

## MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT JOHN SCAVELLI

Welcome back to a new school year! We were very busy over the summer, hosting different camps and activities for children in our community, working with our teachers on curriculum revision projects, updating technology resources, and securing/maintaining our school buildings.

September came quickly, and the opening of the school year went well. Each school held their Back-to-School Nights, which were all very well attended. Your unwavering support is vital to our continued success.

I have begun my regular visits to classrooms. Recently, I had the pleasure of joining Mr. Hoopes' fifth-grade physical education class at Jaggard School, and reading to Ms. Stockl's first-graders at Van Zant School. The best part of my week is spending time in our classrooms with teachers and students.

### Implementing District Goals

The district is in the second year of implementing board-approved

district goals. The first is to refine Social Studies instruction in alignment with identified NJSLs, with a focus on national themes across history and active citizenship to enhance student achievement in the area of Social Studies. The second goal is to enhance district protocols and procedures in order to decrease chronic absenteeism rates wherever possible, thus positively impacting student achievement.

### School Celebrations

Throughout October, students are participating in special celebrations such as the Week of Respect and Red Ribbon Week. These activities promote positive school climates, school spirit, and the importance

of anti-bullying education and drug prevention.

Van Zant Elementary School celebrated its 50th Anniversary on October 6th, with a special event attended by students, staff, parents, and community members. The ceremony included the sharing of special memories from past and present principals, superintendents, PTA/O leadership, and staff. A time capsule was opened and guests had the opportunity to walk the halls and visit classrooms.

### Vision 2024 - Strategic Planning

The Evesham Township School District is about to embark on Vision 2024, a strategic planning

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## SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE *continued*

initiative that engages employees, parents, students, community members, business owners, and government leaders in the future planning of our school system.

This collaborative planning process will result in a five-year plan designed to focus the district's

efforts and financial resources on mutually determined goals that support the needs of our students and the district as a whole.

The district invites you to join with the Board of Education, our faculty and staff, and those who have a vested interest in the success of our schools on Monday, October 15, at 7:00 pm in the Marlton Middle School Cafeteria as we begin

this journey toward 2024.

Each school year certainly presents unique challenges, but always is full of exciting activities and events. I encourage you to check our district and school websites for important updates and a list of events happening across the district. I look forward to watching our children learn and progress throughout the year.

## CURRICULUM

**O** The Curriculum Department was involved in a number of projects over the summer to enhance our instructional program offerings for students in the 2018-2019 school year.

**R** Supervisors, teachers and administrators worked diligently, developing a variety of resources/units of study in the areas of Language Arts, Health, and Social Studies. Several related arts areas also were reviewed and enhanced.

**N** With each new curriculum document, the integration of technology continues to be a focus for enhancing student learning experiences. The district also completed a number of technology projects over the summer months to enhance our 21st century digital learning environments



for our students. This included deployment of iPads, Chromebooks, and initial phases of ActivBoard replacement with

ActivPanels. For a full list of curriculum and technology updates, visit our district website and select the Departments tab. From there, select Curriculum and Instruction, then click on Curriculum News.

In September, the annual State of the Schools presentation took place at the Board of Education meeting. This was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the 2017-2018 school year, and share various assessments and highlights that occurred throughout the district.

Assessment data showed results on elementary grade students' Benchmark Reading Assessments, PARCC (Grades 3-8), CoGATs (Grades 3, 5 & 7), District End-of-Year Math Assessments (Grades K-8), and ESEA Reports. The district's data analysis process, as well as areas of focus for the 2018-2019 school year, also were shared. To view the complete presentation, visit our district [home page](#) and select State of the Schools, under Shortcuts.



## DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT SUMMER LITERACY & MATH PROJECT

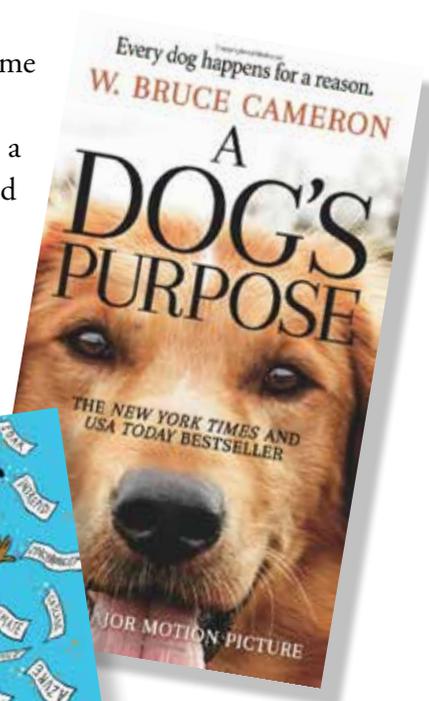
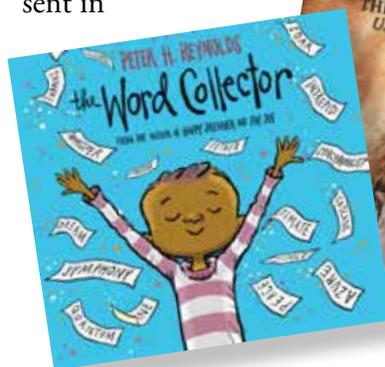
This past summer, ETSD students again participated in a district-wide summer literacy and math project. The district developed various tasks to provide engaging ways for students to not only practice reading and math skills, but more important, encourage lifelong readers and mathematicians.

A highlight of the literacy project continues to be modeled off of the “One School, One Book” national campaign, which included a shared reading experience for all. At the elementary level, students read *The Word Collector* by Peter Reynolds. At the middle school level, the book was *A Dog’s Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron. For mathematics, real-world examples and student choice were integrated throughout the project.

Literacy and math Padlets were developed at each of the schools and thousands of posts were received over the summer months from students in grades 3-8.

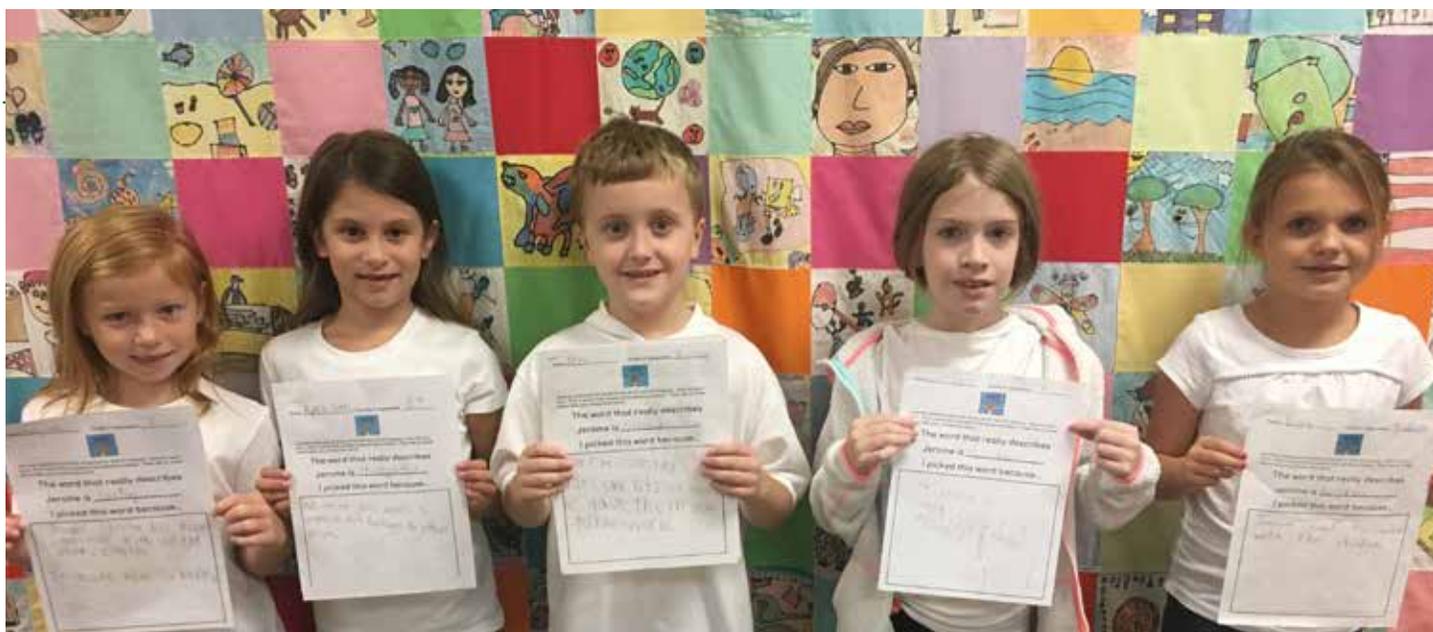
The literacy posts shared audio, video, or written re-

sponses about the theme of the book, whereas math posts integrated a beach theme with sand castle examples centered on the concept of measurement. Primary grade students sent in



pictures or drawings of their work when they returned in September. Students also completed other authentic literacy and math tasks such as letter writing to the author, book shares, creating YouTube videos, and real-world problem solving.

Student summer work was celebrated in various ways at each of the buildings and connected to initial instruction in the classrooms.



## DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

The district provided opportunities for selected students to participate in one of our five summer programs designated to meet particular identified needs.

CAPPS (Coordinated Arts Program for Primary Students) welcomed designated incoming kindergarteners to the program designed to develop social readiness and enhance academic skills. CAPPS integrates art, music, and creative dramatics with skills in literacy and mathematics.

The Literacy Support Program for Primary Grade Students is designed for incoming second- and third-graders, and provides instruction through the district's balanced literacy model with reading, writing, and word study skills integrated into each student session.

Metamorphosis is a middle school program for selected incoming sixth- and seventh-graders that focuses on developing communication skills, improving peer relationships and interactions, and developing a positive self-image.

Tier III Enrichment Extensions Camp, which brings together identified gifted and talented students from

across the district for various course offerings centered around 21st century life and career concepts.

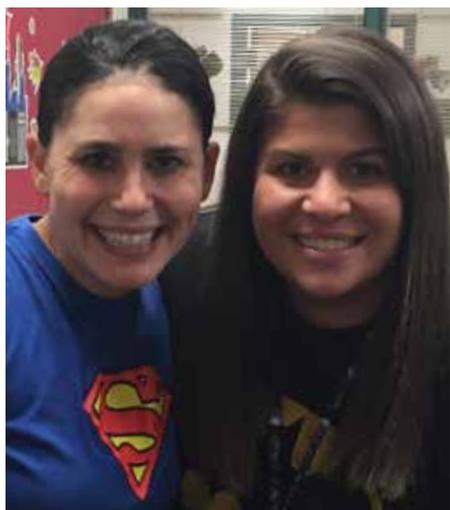
All four programs are partially funded by the Evesham Education Foundation.

Additionally, the district held ESY (extended school year) program for identified students in preschool through eighth-grade as part of their individualized education plans.

All of the programs are offered annually, primarily through the month of July. This summer was another success, and we thank all of the students and staff for their hard work and efforts over the summer months.



## JAGGARD: HOME TO SUPERHEROES



When you enter **Jaggard Elementary** this year it will quickly become evident that the staff and students are invested in being superheroes and harnessing their superpowers!

The school year started with all staff members identifying one of their superpowers, which are all displayed on a bulletin board across from a Staff City Scape Welcome Wall! The superhero theme continues on grade-level bulletin

boards and in some display cases throughout the halls. The superhero theme is fun and motivating to the students, the more important message is that EVERYONE can be a SUPERHERO if they put their mind to it, and the SUPERPOWERS mortal humans have are more important and impressive than those of the Marvel and DC superheroes.

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# JAGGARD: SUPERHEROES

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Third- and fifth-grade students were asked, “What do you think it means to be a superhero?” Fifth-graders Sophia and Kaiya both said it means to help others, while Jack and Kylie added that superheroes are kind to people. Fifth-grader Macyn responded that being a superhero means using your power in a good way and caring for others. Caroline, a third-grader, said that saving the day and showing CARES is what it means to be a superhero, while Tyler responded that superheroes are responsible and take care of the world.

Students in third- and fifth-grade also were asked, “If you could be any superhero who would you be and why?” Responses included:

- Cat Woman because she fights crime and is fast. That way she gets to people on time to help them.
- Harlequin because she goes from making bad choices to making good choices.
- Wonder Woman because she persevered and helped people even though some people tried to tell her she wasn’t good enough.

- Flash because he is fast and can reverse time by running around the world. He can change the past and people can learn from their mistakes.
- Batman because he’s responsible and takes care of everything. Batman keeps trying and doesn’t give up.

As the students, staff, and entire Jaggard school community embark on the 2018-2019 school year SUPERHEROES and SUPERPOWERS will abound. Our team of SUPERHEROES will do SUPER things!



# DEMASI MEDIA CENTER WELCOMES EVERYONE BACK TO SCHOOL



The beginning of the year is always a rush. A bustle of students running through the door. Excitement for new materials, seeing old friends, and a brand new outfit for everyone! At DeMasi, it also means the media center is open for business. Over the years, the trickle of middle school students coming into the media center has turned into a flood.

The media center is a shared space split with DeMasi Elementary, who typically rush in the door and are the first ones to enjoy the space. This year, that was not the case. **DeMasi Middle School** students proved once and for all how much they love the media center.

Over the years, the media center program has grown along with the students. Although students visit the media center throughout the year for book talks, research lessons, discussions about information literacy, and digital citizenship, these all occur under the supervision of their teacher. Students may visit the media center throughout the day during their recess and

independent study to utilize the space. It is during this time that the media center thrives and bustles.

Within the first two weeks of school, as DES celebrated its first Book Fair and an amazing visit with their grandparents, DMS reminded everyone how much they love reading. Almost 1,000 books were checked out by middle school students within the first 10 days of school! All of the sixth-grade classes have been through media center orientation and, once again, recess is seeing upwards of 50 students per period visiting to do work and check out books.

Banned Books Week for libraries across the nation comes at the end of September. DMS students observed this by asking insightful questions and interacting with the banned books display. They already are excited for the first fall book fair being hosted by the wonderful PTA in just a few weeks, and are looking forward to another wonderful year of reading at DeMasi's Media Center.



# BE DEMASI KIND!

DeMasi Elementary kicked off the school year with a school-wide morning meeting to introduce the annual theme, Be DeMasi Kind!

The students watched a video set to country singer Miranda Lambert's "All Kinds of Kind". The

video demonstrated that schools are made-up of ALL KINDS of people and challenged the students to be THE KIND they are!

As the year gets further underway, DeMasi students are looking forward to creating their very own "Be



DeMasi Kind" video with the help of the broadcasting club!

# BEELER FREEDOM WALK RECOGNIZES HEROES



September 11, 2001, is a day that everyone who lived through it will remember. They remember where they were, what they were doing, who they were with, etc. There also was a time throughout the few years following this tragic day that students were able to share these memories. Sixteen years later, this is no longer the case for students in elementary schools, as these boys and girls were not yet born. Educators today are looked to for providing these students with the information regarding the events that took place that day.

On Friday, September 28, 2018, **Beeler School** participated in its 4th Annual Freedom Walk. The students and staff, wearing their red, white, and blue, recognized our local heroes as part of the event, as members of the Evesham Township Police Department and Fire Department attended and were honored.

During the livestream announcements, Principal Jerry Boland addressed the staff and students in remembrance of the day, and then acknowledged the police officers and firemen as "True Heroes" in our town. The students

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# BEELER FREEDOM WALK

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and staff then joined together in saying the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

The event culminated with students and staff portraying their patriotism as they walked around the school property as patriotic music played. As they participated in the walk, every student and staff member greeted the local heroes with high fives and fist bumps.



Overall, it was a successful experience, one in which everyone demonstrated that they understood the meaning of a true hero and that they were “Proud to be an American!”



# SPECIAL FRIENDS ENJOY MES FALL BOOK FAIR



**Marlton Elementary School** was excited to host its annual Special Friends' Hour during the "Enchanted Forest" Fall Book Fair at the end of September.

All of the first- and second-grade students invited a "Special Friend" to accompany them to shop at the book fair during their library period. Many of the students' Special Friends were parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and babysitters on this fun day.

After visiting the book fair, everyone – including the Special Friends – went back to the classrooms and participated in a PTA-run craft activity. It was a wonderful way for students to share their MES experience with a loved one.

Students in Kindergarten and second-grade will have an opportunity to participate in the winter book fair in February.

## BANNERS OF INSPIRATION



**Marlton Middle School** student Ella Wilson loves to write inspirational messages on Post-its and leave them on her classmates' lockers. Now, she is leaving those messages in schools across the district.

Writing inspirational messages is something the seventh-grader has been doing for quite a while. "Ella has been leaving Post-it note messages since back when she was in chemotherapy," explained Terri

Wilson, Ella's mother. "She would leave messages all around the hospital."

Ella and her mother wanted to create something more permanent to inspire and uplift students at MMS, so they reached out to principal Gary Hoffman at the end of the 2017-2018 school year, with their idea of creating something inspirational at MMS.

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# BANNERS

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With Mr. Hoffman's guidance, Ella and her mother decided to create banners with inspirational quotes to be hung all around MMS. Facebook donations, bake sales, lemonade sales, and a TCBY fundraiser netted \$1,300 for the project. Ella then took on the difficult task of picking messages that would resonate with and uplift her classmates at MMS. Along with

a few of her friends, she created original artwork for several of the banners.

MMS currently has 13 of Ella's banners displayed throughout the halls. Mr. Hoffman, working in collaboration with Ella, decided on the placement of each banner. Ella and her mother have since expanded their project and created banners for DeMasi Middle School, DeMasi Elementary School, Van Zant Elementary School, Jaggard Elementary School, and Marlton Elementary School. There are plans in the works to bring banners to

Beeler Elementary School and Rice Elementary School. Ella also has set her sights on bringing banners to schools in Washington Township, where she lived before moving to Marlton.

When asked which banner was her favorite, Ella said, "Kindness is the tool to break down the walls of hate," which displays her original artwork and message.

Ella's banners are more than just school decorations, they are reminders that anyone with a little determination can break down the barriers of intolerance and hatred.

# VAN ZANT HAS NEW CENTER IN ART CLASS!

KEVA Blocks have arrived at **Van Zant Elementary**, thanks to a grant through DonorsChoose! They are a new center for students to choose during art class.

KEVA blocks – or planks – introduce engineering and design to elementary students. The planks are about one-quarter-inch thick, three-quarters of an inch wide, and four and one-half inches long. The students stack the planks to build structures – either from their own imaginations or using pre-developed guides and plans, or to create all kinds of contraptions forged from their own imaginations. Despite the fact that there is no glue or connectors, the structures are stable.

Along with traditional fine arts painting, drawing, collage, and sculpture, and learning about the elements and principles of art, Mrs. Coll-Guedes integrates STEM concepts into class.



# RICE ELEMENTARY HAS A NEW PLAYGROUND

After two years of planning and fundraising, **Rice School** has a brand new playground for students to enjoy.

The Rice PTA organized a variety of fundraising events which were generously supported by families and the local community. The new playground includes a variety of climbers, including a rock wall, flip-flop

climber, bongo steps, and three-ring climber. As installation is finalized, the children eagerly look forward to exploring their new play space.

Although the playground primarily will be used during outdoor recess, children attending Evesham Child Care and families in the community also will be able to enjoy the new additions to the playground.

