



MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT JOHN SCAVELLI

Since our last newsletter, I have had the opportunity to visit and/or read in many of our classrooms across the district. I enjoy spending time with our students and staff.

In early December, I visited two classrooms at Jaggard School. In Ms. Warren's third-grade class, I was very impressed with her students as they displayed their multiplication skills while rotating through several math stations. While visiting Ms. Fitzpatrick's second-grade class,

I read a story. Her students used their best listening skills as I read and then worked in small groups to answer questions about the story.

The photo below is from my recent visit to Ms. Kalaitzis' class at DMS, where we talked about the students' recent persuasive writing unit that gave them the opportunity to write letters to authentic audiences. I was invited in to follow-up on several letters I received where the hot topic requests were for later school start times, cell phones in school, and longer recess.

At the end of October, Halloween activities were held at our elementary schools with students dressing up in their favorite

costumes. November brought parent-teacher conferences, which was a great opportunity for all of our parents to meet with teachers to discuss their child's progress.

Parents also had the opportunity to visit their child's classroom during American Education Week. Also in November, our fifth- and eighth-grade students participated in Student Council elections as part of their Social Studies units of instruction.

December brings the start of the winter concert season. The performances so far have been wonderful!

Best wishes to our entire school community for a safe and happy holiday season!



CURRICULUM

ETSD Tuition-Based Programs for 2019-2020 School Year

The Evesham Township School District is pleased to announce the continuation of our tuition-based early childhood programs. For the 2019-2020 school year, Evesham residents and district employees have the opportunity to enroll their child in our full-day kindergarten program, as well as our preschool integrated programs for three- or four-year olds. For more information on these programs, visit our website at www.evesham.k12.nj.us under Announcements.

The full-day kindergarten program will be offered at all six elementary schools. The curriculum used in this program is aligned to what is currently being offered in our half-day program; however, it extends early reading and math concepts, language development, fine and gross motor skills, related arts, and social skills into a complete full-day academic program. The cost for the program is \$5,500.00 for the year, and includes transportation for all families living within Evesham's bus zones.



The preschool inclusion programs will be held at Rice Elementary School. Separate three-year-old and four-year-old programs are scheduled to have a morning and afternoon session. The goal of these inclusion programs is to bring together children with special needs with their typically developing peers in a collaborative classroom environment where students participate in a variety of hands-on educational experiences.

The curricula used in these programs are state-approved, developmentally appropriate, and based on best practice in early childhood education. The preschool programs are aligned to the district's kindergarten program, and taught by a certified teacher. The cost for the program is \$3,300.00 for the year, and includes transportation for all families living within Evesham's bus zones.

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

THERAPY DOG PROGRAM

The district has implemented a new therapy dog program this year – Literacy and Leashes – at each of the elementary schools.

Each school has their own dog and handler assigned to the building who works directly with the second-grade students during their reading time. The district welcomed Kalli at Beeler, Isaac at DES, Valerie at

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DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

THERAPY DOG PROGRAM

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Jaggard, Gage at MES, Layla at Rice, and Libby at Van Zant.

The goal of this program is to build confidence and strengthen literacy skills in our students with these very special reading companions. All dogs used in the program are registered therapy dogs with volunteer handlers who have been approved through the ETSD as per board policy. The program was initiated in September/October and will last the duration of the school year. School and classroom expectations were written into the district's second-grade Health and RC Connections Curriculum.

The trained handlers and their dog are volunteers and are present in the schools approximately one hour per week. They rotate through each of the second-grade



classrooms so students can expect a visit from the school's assigned therapy dog a minimum of once a month.

In addition, a whole school meeting was held, or is scheduled to be held, in all the schools in the fall/winter to review behavior expectations with all staff and students within the building. This whole school meeting is led by the second-grade students.

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DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

THERAPY DOG PROGRAM

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A THANKSGIVING FEAST AT TEDDY BEAR ACADEMY



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A THANKSGIVING FEAST AT TEDDY BEAR ACADEMY



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Just before Thanksgiving, the children at the **Teddy Bear Academy** (TBA) enjoyed the 5th Annual Thanksgiving Feast. The children had a great day of dressing up, learning about “giving”, and talking about what they are thankful for, all while enjoying a feast prepared by the TBA staff.

During the month of November, TBA also collected non-perishable foods for the Cherokee High School Food Pantry. Enough items were donated to fill eight large boxes.

BEELER CELEBRATES VETERANS' DAY

On Monday, November 12, **Beeler School** held its 2nd Annual Welcome Home Veterans Day celebration.

In a partnership with Operation Yellow Ribbon, United States Navy Operations Specialist E-5 Lucas Roethle was recognized by the Beeler School Community. Roethle is the father of Beeler first-grader Tristan Fischbach.

The morning began with Beeler students and staff lining Caldwell Ave with their American Flags, waiting with anticipation to “Welcome Home” the local hero. Members of the Evesham Fire and Police Departments also attended. The Warriors Watch Riders led the procession down Radnor Boulevard onto Caldwell Ave and into the Beeler parking lot.

The students and staff reassembled on the front lawn of the school as Principal Jerry Boland and Operation Yellow Ribbon leader Dave Silver recognized Roethle. The ceremony began with the Cherokee Junior ROTC flying the nation’s colors while the Star Spangled Banner



played. Roethle was presented with a certificate of honor and a hero’s cape, a trademark of Operation Yellow Ribbon.

This is a day the Beeler School Community truly embraces. An opportunity to recognize a local hero, as well

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BEELER CELEBRATES VETERANS' DAY

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as honoring all of those who serve our country, is a life moment that is critical for today's youth to understand. The Beeler community looks to continue this tradition

and the partnership with Operation Yellow Ribbon for many years to come.



ONE SCHOOL, ONE TRIBE

Each month at **DeMasi Schools**, students in first and seventh grades meet to read books, review math concepts, and get to know each other.

Students prepare for their visits by considering possible themes for their gathering, selecting their own reading material, and preparing materials.



Teachers, Debbie VanCuren, Kathleen Eden, and Tracy Hirsekorn, are continuing their work that began in the 2017-2018 school year. The teachers look forward each year to fostering a positive mentoring relationship between the two grade levels.

DEMASI MIDDLE SCHOOL CONTINUES TRADITION OF SERVICE LEARNING

DeMasi always has seen service as a pillar of the school community. Color runs, service learning trips, Kids for Change fundraisers, peer helpers...the list goes on, and has grown since the school opened its doors in 1993. The photo in this story is of DeMasi's eighth-grade students working in their Helping Hands elective.



During this class cycle, DeMasi's Family and Consumer Science teacher, Ms. Joan Eckert, worked with her students to teach them a variety of cooking and baking skills that they use for real life service projects. In one of the photos, the "Dolphins" are creating "Angel Baskets," that include their delicious confections as well as other items that will help needy families in the community celebrate the holidays. This District-wide

collaboration is just one strand of the course.

Students also learn about preparing casseroles and soups which

are delivered to local food pantries and the Ronald McDonald House. Thank you to our teachers, our students and our District for supporting and participating in such meaningful and purposeful learning.

Coming Attractions

DeMasi Related Arts and PE will be hosting a Multi-cultural Festival on January 22. Families are invited in the evening from 6 to 8 pm. Please come out and enjoy food, games, music, and performances from around the world. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Ms. Sara Smith at smithsara@evesham.k12.nj.us.

SOCKTOBER MAKES THE NEWS!



Jaggard students and staff had a special surprise on Friday, November 2, when Jennaphr Frederick from “Good Day Philadelphia” broadcasted live from the school. Her special visit was a result of Jaggard students participating in Socktober and bringing in a total of 1,044 pairs of socks. The students’ goal was less than half that amount, with each student being asked to bring in one pair of socks to support this cause.

Socktober was started by Brad Montague (aka Kid President) in October of 2011. Brad wanted to do something to help the large homeless population in the community in which he lived. He found out that socks are a great need at homeless shelters and are not donated as much as other clothing items. Brad decided that he was going to do something about it and started wishing people “Happy Socktober” as he passed out socks. Brad filmed himself giving out these socks and posted the videos on social media. The Socktober Craze was born and has become more and more popular. Every year Brad continues to promote people and organizations donating socks in October.

Classroom teachers shared one of Brad’s videos with their students and everyone wore Crazy Socks to kick off Socktober at Jaggard. Students took Socktober to heart and started bringing in all kinds of socks in all shapes and sizes. The number of socks quickly grew, and by the end of the month had reached over 1,000 pairs! The socks are being donated to Extended Hands Ministry in Mt. Holly. The director of the program has shared they will come in very handy at this time of year when the cold weather has arrived.

When Jennaphr Frederick heard about the students’ generosity she wanted to surprise them! Ms. Frederick started her broadcast in the office and then did a second segment in the gym where the entire student body was gathered. She was greeted with a huge uproar of excitement! After she spoke with the students she kicked off a “Sock hop” for the students in the gym. Jaggard students learned the lesson, “Do good things and good things will happen.”

THE SEASON OF GIVING AT MES

The students of **Marlton Elementary School** have gotten into the spirit of the holidays by coming together to give back to their community.



The themes of giving and togetherness unified the school as the excitement of the holiday season approached. The annual MES Turkey Trot, coordinated by physical education teacher Mrs. Kyzer, kicked off the festivities with the fourth- and fifth-grade students competing in a fun-run lap around the school grounds as the rest of the school cheered them on. Students were asked to donate a canned-good food item to participate in the run.

Mrs. Kyzer reinforced to the runners that the day was not about winning or losing, but about “the good they were all doing for others.” A mountain of food items was collected to help keep the Wiley Pantry stocked through December!

Later that afternoon, the generosity of MES families and student volunteer power continued as 55 students stayed after school to participate in the Wiley Thanksgiving Dinner Community Give-back. The goal was to put together 40 full, uncooked Thanksgiving dinners for families in need from the surrounding Marlton area. The MES PTA organized a food drive asking families of MES to donate a Thanksgiving dinner item – such as a turkey, box of stuffing, bag of potatoes, fresh pie, etc. – to create a full family meal.

Students from kindergarten to fifth-grade helped sort all the items by type and then bagged them so each family would receive a complete dinner. Students learned many valuable lessons:

How to work as a team; how to communicate with each other; how to make new friends; how to organize a big project; and, most important, how “giving to” and “doing for” others warms the heart and puts a smile on your face.

Students met the goal of 40 dinners! Each dinner included 4 bags of food; 160 bags were packed and ready to go in under an hour! Each dinner had a student-made holiday card and a gift certificate to a local food store. Students loaded the labeled bags into waiting parent vehicles to be transported to the Wiley Pantry for distribution.

The students did an amazing job! Happy Holidays to all!



MMS EIGHTH-GRADERS GET AN UP-CLOSE LESSON ON AUSTRALIA

Marlton Middle School students in 8 Blue have made connections between the U.S. and a different country and culture thousands of miles away. Recently, guest speaker Pauline Griffiths treated students to a lesson on Australia. The purpose of Ms. Griffiths' visit to Marlton was to visit her niece's family. Before making the trip, Ms. Griffiths reached out to her niece's Marlton Middle School principal Gary Hoffman, about visiting a social studies class and teaching the students a little about Australia.

Ms. Griffiths has had an extensive career in education in her hometown of Canberra, Australia. She is an English and music teacher for grades seven through twelve; she even has worked as a school principal.

Ms. Griffiths spoke to all five of Mr. Chris Thomas's eighth-grade social studies classes. She prepared a

Google Slides presentation for her lecture on the history of Australia and the Australian government. Students were engaged in the lesson and were able to make several connections, primarily between the lives of early native Americans and the Aboriginals of Australia, the colonization of Australia and the colonization of the United States, and the current government structures of the two countries.

"I learned that Australia has a prime minister and doesn't use an electoral college," explained one student. Other students commented on the diversity of Australia. "My favorite part of the presentation was learning about the different languages spoken in Australia." Ms. Griffiths answered students' questions, passed around Australian currency, and treated the class to Australian treats.

Students have written Ms. Griffiths letters to thank her for sharing her time and experiences. Her presentation and lecture exposed students to a different culture and a friendly face from the land down under.



RICE SCHOOL OBSERVES RED RIBBON WEEK

Students at **Rice School** participated in a variety of activities to observe Red Ribbon Week, a national drug awareness prevention program.

Students explored this year's theme, "Life is Your Journey, Travel Drug Free", by illustrating their favorite activities for staying mentally and physically fit on paper feet

that were then displayed around the school.

During "Media Day in the Cafe", School Counselor Stacey Donnelly shared videos that encouraged a positive mindset and engaged the children in discussions about making healthy choices. Throughout the week students learned about being an upstander and teaming up

against drugs and bullying.

Fifth-graders participated in a county-wide Red Ribbon poster contest sponsored by Prevention Plus. Lelaina, from Mrs. Healey's fifth-grade class, was awarded a gift card for her winning entry.



VAN ZANT COOKIES FOR OUR TROOPS!



The second-grade at **Van Zant** continues its mission of kindness!

Before the Thanksgiving break, the second-grade students worked together to bake delicious cookies in the Van Zant cafeteria! The cookies will be donated to Operation Yellow Ribbon.

The organization will ship the cookies overseas to our troops who cannot make it home for the holidays.

The students also wrote notes to the troops that will be included in the packages.

Students continue to live up to the second-grade motto at Van Zant: Kindness is free! Sprinkle that stuff everywhere!

