



## MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT JOHN SCAVELLI

Our students have completed many wonderful events and projects since our last newsletter. I've had the opportunity to visit many of our classrooms across the district and enjoy spending time with our students and staff.

In December, each of our schools held instrumental and/or vocal concerts. All of the students and staff involved in these performances did an outstanding job! The concerts were a pleasure to watch and enjoyed by all who attended.

In January, the winter theme was integrated into many of our primary grade classrooms. Three of our elementary schools held LEAD graduations for fifth-grade students who completed this drug and alcohol awareness program. See the district spotlight in this publication for more on this program.

The end of January marked the half-way point of the school year. Teachers administered various mid-year assessments that are used to document growth and inform instruction for our students. The

actual 100th day was celebrated in mid-February in various primary grades across the district. I encourage you to visit our school websites for more information on the various school events.

### Budget News

At the January 24 board meeting, the preliminary 2019-2020 budget information was presented. Unfortunately, our school district will experience a significant reduction in state aid funding over the next several years. This adds another challenge to an already difficult process, but we anticipate our overall spending to decrease. We have worked hard to create a spending plan that meets the needs of our students, maintaining lower class sizes and all instructional programs for the upcoming year.

These include core subjects, related arts, and specialized programs.

Although the preliminary budget calls for reduced spending on supplies, non-instructional equipment and capital projects, it does continue to upgrade technology hardware such as interactive whiteboards and security cameras. In addition, we will be updating our mathematics resources and related materials.

Governor Murphy will be providing his state budget address in early March, and state aid numbers will be released shortly thereafter. We are planning to hold a special board meeting on March 12, at DeMasi School beginning at 7:00 p.m. to provide a budget update and approve the tentative budget for submission to the NJ Department of Education.



# CURRICULUM

**O** The ETSD supports school health and wellness policies and practices that address the physical, social, and emotional needs of our students. Our goal is to promote the health and well-being of the whole child.

**R**  
**N**  
**E**  
**R** The following district-wide programs are utilized to teach students about the importance of making informed food choices, developing sound eating and physical activity habits, and character education in order to enable them to responsibly and responsibly make informed decisions that influence lifelong healthy behaviors within the context of self, family, school, and the local and global communities:

- Comprehensive Health and Physical Education
- Responsive Classroom
- Social Studies
- School Counseling Program
- School Health Services Program

In addition to district-wide programs, building-based initiatives also are used to promote the health and well-being of the whole child where positive character



development and making good choices are recognized and reinforced.

School Wellness Week will be held the week of March 11 this year. Please join us for our second annual District **Wellness Night on Wednesday, March 13, from 6:30-8:00 pm at DeMasi**. The night will have opportunities for ETSD families to learn about healthy eating, sample foods, participate in fitness activities, and talk with various health experts and Green Team representatives. We hope you can join us!

## DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

### DRUG PREVENTION

Students in kindergarten through grade eight receive 150 minutes of instruction per week in the district's Comprehensive Health and Physical Education program. Some of this instruction is provided independently within the subject area domains of health and physical education. Other areas of physical education, health, and wellness are integrated across subject areas through

interdisciplinary units of study.

A primary area of instruction is focused on students acquiring knowledge about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and medicines, and applying these concepts to support a healthy, active lifestyle. This study is initiated annually in October with Red Ribbon Week. This year's national campaign theme was Life is Your Journey, Travel Drug Free.

The week encompassed school-wide activities that promoted a positive school environment and drug prevention awareness; resources were provided by the

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## DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

### DRUG PREVENTION

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district and the Burlington County Municipal Alliance. Classroom lessons are taught at various times throughout the year to recognize and raise awareness to the hazards and risks of illegal drugs, and to promote good decision-making.

In addition, a course is taught in fifth- and seventh-grade through a collaborative effort by the Evesham Township Police Department and the school district to provide an educational program designed to prevent or reduce drug abuse and violence among children and youth. The fifth-grade course, titled Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.), is taught over a half-year cycle and helps students recognize and resist the many direct and subtle pressures that influence them to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants, or other drugs, or to engage in violence.

In seventh-grade, this program builds on the strategies taught in the elementary program and focuses on peer-pressure, refusal, understanding addiction, and examining the effects of alcohol and drugs on the body and development of the adolescent brain over a quint cycle.



Students at Jaggard, Rice, and Van Zant elementary schools graduated from the fifth-grade LEAD program in January. Officer Kinner, LEAD Officer, showcased the students' hard work throughout the course at graduation ceremonies held at each of the schools. Highlights from the ceremonies were guest speakers, student presentations and awards, student- and parent-developed essays, songs and refreshments.

Congratulations to all of the fifth-graders on their accomplishments! The LEAD course is currently underway at Beeler, DES, and MES.

## MARLTON MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTS HOUSE LEADERS

On November 13, 2018, the students of **Marlton Middle School** were able to experience voting in an election. Using official Burlington County voting machines, grades six through eight cast their ballots for house presidents. Anton Smolyanyy

and Erin St. John emerged as the Blue and Yellow House presidents, with Ava Jade Dandrea and Samantha Berkowitz elected as vice presidents. Running on strong platforms that included both improvement to school culture and altruistic efforts,

these four distinguished representatives vowed to make an impact during their final year at MMS.

Anton Smolyanyy, MMS's Blue House president, is committed to making MMS a better place. "The

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## MARLTON MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTS HOUSE LEADERS

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main thing that made me decide to run for president was that I really wanted to have a voice in how everything at MMS runs.” He has some big plans for MMS, most notable are two specific goals, fueled by students concerns. “My top goal for this year is getting water bottles for the students. One of my other goals is to work with Mrs. Gormley to coordinate a mosaic mural for eighth-graders to leave their mark on MMS before they head off to high school.”

MMS’s Blue House vice president, Ava Jade, has some big goals as well, and she is excited to see progress on one of her platforms. Ava Jade, along with her fellow representatives, is raising money for CHOP. Based on her experience, Ava Jade shared some great advice for current and prospective student council members, “It doesn’t matter whom you voted for or your position on the team, we are all working together to support everyone’s ideas.”

Erin St. John, Yellow House president, has been part of her school’s student council since elementary school, and has a family tradition of civic responsibility. “In fifth-grade, I was class president and in sixth- and seventh-grade, I was a homeroom student council senator.” Erin said she decided to run for president af-



ter her brother, a former MMS student, was elected as Yellow House vice president. Erin says the best part of being Yellow House president is having the opportunity to share her ideas with her classmates. Her advice for future Yellow House presidents is, “Don’t get stressed out and always keep working, even if you don’t see progress right away.”

Finally, Yellow House vice president Samantha Berkowitz is an accomplished softball player. She plays for her MMS team, as well as for The Copycats softball team outside of school. Samantha is working with her elected peers on a Walkathon for CHOP. She also has another unique goal in mind. “We’re going to start working on a Dunk Tank charity for the American Heart Association.” Samantha said she is inspired by her mother.

“It’s pretty cliché, but my mom inspires me. She works really hard and never gives up. I aspire to have her strength.” Samantha’s goal for this year is to start a school tradition that is fun and for a good cause.

Although the Yellow and Blue House presidents and vice presidents have been working in collaboration with students, administrators, and the community-at-large since the November elections, they were officially sworn in on January 25, 2019. Taking the stage at the eighth-grade Inaugural Dance, they were sworn in by MMS principal, Gary Hoffman, in front of their eighth-grade peers.

MMS is proud to be represented by these students, who embody a strong sense of community and commitment to their school and district.

# SECOND ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL NIGHT A HUGE SUCCESS!

All Related Arts and Physical Education teachers worked together to expand **DeMasi's** Multi-Cultural night this year. Initiated by students last year, this tradition was inspired by world music they learned about in their elective taught by Ms. Sara Smith.

This year, the department staff got involved, working together to create an experience for all of their students. During the school day, students participated in activities highlighting different world cultures. Food, games, music and art from around the globe filled the hallways every period on January 22. In the evening, families and more staff returned to the building to celebrate with homemade dishes, displays, performances and camaraderie.



The collaboration among and between staff, students, and families was a joyful experience. The relationships here at DeMasi create a foundation of mutual respect and teamwork, inviting everyone to celebrate their individuality while strengthening our common ground of community.

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# SECOND ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL NIGHT A HUGE SUCCESS!

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We look forward to growing this tradition in the future, while we continue to provide a place at our table for every student, every day.



# BEELER'S KINDNESS PATROL PART OF ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

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*Although the Enrichment Program has an ending date, the concept of spreading kindness will continue to grow at Beeler because of the efforts of these amazing students.*

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Part of the fifth-grade curriculum in Evesham Township is an Enrichment Program to provide students with an in-depth exploration of ideas in diverse areas. The primary goal of the program is to foster in

all students the ability to recognize unique talents and strengths, as well as to cultivate these with authentic experiences. Students choose from a variety of courses offered by each school's teachers. The program lasts

approximately 12 weeks.

This year, one of those enrichment courses at **Beeler Elementary School** was called Kindness Patrol, which was facilitated by guidance counselor Kathy Carmack. In addition to finding ways to spread acts of kindness throughout the school, the group organized a collection of items to make into Kindness Bags for the homeless.

Students assembled 55 bags of toiletry and necessity items. With the help of the Unforgotten Haven, the kindness bags were donated to the homeless in Camden and Philadelphia over the holidays.

The final projects of the Kindness Patrol were making Valentine's Day cards for the pediatric patients at Virtua Hospital, and a field trip to a nursing home to participate in a craft with senior citizens.

Although the Enrichment Program has an ending date, the concept of spreading kindness will continue to grow at Beeler because of the efforts of these amazing students.

# RICE STUDENTS SHARE APPRECIATION FOR US TROOPS



Throughout the year, and in a variety of ways, students at **Rice School** are encouraged to show their appreciation for others.

Recently, students in Mrs. Marie Rispo's first-grade class invited the entire student body to demonstrate their support for the troops.

First, students created Valentine wishes for those serving our country in the Armed Forces. Children drew pictures and wrote messages designed to warm hearts and put smiles on the faces of those who are stationed far from loved ones.

Then, during the first week of February, students collected supplies to donate to the Yellow Ribbon Club for inclusion in care packages that will be sent to troops.

With several Rice students coming from families of active military members, a few of whom are serving abroad, these projects reinforce the school community's support for those who sacrifice so much to preserve our freedom.



# TEAMING UP TO SHOW HEART

Students from **Van Zant** and **Jaggard Schools** teamed up in early February to show some heart! Both schools participated in their annual Have a Heart Drive.

Students, staff, and families at both schools collected donations for the Ronald McDonald House in Camden and CHOP at Virtua in Voorhees. Each organization was in need of important supplies. Items donated included household items for Ronald McDonald House such as paper towels, toilet paper, hand soap, tin foil, etc. The drive also collected coloring books, markers, puzzles, and board games to be used in CHOP at Virtua's teen rooms and waiting areas.

The Have a Heart Drive ended in early February. A team of Van Zant and Jaggard students, staff, and parents took the items to both facilities on Tuesday, February 12. The field trip also included a tour of both facilities, and a meet and greet with staff at both locations.

Students were able to get a firsthand look at the important role the RMH and CHOP at Virtua play in the community. Students were further reminded of the importance of showing empathy and being active citizens.



# CELEBRATING LOVE WITH SERVICE

**DeMasi Elementary** celebrated the day of love (Valentine's Day) with a day of service. On Thursday, February 14, DeMasi Elementary PTA, in coordination with staff and students, collected donations from DES families to assemble care packages and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for local charities.

The fifth-grade students of DES worked together to research five charities. The PTA then assisted the students and teachers in collecting and organizing the items. All of the students had an opportunity to meet with the fifth-grade and PTA to learn about the charities and then take part in creating the donations.

The charitable organizations included Joseph's House of Camden, a non-profit daytime program designed to welcome people in need, and provide direct links to resources that would assist them out of homelessness. Joseph's House serves more than 150 people a day. DES donated packages with shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush and washcloths for people in need. While waiting to make care packages the students made Valentine's Day cards for senior citizens at Wiley Nursing Home located in Marlton.

The third charity the students learned about was Cozies for Chemo. The students made more than 45 no-sew blankets for pa-



tients going through chemotherapy. Students wore their pajamas on Valentine's Day and donated money

to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the fourth organization to benefit.

The last organization the fifth-grade assisted was the Unforgotten Haven. This charitable organization accepts donations of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that then were given out to the homeless of Philadelphia over the weekend. The DES PTA and students made more than 400 sandwiches.

Overall, it was a great day to share love and kindness together as a school community. We were so thrilled that the PTA shared in our idea to work to meet community needs. We would not have been able to do this without the support of all of the parents, students and staff.



# JAGGARD'S 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MLK DAY OF SERVICE



In honor of the great leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., **Jaggard School** and PTA worked together to plan a Day of Service. Originally the day was going to be held on January 21, but potentially bad weather postponed the event to the evening of February 4.

Students and their families came together to do service! Mr. Max Ingram helped to coordinate three different projects. Students wanted to give back to the school community, so two of the projects were linked directly to Jaggard.

The largest project was an art mural that now adds vibrant color to one of the school's hallways. Mrs. Barber, Jaggard's art teacher, graciously designed and sketched out a mural that volunteers painted. Students and their parents chose an area to paint, selected their "warm" or "cool" colors, and got busy with their brushes in hand.

Other projects that were part of the Day of Service involved making sensory bottles and homemade Valentines. Both were popular stations.

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# JAGGARD'S DAY OF SERVICE

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Sensory bottles are useful calming tools that work well for students who are anxious and/or have sensory needs. These DIY bottles are filled with a combination of glycerin and water, and because of the glycerin, objects placed in the bottle float around, similar to a snow globe. Enough sensory bottles were made so that one can be given to each classroom.

The homemade Valentines were brought to children at the Ronald McDonald House in Camden and Virtua in Voorhees. Students at Jaggard delivered them along with items they collected on February 12.

At the end of the evening, everyone agreed our MLK Day of Service was a big success and are looking forward to making it an annual event!

## DELAYED DAY OF SERVICE HUGE SUCCESS

Originally scheduled for January 21, 2019, **Marlton Elementary School's** Day of Service was postponed due to poor weather conditions, to Friday evening, January 25, 2019.

Students and parents came to MES and actively participated in projects that gave back to local populations in need. The activities included putting together toiletry kits for a homeless shelter, making no-sew blankets for cancer patients, crafting cards for nursing home residents and making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for a shelter.

Throughout the evening, students were made aware of the significance of Martin Luther King Day and

how it relates to the projects they were completing for those in need.

