At a 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Advisory Board Meeting, held in the School # 6 Media Center on Wednesday, October 30, it was clear that Year I of the after school program grant was a big success. In Year I, the program served 215 students in grades 4-12 by providing after school academic, enrichment, cultural, and recreational activities from 3:00PM-6:00PM daily as well as an extensive summer school program.

According to a yearend report, submitted by an outside program evaluator, Cliffside Park School District met its target enrollment for all program sites by December of 2012. This is a tremendous accomplishment as attendance targets are the biggest challenges for programs across the state. The Year I Final Evaluation Report also indicated that 97% of parents, responding to a program survey, found the after school program to be “Satisfactory” or “Extremely Satisfactory.”

Cliffside Park School District teachers were also satisfied with the program and listed the diverse mix of academic, enrichment, recreational, and cultural activities as the aspect of the program that most impressed them. Also, staff members, teachers, and partners, involved in the after school grant program, cited the outstanding communication, established by the Program Coordinator, Linda Ludwikowski, with school principals, day teachers, partners, vendors, and parents as “the key” ingredient that makes the complex program work.

Mrs. Ludwikowski was pleased that early indicators reveal that students who participated in the after school program showed significant progress on spring 2013 NJASK scores over their 2012 NJASK scores. When comparing the 2013 and 2012 NJASK Language Arts and Math scores of program participants, the evaluator found:

**In School # 3**
- 45% of students improved in one subject (either Language Arts Literacy or Math)
- 33% improved in two subjects (both Language Arts Literacy and Math)
- A total of 78% of program participants improved their scores.

**In School # 4**
- 17% improved in 1 subject (either Language Arts Literacy or Math)
- 46% improved in 2 subjects (both Language Arts Literacy or Math)
- A total of 63% of program participants improved their scores.

**In School # 5**
- 21% improved in 1 subject (either Language Arts Literacy or Math)
- 67% improved in 2 subjects (both Language Arts Literacy and Math)
- A total of 88% of program participants improved their scores.

**In School # 6**
- 42% improved in 1 subject (either Language Arts Literacy or Math)
- 28% improved in 2 subjects (both Language Arts Literacy or Math)
- A total of 70% of program participants improved their scores.

According to Superintendent, Michael Romagnino, Cliffside Park School District will increase grant funds allocated to Cliffside Park Public Library to expand English as a Second Language Programs for parents and family literacy programs. Mr. Romagnino stated, “Parent involvement will be a major focus of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program in Year II. We are committed to providing the resources parents need to improve their partnership with our schools and teachers so that all students and families may benefit.”

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Do you love downloading the most popular applications, or apps, to your cell phone or iPad? Well, now, in addition to Facebook or Words with Friends apps, you can download a Cliffside Park School District app right to your phone or tablet. The app provides all necessary district and school contact information at your fingertips. It will also notify you of any upcoming school events or take you right to the district web site. Also, if you wonder if there is a big game today, the app provides instant access to details of upcoming sports events, as well as Board of Education meetings.

More importantly, the app gives the district administration the ability to instantly send important notifications directly to parents regarding any safety issues that may arise. Unfortunately, we have all seen, in national news, how important instant communication could be in the case of an emergency.

According to Mr. Romagnino, the district was fortunate because the app was developed by a Cliffside Park Alumnus, Tomo Marinkovic, who graduated with the Class of 2006. The cost of developing a school app would be astronomical, but Tomo donated his time and talents to the district. Mr. Romagnino stated, “I could not be more grateful to Tomo because he has placed our district far ahead of the curve in terms of utilizing state of the art technology to engage parents and the community. He also provided solid proof that we graduate students of character who willingly and generously give back to their community.”

Mr. Romagnino encourages all cell phone or tablet users to download the app and to share it with other community members. He added, “After our experience with Hurricane Sandy last year, we know that communication with our constituents is vital for the well being of our school community.”
Beginning in the first quarter of the 2013-2014 school year, Cliffside Park elementary school students will be receiving the district’s new standards based report card. This means for the first time, parents won’t be seeing the traditional letter grades (A, B, C, D, and F) that have been used to report student progress in the past. Instead, the new report card will be aligned to National Standards as well as the New Jersey Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) and will be used to inform parents of student progress in specific skill areas in each core subject.

Rather than list only school subjects, a standards-based report card lists the most important skills students should learn in each subject at a particular grade level. Therefore, students will receive a separate numerical mark for each standard taught during a specific marking period. Standards based report cards will break each subject area down into specific indicators that serve as checkpoints for measuring student knowledge.

Cliffside Park School District is shifting to the new standards based report card in response to national and state requirements focused on ensuring all school curricula align to national standards. A team of Cliffside Park educators, including administrators, supervisors, classroom teachers, special area teachers, and parents met to discuss ways to improve the district’s current reporting system. After their in-depth analysis of best practices for reporting student achievement, the committee determined that a standards-based report card would provide more in depth information for parents regarding how their students are doing in terms of attaining very specific knowledge and skills.

It is anticipated that the new standards based report cards will:

- provide parents with a clearer picture of their child’s progress
- be a better predictor of a student’s achievement on standardized tests
- clearly identify areas of weakness in which students need extra help
- Rather than seeing a letter grade for each subject, parents will now see numbers 1-4, which will be used to show a student’s mastery of each standard or indicator. Educational experts believe this is a superior tool for communicating to parents what their children know and in what areas they require additional time or help. Below is a summary of the meaning of each number grade as it applies to the new standards based report card:

4-Exceeding Learning Standards
Student performance demonstrates an understanding of the knowledge and skills beyond expectations and consistently shows evidence of higher level thinking.

3-Meeting Learning Standards
Student performance demonstrates a thorough understanding of the knowledge and skills expected at this grade level.

2-Approaching Learning Standards
Student performance demonstrates a partial understanding of the knowledge and skills expected at this grade level.

1-Not Meeting Learning Standards
Student performance does not demonstrate an adequate understanding of the knowledge and skills expected at this grade level.

Mr. Romagnino hopes that the new reporting system will enable grading to be more consistent. He stated, “In the past, letter grades could be subjective and sometimes captured only how a student met a particular teacher’s expectations or qualified the quality of effort the teacher perceived. These grades did not always translate into a student’s level of attainment of the specific knowledge and skills expected at each grade level. Letter grades did not allow for a skill by skill breakdown of student achievement. With the new standards based report cards, we believe parents will be able to determine exactly which skills and knowledge their children have mastered.”

Other important differences include:
- Separate Report Cards will be issued for students receiving support services as indicated on SB Report Card:
  - ELL (English Language Learners)
  - Title I ELA (English Language Arts)
  - Title I Math
- For students with accommodations, the content of the standards remains the same but the method for learning and demonstrating mastery of the standard may be adjusted.

“Rather than seeing a letter grade for each subject, parents will now see numbers 1-4, which will be used to show a student’s mastery of each standard or indicator. Educational experts believe this is a superior tool for communicating to parents what their children know and in what areas they require additional time or help.”

Other important differences include:
- There will be Three Reporting Periods — “Trimesters” in December, March and June.
Chief Frank DelVecchio and Sgts. Dennis Andreazza and Mike Martic of the Fairview Police Department have provided leadership for the second year to enable thirty high school juniors and seniors to mentor middle school and elementary school peers through the R.I.S.E. (Renew, Improve, Support, Educate) Mentorship Program.

The R.I.S.E. Program, supervised by high school Vice Principal Ken Schmitt, is in its second year of operation. The Fairview RISE Police Officers serve as team leaders for the program as CPSD students are assigned to a police officer. Then, together, the team evaluates each elementary/middle school applicant seeking a mentor, to match each child with an appropriate officer and high school student. Together, Mr. Schmitt, the officers and students, select which member of the R.I.S.E. team would be the best mentor to each child and then proceeds with developing a plan that includes a detailed schedule for the police officer, the mentor and the child. The schedule first and foremost, includes a meeting with the child and a parent/guardian, and a home visit with the School Resource Officer. A meeting with the child’s principal and/or teacher is also encouraged. Afterward, a comprehensive service plan is developed that encompasses tutoring, extracurricular activities and emotional support. A hotline for each team has been established at police headquarters for both the parents and the child in case contact with the team is needed during off-hours.

The involved R.I.S.E. high school students participated in mentor training as each attended a seminar conducted by the Bergen County Prosecutors Office to learn about cyber-crime and their role in mentoring a younger student. In June, 2013, all members of the R.I.S.E. program were guests at Met Life Stadium and received a tour of the New York Giants practice facilities and weight room. Afterward, the group toured the entire stadium and their visit culminated with the opportunity to run out of the tunnel and onto the playing field, where a spirited game of touch football was played.

Applied Science: Kitchen Chemists?

What is the secret for a perfect soufflé? Just ask the CPHS Kitchen Chemists! Who are they?? They are the Advanced Nutrition and Culinary Arts Students. It took more than the three basic components - including the base (a white sauce), flavor agent, and beaten egg whites to make this divine dish! It took teamwork, dedication, patience, and knowledge. The featured flavors of these delectable concoctions were Cheddar Spinach, Turkey, Corn Bacon, Chocolate Almond, Frozen Chocolate, and White Chocolate Raspberry. All of the flavors were a great hit! The sweet and savory aromas filled the school, attracting noses of teachers and students from afar to investigate the source of these scents!

Many people think “culinary” is just about cooking, and are not aware of the intensive studying it requires. Culinary (and its hand-in-hand buddy – Nutrition) is a different type of science. Students learn the nutritional factors, the purpose of each ingredient, and the balance of flavors.

Let’s just say, it’s a delicious science, one that we can really enjoy!

At the same time, we feed our minds before our stomachs.

Stay tuned for our next tasty experiment!

This article written by:
The Advanced Nutrition and Culinary Arts Students
Cliffside Park High School
Room G-13
No Texting and Driving!!!

Physical Education Department Chair, Scott Bovino, is spearheading a district wide campaign to discourage texting and driving. The high school and community are participating in a nationwide competition, Celebrate My Drive, through which schools across the nation, compete to see who get the most pledges to not text and drive. A swift reach announcement was made during the evening of October 16th to all parents explaining how to register for the program and notifying them of the dates to pledge. The pledge drive took place every day from October 18th - October 26th.

Schools are eligible to win 1 of 10 $100,000.00 grants, 1 of 90 $25,000.00 grants, and The Grand Prize of concert by Kelly Clarkson. Celebrate My Drive is a chance for our community to rally around our drivers and encourage them to make safe choices "Celebrate My Drive® was created by State Farm® in 2012 to share the belief that safe driving is a lifelong commitment. Since then, thousands of students, family, friends and high school staff members have joined the party. According to the celebreatemydrive.com web site - auto crashes are the number one cause of death among teens in North America. If we can reinforce habits like remembering to think 2N2™ whenever teens drive - keeping 2 eyes on the road and 2 hands on the wheel - we’ll save lives together. Best of all, it’s a chance to improve schools and help save teen lives by making safe driving commitments.

Mr. Bovino thanks all who participated and will keep you posted. According to the website at celebreatemydrive.com, the 2013 winners of the $100,000 and $25,000 grants - and the grand-prize concerts by Kelly Clarkson - will be announced on December 9. Check back to see which schools - maybe even ours - won this year’s prizes!

Advanced Industrial Arts Work to Improve their School

Mohammad Abulebda is the proud craftsman seen in the picture showing off the custom made cabinet that he and Christian Catalan constructed for the CPHS attendance office.

They are both part of the Advanced Industrial Arts Program, run by Mr. Jones, in the High School Wood Shop. Other students in the class have also made contributions to the school.

William Mailley custom made moldings for chair rails that are now being used to protect the walls in four class rooms. Arlind Bilali hand crafted signs for the athletic trainers’ office. Theo Worthington made a unique hall pass for Ms. Kantor and has big plans to construct a podium for another teacher.

Students in this class are required to have completed the Basic Industrial Arts class with a B average or better. Students are encouraged to make projects that help their school or they can build projects for gifts to friends, family, or for personal use. One example of an outstanding project is this Adirondack Chair pictured below.

Hospital Helpers Bring Hope and Joy

Ms. Jackie St. Thomas, Advisor for the Hospital Helper Club, shared a few club activities that have been going on since school started. The Cliffside Park High School Hospital Helpers raised $200.00 in their Have a Heart fundraiser during September and October. All proceeds will go to the Tomorrows Children's Fund / Hackensack University Medical Center. The club is also asking for everyone’s support in their newest pledge to the Tomorrows Children Fund. Please bring an unwrapped new toy or gift for a child, ages 3 to 17, to Cliffside Park High School by December 16th. These gifts will be wrapped and given to children that stay in the hospital for treatment over the holiday season. The Hospital Helpers also organized a fundraiser to celebrate and remember Veterans Day. On Monday, November 11, the group sold patriotic pens that they bought and later decorated with ribbon and a flag to remember our country’s veterans. The pens were sold during the lunch periods when they also asked students to donate any loose change. All money raised will be sent to the Wounded Warrior Project.
Guidance Department Hosts Annual College Fair

Once again this year, the Guidance Department hosted its College Fair on October 17. Guidance counselor Mary Foster arranged for 36 colleges and technical schools to join us for this fact-filled evening. Students and parents got answers to all their questions, filled out applications, and gathered brochures and other literature to take home. The goal of the event is to encourage future college students to make informed decisions about their future.

As a sort of follow-up to the College Fair, Mary Kelemen, another guidance counselor, arranges the Instant Decision Week Program in January. Five colleges send representatives, who work with staff from Cliffside Park High School, to sit with interested students to conduct detailed acceptance sessions.

Applications and grades are reviewed, and interviews are conducted—all during the students’ lunch period. Students are informed immediately about their acceptance status. Additionally, the college reps are very generous offering instant scholarships to their schools. We are proud that our students received over $400,000 in total last year at this event.

The Guidance Department will also host a Financial Aid Workshop in January, conducted by Ed Zamora, an expert in the field from Fairleigh Dickenson University’s Financial Aid Office. Additionally, A College Information Night is planned for February to be conducted, in partnership with our SAT prep partners, Revolution Prep, and Danielle McKay, a CPHS graduate who works in the admissions office at St. Thomas Aquinas College.

High School Working to End Cyber-Bullying

On Wednesday, October 30, Cliffside Park High School sponsored a seminar for all freshman students on the subject of online safety and cyber-bullying. This presentation was coordinated by Mr. Joseph Del Risco, Student Assistance Counselor/HIB Specialist and Mr. Jim Gaffney, Special Education teacher in conjunction with Mrs. Lorraine Morrow, High School Principal.

The students were educated on the possible dangers they may encounter when they participate in today’s social media. The seminar was presented using a Power Point presentation and a series of short videos. One of the key points covered during the seminar was the permanence of information when it is downloaded over the Internet and the possible consequences thereof.

The seminar ended in an overview of cyber-bullying. The freshmen were shown the importance of proper Internet etiquette as well as what they should do and who they should contact in case they are intimidated, harassed or bullied via the Internet. The importance of seminars such as these is paramount in the technologically influenced society we live in today.

With all of the unfortunate acts of self harm and suicide in which social media plays a communicative role, it is of utmost importance that the children of our district are equipped with the knowledge they will need in today’s world.

Heroes & Cool Kids Mentor Youngsters

The Heroes & Cool Kids program is underway at the high school! Thirty juniors and seniors were chosen to be mentors to 5th graders in Cliffside Park. After training sessions at Bergen Community College, groups of 4-5 students visit a 5th grade class to present lessons in making good choices and recognizing and defeating bullying in our schools. Heroes & Cool Kids, which began operating during the 1998-99 school year, is a not-for-profit organization based in New Jersey. The program utilizes the services of current and former professional athletes whose personal life experiences enable them to train high school student leaders. The athletes train high school students to mentor middle school students on important life skills, including sportsmanship, conflict resolution and positive lifestyle choices highlighting drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention.

The program runs each school year from November until May. Heroes & Cool Kids is currently implemented in nine counties around New Jersey. The athletes and high school students make three site visits to the middle schools each year. To prepare, the high school students must complete three training conferences before mentoring the middle school students. These conferences are held at The Vonation (Vonage in Holmdel, NJ) and at Bergen Community College in Paramus.

The students involved in this program also collected toiletry items for an organization called Holiday Express. The toiletry items will be distributed to homeless shelters and low-income students in the next month.
Fairview American Legion Sponsors Attendance at State Events

The Fairview American Legion, Post 365, and The Sons of the American Legion, Squad 365, together with nine other businesses, sponsored Cliffside Park High School Juniors, including five boys and four girls, to attend the New Jersey Boys State and New Jersey Girls State Programs. The boys attended events at Rider University and the girls attended at Georgian Court University. Both Boys and Girls State are week-long programs dedicated to teaching about responsible citizenship action in our present state and local government.

Congratulations to these nine outstanding young men and women who were selected for participation on the basis of “Leadership, Character, Scholarship, Patriotism and Service.”

Below is an article written by Tereza Marshyti summarizing her experience at the New Jersey Girls State event.

“My Experience at New Jersey Girls State Event” by Tereza Marshyti

My experience at NJ Girls State was one I will never forget. Aside from the intense schedule and prolonged meetings, the memories I made during those six days at Georgian Court University will be cherished forever. For me, and probably a lot of the other girls, it had been the first time staying away from home for an extended period of time, not to mention that in all likelihood, your roommate was from an entirely different region of the state.

Truthfully, I was very excited to experience living on my own for a couple of days! The mock government type system was very unique, in that I was able to learn firsthand how the system of elections, courts and justices, and legislature works. I also became more comfortable speaking in front of people because of the seemingly infinite number of speeches I had to make if I wanted to run for a city, county or state position. I actually ran for Election Board, City Secretary, State Assembly, and Freeholder. Even though I lost my bid for each of these offices, they provided invaluable teaching lessons; I learned about the science behind constructing a political platform and how to express my ideas and views and not be ashamed of them.

Activities throughout the day included legislative sessions, campaigning, party rallies, debating, voting, and leisure time (newspaper, chorus and recreational sports). The food, despite the rumors, was actually tolerable. There was a wide variety of foods you could add to your plate. Specifically, although I am not a vegetarian, I rather enjoyed the vegan food. And of course, having the option of enjoying ice cream as dessert after every meal is always a plus!

I can easily and truthfully say that my favorite part of Girls State was having the opportunity to have met such wonderful leaders. I met intelligent young women from throughout the state that inspired me to be an active citizen. They made me realize that every single one of us has the power to spark a chain reaction of change. I feel so honored to have made such amazing friendships with such lovely young ladies, most of whom I still talk to today! I would like to thank Mr. Schmitt, the Fairview American Legion Auxiliary and all other sponsors!

Thank you so much for this one in a lifetime experience!

Schools Practice “Active Shooter” Safety by Patricia Hoyos

After tragic events, such as the shooting in Sandy Hook School, many people feel that no precaution is too extreme. While many schools have procedures to prompt students and faculty on what to do in the event that a threat enters the school, on November 4, 2013, the Fairview Police Department proved how different a usual drill can be to a real attack.

In hopes of making the drill as realistic as possible, students from Cliffside Park High School volunteered to be victims in a mock shooting in Lincoln School. A member of the police department posed as a shooter that entered the school with the gun and a mask.

Though frightening, the drill was successful in testing the reactions of people in the event of an actual attack. After the drill finished, the reactions of both the police officers and the staff were evaluated by all those that participated in the practice event. The goal was to improve the protocol for the police and the staff in order to not make any preventable mistakes in the event of a shooting. After everyone’s questions and concerns were answered, one more drill was launched. The drill was in the classroom setting, and one of the students had a gun. The goal of the drill was to make sure that the police officers would be able to identify the child with the gun without endangering the rest of the students. The drill was completed, and any final questions were answered.

While the drill made the adrenaline pump in the veins of all those who participated, the opportunity to see the reactions of police officers, school staff, and the students who volunteered was important to make sure that everyone makes the right decisions if a tragedy such as a shooting occurred. Hopefully, shootings will cease to occur, but it is of utter importance to make sure that people are prepared to make safe decisions in moments of extreme pressure and distress. The shooting drill was successful and should be repeated periodically in order to ensure the safety of both the school and the police officers.
HealthCorps Partnerships Focuses on Nutrition and Fitness

This fall, HealthCorps Coordinator, Jessica Plager, was excited to offer Cliffside Park High School students the opportunity to participate in the after-school Taste the World Cooking Club. In this fun and exciting club, students learned to cook two nutritious and delicious recipes from around the world each week. Whether preparing a Thai curry or a French ratatouille, students learned to prepare, enjoy, and savor wholesome foods that have kept different cultures healthy for centuries. In doing so, students not only enhanced their culinary skills, but also broadened their nutritional knowledge and cultural awareness.

The Wellness Council Encourages Student-Led Changes

The Cliffside Park High School Wellness Council is excited to continue its mission of making Cliffside Park High School a healthier and happier community. The Wellness Council, a collective board of students, faculty and community members, meet once a month to plan wellness initiatives on the Cliffside Park High School campus.

Thus far this year, two members have created a morning meditation group for staff members. In addition, the council is working with the cafeteria to increase the availability of healthy food options. In this effort, the cafeteria has begun to offer seltzer waters, veggie and black bean burgers, sunflower seed butter and healthy salad dressings. The Wellness Council meets once a month and always welcome new members. Please reach out to HealthCorps Coordinator, Jessica Plager, (e-mail: jessica.plager@healthcorps.org), if you are interested in creating meaningful and exciting change. Our next meeting is November 25th at 2:45 in the High School Library.

Groups Go “Nuts” Over Healthy Eating!

On Tuesday, September 24th, HealthCorps and the Advanced Culinary Arts Class partnered together to host a Walnut Breakfast Bonanza! After working for weeks to develop healthy recipes using walnuts, the students showcased their culinary skills and creativity by competing in this breakfast battle. While Team OOOO Cook ’Em made walnut crepes stuffed with locally harvested fig jam and homemade strawberry jam, Team Toasters showcased their walnut- and fruit-stuffed French toast.

The competition was close but Team OOOO Cook ’Em ended the event with the most votes! The event was hosted by HealthCorps co-founder Lisa Oz, the California Walnut Board, and guest chefs Ariel Martinez (Cliffside Park High School alum!) and Jeffrey Butler from the I.C.C. Thank you to everyone who attended this fun and exciting event! Ms. Plager offers a “shout out” to Mrs. DiRoma for leading her students and exemplifying what it means to inspire student-driven change.
Director of Athletics, John Lombardo, is proud to report that Cliffside Park School District is the winner of the award that means the most of all. Out of 41 schools in the Big North Conference, Cliffside Park High School was one of only seven schools that received a Sportsmanship Banner from The NJSIAA. Mr. Lombardo is extremely proud of the coaches and players for this outstanding accomplishment.

Mr. Lombardo offers his sincerest congratulations to ALL Big North Conference – Sportsmanship Banner Winners for 2012-2013 listed to the right:

- Bergen Catholic
- Cliffside Park
- Holy Angels
- IHA
- Paramus Catholic
- Passaic
- West Milford

“Victory is remembered for at most two decades; an act of good sportsmanship is remembered for a lifetime.”
- Simon Nguyen

Soccer Team Sets School Record

The Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams repeated as Big North American Champions.

The Boys Cross Country Team finished at the Bergen county meet of champions with the highest finish in school history.

Coach Lindsey Reggo stated, "Over the summer, we set some goals, like making it to the Bergen Meet of Champions for the first time in three years and maybe winning our first-ever sectional title. These kids have done everything they can to get after it,"

Coach Reggo added, "This is the best boys team I’ve ever had, and I thought we were going to do some special things right from the beginning of the season."

Congratulations to Coach Reggo.

Cross Country Repeats

Congratulations to the Boys Soccer Team which won the Bergen County Championship to garner the first boys county title in school history with a Division Record of 8–0 and an overall record of 15-0.

Congratulations to Coach Jim Fucci.

(quotes and photo taken from northjersey.com)
Girls Tennis Wins Big North League Championship!

Photos above are individual and a team picture of the Cliffside Park High School Big North League championship Girls Tennis Team. This may be the first league championship for the school in girls tennis. Congratulations to senior, Grace Kang-second singles; senior, Justine Han-third singles; The team photo features Coach Kenneth Beck with the team: senior, Valentina Jaramillo-second doubles. In the second row are freshman, Aylin Kanli-first singles, junior, Magdalena Lozinski-first doubles, senior, Carmela Cirilli-second doubles; Victoria McCoy-first doubles; and senior, Mina Lisanin-second doubles.

Congratulations to Coach Ken Beck.

Other Sports News

The Middle School sports teams had an excellent year:

- The Middle School Girls Volleyball Team had a great season winning—finishing 10-2.
- The Middle School Girls Soccer Team finished undefeated!
- The Middle School Boys Soccer Team finished with a winning record of 5-4.
- Several sports teams did their part to raise awareness during Breast Cancer Month:
- The JV Girls Soccer Team did participate in a Breast Cancer Walk fundraiser.

The Boys Soccer Team honored three survivors of breast cancer with flowers including Mrs. Schmitt, Mrs. Fucci and Mrs. Dombroski—a parent from River Dell.
Forward March!
Blimey!!! Shiver me timbers!!! Cliffside Park has a marching band?!!!

The Cliffside Park Marching Band finished its most successful season this century with a competitive performance of its ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’ show in the 5th Annual Weehawken Invitational Marching Band Festival in Weehawken on Nov. 3rd. The band performed for a competitive rating along with eight other local marching bands, including Ridgefield, West New York and Weehawken and brought home another trophy for the music department at the high school.

“The Marching Band Festival was a great experience to attend. Being critiqued by experts and being with other band members and drum majors is something I will never forget,” said senior drum major Lauren Alderete, who is going on to study music in college. “It was the perfect way to end the season and it definitely helped me to see marching band in a different way.”

The CPMB says goodbye to eight invaluable seniors – Lauren Alderete, Justin Camacho, Carlos Mendoza, Michael Petrie, Randy Ramos, Derik Gonzalez, David Cabassa and Jihun Choi - who have been great leaders this season and will be sorely missed. “This particular group of seniors have grown up within our program and have brought the marching band from obscurity to competitiveness. It has been a true joy watching them grow into adults,” said Mr. Derek Nelson, the band’s director.

The band would also like to thank their Assistant Director, Mr. David Rappaport and their alumni assistant, Mr. Bryan Antolos for all of their extra efforts in making 2013 an incredible marching band season.

Congratulations to Band Director, Mr. Nelson.
Students Celebrate “Week of Respect”

From October 21-25, School # 3 celebrated School Violence Awareness Week. The program was organized by district guidance counselor, Renee Arp. Each day, the children dressed to bring attention to ways to reduce violence in schools as follows:

Monday: Team Up Today: Wear your favorite Team jersey
Tuesday: Put a Cap on Bullying: Wear your favorite hat
Wednesday: Peace Day: Wear Blue to School: The color of peace
Thursday: Violence Will turn your life inside out: wear your clothes inside out.
Friday: Red Raiders Rally Day: Show you are a team player by wearing Cliffside's colors (red and black).

Movie Matinee

The Cliffside Park School #3 Parent Teacher Organization hosted their monthly movie matinee. The students were treated to pizza, popcorn, water and a movie of their choosing. This month, the students choose to watch the 2006 Monster House. The money that is raised is used to help defray future events and class trips.

Fire Safety

The Cliffside Park Fire Department and the Fort Lee Fire Department teamed-up during Fire Prevention Month to teach the children at Cliffside's elementary schools how to escape a burning building. The "smoke house" simulates a house on fire and the children were taught how to escape in a safe manner.

Halloween Celebrations Bring “Treats” for Students

The Cliffside Park School #3 Parent Teacher Organization hosted their annual Trunk or Treat Celebration. The event was hosted in the school’s parking lot on October 30th. A number of parents paired up and hosted cars. Twenty cars hosted the treats for the students. Approximately, 75 children participated in the two hour event where the children got to "trick or treat" at the different cars.

Attached are some photos of the Cliffside Park School #3 Halloween Parade...the annual tradition goes back decades and was canceled last year due to Hurricane Sandy. It was a race against the rain on Halloween, but the students and staff of School #3 were able to pull it off and were marching around the play ground just as the rain started to come down...but the tradition continues...even if "Casper the ghost" got a little wet!

The Cliffside Park School #3 sixth grade class hosted their annual Halloween Carnival. The carnival was hosted for the Kindergarten, First, and Second grades. Each class had the opportunity to visit the decorated auditorium to play the homemade games and receive rewards.

The sixth graders created twenty different games for children to enjoy including: Pumpkin Bowling, Ring Around the Werewolf, Brain Grab, Vampire Catch, Candy Corn Guess, Ghost Fishing, Spider Catch, Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin, Ring Around the Pumpkin, and many more games.

The sixth graders also provided treats such as temporary tattoos, pencils, and of course, candy.
Around the Hallways, School #3 Continued

Congratulations, Mr. Ryan, for Receiving Three Teaching Awards

Mr. Ryan of School #3 recently received a Proclamation from the Cliffside Park Mayor and Council because of the remarkable awards he won during the past year. Mr. Ryan recently scored the “trifecta” of teacher recognition, receiving The Record’s Star Teacher Award through the Newspapers in Education program; the “Teacher Who Rocks” Award from Greater Media, Inc.; and the Bergen County Teacher Recognition Program (Teacher of the Year) Award for Cliffside Park.

Maria Lopez, along with 16 School #3 teachers, nominated Ryan for the Teacher of the Year Award, which he received along with high school vocal music teacher, Leslie Auslin.

Ryan was also recently designated as a "Teacher Who Rocks". Together with 20 other teachers, Ryan was honored at an April 23 awards banquet in East Hanover. The Teachers Who Rock Program recognizes "Excellent teachers...for their important contribution to society." According to the Greater Media website, Recipients of the Award become lifetime members of the Teachers Who Rock Class.

School #3 Principal, John Brunelli, noted that the true tribute to a teacher's impact is the number of students who come back to visit after they have moved up to the middle school."Most of the students who come back, are coming back to see Mr. Ryan," Brunelli shared.

Ryan noted, "One of the greatest satisfactions I receive from my position is when students come back to visit me. I enjoy hearing about their accomplishments. I love learning about how they got into the National Honor Society or what college they will be attending. I am very honored when the students take the time to contact me to tell me about their accomplishments."

Ryan added, "While I have been privileged to be recognized with these awards, I accept them on behalf of all the teachers at School #3. Without their support and assistance, I would never be able to accomplish what I do. And that goes double for Principal Brunelli, who is extremely supportive of his staff."

Another example of his dedication is that Mr. Ryan has won Cliffside Park schools almost $50,000 through grants and contests—all of which he completed on his own time.

International Festival Celebrates All!

The Cliffside Park School #3 Parent-Teacher Organization's International Festival that was held on Thursday, October 3rd. The two-hour festival was hosted in the school's auditorium. Over 25 countries were represented including Columbia, Brazil, Italy, Thailand, Turkey and Ireland. About 125 parents and children attended the annual event.

School #3 Hosts Annual Book Fair

The Cliffside Park School #3 Parent Teacher Organization hosted their Annual Scholastic Book Fair. The book fair was "manned" by parent volunteers during the two day event.

The book fair was open during school day and during School #3's Back To School Night. The students purchased over $3,000 worth of books and then the PTO donated $40 worth of books to each classroom.
The Parent-Teacher Organization at Cliffside Park School #4 recently hosted their Annual Scholastic Book Fair. During the three day book fair, which was run by parent volunteers, parents and students purchased over $6,800 worth of books! One great advantage was that the PTO was able to accept credit card purchases by parents.

The teachers of School #4 greatly appreciated the PTO's Teacher Wish List Program. Teachers selected grade-appropriate books that they could use in their classrooms and put them in a special bin. Then parents generously purchased the books for the classrooms. Books, that were purchased for the classrooms, were marked by a label with the donor's name on it. The teachers were gratefully writing lots of Thank You notes afterwards!

Mrs. Carden's class once again participated in "Stockings for Soldiers" thanks to classroom guests Mrs. Elaine Danno and Mrs. Elaine Luderer. These "helpers," came to Mrs. Carden's class with all of the materials needed for the project.

The students happily put together decorated felt stockings. They also wrote short personal notes to put in each stocking to express warm wishes to the troops.

The sentiments were beautiful, such as “Stay safe.” “Thanks for protecting us.” and “Get home soon.” It was obvious that students put their hearts and minds into this wonderful volunteer project.

"Stockings for Soldiers" was founded to help improve the morale and welfare of members of the armed forces of the United States of America deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Through the project, the students are learning about giving as they send personalized holiday greetings to our brave young men and women in uniform serving their country half-way around the world.

Pre-Kindergarten students at School #4 enjoyed learning about Fire Safety when they recently participated in a trip to the Cliffside Park Fire Department.

On behalf of the students, Mrs. Barbara Bracco would like to extend their sincere thanks to Fire Chief Brian Martone, Fire Inspector Gregg Yfantis, Official Frank Poerio and Fire Fighters Pam Leone and Jonathan Stern.

The children learned about fire safety procedures in an age-appropriate way – and loved climbing and sitting on the fire truck!

Mrs. Bracco added, “Our hearts are filled with great gratitude for the enormous job they are doing!”
Students in Mr. John Kral’s 4th grade class at School #5 decorated holiday stockings for our troops in Afghanistan. The students wrote messages of appreciation to the soldiers who will not be able to share the holidays, at home, with their families.

The stockings were sent to a volunteer group in Las Vegas, Nevada who will stuff them with candy and small treats.

Mrs. Danno, Mrs. Luderer, Mrs. Stitz, and Mr. Kral helped the students complete the project.

The Middle School Social Studies classes worked on a collaborative Mock Election that was held the Friday before Election Day. For a two week period, students in Mr. Karagiannis’s, Ms. Schmitt’s, and Mrs. Spoto’s classes studied the history of voting rights and voter registration laws. Seventh grade students were responsible for registering the entire student body to vote. Eighth graders took surveys to discover if they were conservative or liberal and then studied the issues and opinions of their respective gubernatorial candidate. This culminated in a debate that was presented to the middle school. On Election Day, the seventh grade acted as election board workers, signing in students, and issuing voting authorities. Students then voted in a real voting machine.

Mrs. Julie O’Connor, ESL Coordinator for the district and ESL teacher in the Middle School & School # 6, and Ms. Mangiacapra’s Middle School English class, held a bake sale in the last days of the 2012-2013 school year to raise money for the Bergen County Animal Shelter.

The students raised a total of $219.00! The group received a certificate of appreciation from the Bergen County Executive and will continue their fundraising efforts this year.

Mrs. O’Conner’s ESL Class enjoyed a trip to The Hermitage. The Hermitage, located in Hohokus, NJ, is a National Historic Landmark and House Museum. It was visited during the Revolutionary War by General George Washington. The historic site was also the site of the marriage of US founding father Aaron Burr.

Mrs. O’Conner stated that she planned the trip because, “She believes that it is particularly important for new immigrants to learn about US history with a real life example right here in Bergen County!”

Featured in the photo, to the right, are Middle School students Wendy Duarte, Rosanna Corona, and Mazen Habib. They are all actively listening to the Hermitage tour guide.