

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 8:36 AM EDT
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Brown MS Weekly Update

Hi [REDACTED],

So sorry you are receiving this. I am copying some of the smartest people I know to get additional suggestions on what tack to take at this point. I do think we have intentionally tried already to share our concern for people in Gaza as well as Israel. In sending the letter this week, we were responding here to one group who felt we weren't heard or seen in our previous letter. It is probably not helpful to point out what we had shared already which was acknowledging the concerns for people in Gaza as well as in this letter: "The unspeakable acts of violence that have been committed against innocent people are an atrocity. The loss of civilian lives in this attack, and ensuing war, has caused deep and lasting trauma for so many students and families here in Newton." but worth considering that and our other letter. Probaby best to share that you are indeed outraged at the horrible conditions and violence being experienced by civilians in Gaza as well, and that our primary concern is supporting our students, and asking what additional support his child needs.

Just some initial thoughts and happy to talk midday and this afternoon.

[REDACTED]
Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education and Special Programs
Newton Public Schools
100 Walnut Street
Newton, MA 02460
www.newton.k12.ma.us
617 559-6115
He/Him/His

Notice of Confidentiality: This transmission is intended for the addressee or addressees listed above and may contain information that is confidential and private. If you are not an addressee, any use, disclosure, copying or communication of the contents of this transmission is prohibited. If this communication was received in error, please contact me immediately at the number listed above. Thank you for your cooperation.

On Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 7:50 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I hope you both had a good weekend and thank you for your help with all of the communications this past week. I have received a number of positive responses to the principal's message. However, I am sharing this one because I wanted to touch base about how best to respond. If you have time this morning would love to get your thoughts.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, Oct 14, 2023 at 2:27 PM
Subject: Re: Brown MS Weekly Update
To: [REDACTED]

Hi,

Frankly, the only outrage that is missing is towards the genocide that the Israeli government is currently committing towards 2M Palestinian civilians. I have been waiting for anyone to acknowledge this to no avail. I am a survivor of the Bosnian genocide and these images along with the propaganda have been extremely triggering and difficult to take. I feel physically ill watching the news and reading your email that completely ignores their suffering. Is one baby more important than another? Is it ever justified to kill civilians? If not, how is that act not condemned now?

Palestinian civilians have been called human animals, their water, electricity and food have been cut off, and they are being slaughtered in their homes with nowhere to hide, no way to defend themselves, and not one single word has come out condemning these violent war crimes and crimes against humanity as defined by the UN.

As educators and leaders in the community, you have a responsibility to stand on the side of justice and facts. You have to protect the silent and powerless voices, not aid in their ostracizing and suppression.

I am afraid to send my [redacted] to school in this climate. I don't feel [redacted] is safe in a place that values one life more than another.

Please take time to reflect on your communication to the community thus far and consider taking a stance that is more in line with reality rather than propaganda.

Thanks,
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 14, 2023, at 1:58 PM, [redacted] wrote:

[Open this email in a browser](#)

□

Brown MS Weekly Update

To translate this news letter, click on the newsletter and select the word "translate" at the top right hand side under Accessibility. Select the language from the drop down menu.

Dear Brown MS Community,

I hope you are all doing well and taking time for yourselves this weekend. I am sending this weekly update a little later than usual because I wanted to be sure it included the message below, written collaboratively by all of the NPS principals. It is my constant goal to lead our Brown MS community to take care of one another. During this past week, teachers and counselors provided support for our students and met with those who needed time to process or share how they were feeling. All of your children are precious to our faculty and staff and we will continue to care for and support them in the days and weeks ahead.

This coming week on Wednesday we will honor "Unity Day" at Brown. Unity Day is in honor of October being anti-bullying month. Middle school can be difficult socially, and putting energy into events such as Kindess Week and Unity Day are integral to continuing our Bear Belief of "Be Safe and Kind". We encourage all to wear orange on Unity Day, Wednesday, Oct. 18, to demonstrate that we are one community that looks out for one another in good times and bad.

Best,
[redacted], Principal

A Message from Newton

Over the course of this week, NPS building and district leaders and the superintendent have been working together to support our community and to reflect on the week's events. Collectively, we felt it was important to share the following message as an expression of our ongoing care and learning in these difficult times.

We share outrage and horror at the Hamas-led terrorist attack against Jewish and Israeli civilians and we recognize that some families did not hear us name those events and feelings in some of our initial communications. The unspeakable acts of violence that have been committed against innocent people are an atrocity. The loss of civilian lives in this attack, and ensuing war, has caused deep and lasting trauma for so many students and families here in Newton.

As an NPS team, our messages earlier this week were intended to convey support for our Israeli and Palestinian families, our community members with ties to the region, and all those impacted by violence and war. As a part of our commitment to keeping all children safe, we will continue to listen and engage in thoughtful conversations about how best to communicate and to be responsive to our diverse community's needs.

Through all of our shared work this week, it is abundantly clear that there is a common thread to the diverse viewpoints, opinions, feedback, stories, and reflections we have heard from our NPS families and students. Everyone, regardless of background, faith, or experiences yearns for reassurance that their children are safe and their identities are honored and protected.

As Dr. Nolin has written and reaffirmed [in recent remarks at the city's forum](#) on hate and antisemitism, please know that our educators remain steadfast in their commitment to ensuring all students are valued, respected, and supported and that our communities are free from harassment, discrimination, and hate. We will continue to work together with our district and school leadership teams to support our students.

Sincerely,
Newton Public School Principals

Upcoming

- **Week of Oct 16 - 20 : Spirit Week!**(See below for details.)
- **Wed., Oct. 18:** Unity Day - Wear Orange in honor of Bullying Prevention Month
- **Sun., Nov. 5:** Daylight Savings Time ends • clocks go back/lose an hour
- **Tues., Nov. 7:** Early Release Day - Students dismissed at 11:20
- **Fri., Nov. 10:** No School -Veteran's Day Observance

	Week	Next	
--	-------------	-------------	--

This coming week is Brown MS Spirit Week. It is an opportunity to have some fun together. Each day has a theme and we encourage students and staff to dress according to the theme.

- **Monday - "Sports Team day"** - Wear the shirt of your favorite team, or wear some Brown-wear to show your school spirit!
 - **Tuesday - "Twinning/Matching Day"** - Dress in the same clothes as a friend or friends
 - **Wednesday - "Unity Day"** - Wear orange in honor of anti-bullying month
 - **Thursday - "Dress like a teacher day"**
 - **Friday - "Pajama Day"**
-