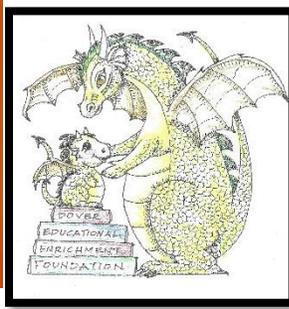


Dover Union Free School District

Second to None



DEEP Matters

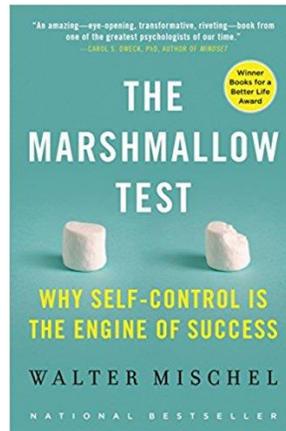
A Newsletter of the Dover Education Enrichment Program (DEEP)

an education enrichment fund of

Berkshire Taconic
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Wingdale Elementary School Dragon Wagon

Could you pass “The Marshmallow Test?” During the 1960s, clinical psychologist Walter Mischel conducted research to better understand the effect of a young child’s willpower on his/her achievement in adult life. His findings revealed that children who were able to delay gratification (to forego eating one marshmallow for a period of time for the reward of receiving an extra marshmallow) were correlated with achieving positive academic and life outcomes as adults. Since the 1990s, Daniel Goleman has studied “emotional intelligence” or “EQ” as traits associated with the ability to regulate our emotions and understand those of others, to delay immediate gratification and to convey empathy in interpersonal relationships. His research asserts that “EQ” is as important as IQ, that it can be learned, and it is a foundational skill of leadership.

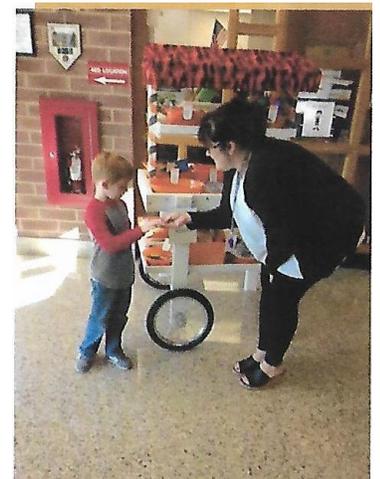


With DEEP grant support, WES 1st Grade teacher Jennifer Lazarow and her project colleague, Mrs. Brigette Spinda have implemented a Kindergarten through 2nd Grade character development program that helps young students learn and demonstrate prosocial behaviors that may also cultivate emotional intelligence. Students receive tokens for positive behaviors that may be accumulated to “purchase” inexpensive school-related items (i.e., pencils, stickers, books or seasonal items) available on a student-friendly decorated mobile cart called the “Dragon Wagon.” Classroom teachers periodically reward students with tokens for behaviors that exhibit socio-emotional qualities and learning promoted in Responsive Classroom principles and practices.



Mrs. Lazarow introduces the “Dragon Wagon” at a student assembly

In addition to the project’s primary outcomes to promote prosocial behavior and encourage peer role modeling, young students also gain skills in decision-making and delaying immediate gratification to save tokens and then exchange them for more desirable items.



Mrs. Spinda helps a student purchase an item from the Dragon Wagon

According to Mischel, “self-control is the engine of success.” With the help of the Dragon Wagon, students’ earliest life lessons can also include the benefits of willpower and self-control to develop the emotional and empathic skills that students will need for later life success.