



October 5, 2018

Dear Families of Students in Grades 1-5,

On Wednesday, October 31, 2018, the Lower School will participate in a school-wide project called Literary Exploration & Adventure Day (L.E.A.D.). On this day, we invite and encourage students and faculty to come to school dressed as their favorite literary character or author. As you can imagine, the possibilities for this activity are endless.

From the earliest moments students enter Dwight-Englewood as preschoolers, they are immersed in literature through storytelling, read alouds, and other interactive work. As they progress through the Lower School, students learn to think more deeply about the characters in their books, to step into the shoes of these characters, to empathize with them, and to anticipate how the characters will act as well. Project L.E.A.D. will joyfully reinforce these ideals as students physically and dramatically immerse themselves in beloved literary characters.

The goals of Project L.E.A.D. are to:

- further foster and encourage a love of reading in our students
- provide yet another opportunity for students to engage their creativity
- spark new interest in books, characters and authors
- satisfy out students' desire to express themselves
- serve as a “kick-off” for the November Book Fair

Although many will be dressed in character, our school day will operate on a normal schedule. The presence of so many and varied characters and authors will enhance our instructional time, and it will also provide a springboard for student conversation during lunch and recess time. Please see the reverse side for more specific details about this very special day and help our students to “L.E.A.D. by example...”.

Kim Lewis
Lower School Principal

LITERARY EXPLORATION & ADVENTURE DAY

Here are some guidelines to help your child make the most of Project L.E.A.D.

- Talk with your child about favorite books, characters or authors.
- Help your child brainstorm ways they can look like or symbolize their chosen character.
- Some book characters represent themes that may be difficult to understand given the broad age range and interest level for this assembly. Thank you for encouraging your child to avoid characters that are frightening or those that represent negative stereotypes.
- Costumes do not need to be elaborate. There are many simple ways to represent a character, including carrying a prop, drawing pictures and/or wearing small signs or labels that help others easily recognize the character.
- Students are asked to be mindful of the school dress code when planning their attire for the day.
- Students must be able to manage their own costumes for the day (i.e. large, ornate costumes will interfere with a student's ability to attend to lessons during the day).
- Many teachers will be on hand to take keepsake photographs of students in their costumes. These photographs will be made available to parents on the Dwight-Englewood Facebook page and via *Lower School Notes*.
- Participation in Project L.E.A.D. is optional but strongly encouraged. The more characters on hand on this day, the richer the literary experience for us all!
- Due to our parking constraints, Project L.E.A.D. is for students and faculty only. Parents are asked to refrain from coming to the Lower School on this day.