constitution was adopted by the 38th Congress on February 1st. This amendment abolished slavery. It was approved in 1865.

The first Negro History Week took place beginning February 7th, 1926. Carter G. Woodson was its creator.

The first African-American woman to win the Women's Singles of the U.S. National Figure Skating Championship was Debi Thomas in 1986.

On February 13th, 1923, the first Black pro basketball team was organized. It was called 'The Renaissance'.

### Hibernating with a Good Book--Together! Winter's chill often keeps us indoors.

Books to the rescue! Discover a world of hidden treasures by making a habit of reading with and to your child far beyond an age when they learn to read to themselves!

#### Why read aloud, even after your child can do the reading?

- Connect face-to-face around passions, ideas, and values. When both you and your child unplug devices and share a book together, the shared experience brings you closer as you laugh together, cry at the moving moments, or cheer together for a character to conquer a challenge.
- Expand your child's world. While you do the reading, you free your child's mind to focus on imaging every scene in 3-D, process ideas & information, and hear crafty words and expressions that enrich personal vocabulary. Books & poems offer readers opportunities to explore adventures, ideas, or historical times that ignite their curiosity, interest, and imagination.
- Have fun and make memories. Whether you choose picture books that capture meaningful moments, or longer novels and nonfiction books to read across many days, your shared experience will build lifelong memories of deliberate time spent together.

#### Tips for adding fun and enjoyment to reading together:

1. Listen aloud: Check out audiobooks to listen to together and talk about as you drive around town or on longer trips.
2. Chat as you go: Pick places along the reading to stop and chat about what you are thinking, imagining, and wondering.