



QUINCY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Richard DeCristofaro, Ed.D., Superintendent



Dear Families,

Today, October 24, 2017, staff from Shriners Hospital for Children – Boston visited our school to help welcome a new 1st grader named Robensley to our school! Robensley sustained a burn injury in Haiti in 2016 and as a result has significant scarring to his face, head, arms, and hands. As a way to assist with LeyLey's transition to a new school, a team from Shriners Hospital presented their School Reentry Program.

The goal of the program is to ease the transition for the student, family, peers and teachers by offering support and encouragement to use in the days that follow their return to school. By informing versus ignoring the natural questions that arise when welcoming a student with a large injury back to school, we empower each member of the school to welcome Robensley in their own, small way!

The presentation was for kindergarten and 1st grade and was created especially for the students of Merrymount Elementary to address the LeyLey's ongoing care at Shriners Hospital for Children and current medical status. Below is an outline of what the program covered, all at an age appropriate level.

- We discussed LeyLey's injury and resulting scars. LeyLey has large, visible scars on his face, head, arms and hands. He is also missing some hair as a result of scarring. He is able to use his hands like his classmates, including write and play!
- We empowered LeyLey by providing appropriate language to use when questions are asked as well as providing these answers proactively to the students in his class.
- We encouraged empathy and tolerance of differences by highlighting ways we are all similar and different.
- We provided education on fire safety and prevention with the help of some local fire fighters.
- We taught classmates appropriate and positive ways to interact with their classmate.

While your child was not part of the presentation, we encourage you to talk with your child/children about ways to help welcome their new peer to school.

We thank you for your cooperation and support as we welcome Robensley to Merrymount Elementary School!

Sincerely,

Shriners Hospital for Children – Boston

Quincy Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, or handicap, in its educational activities or employment practices.