

Cliffside Park School District

From the Desk of the Superintendent

June,

Register for the 2011 Summer Enrichment Program

Superintendent Romagnino is proud to announce that, from August 1 to August 19, 2011, CPSD will offer a unique Summer Enrichment Program for students who will be entering grades 3 through 12 in September. The three-week activities program will provide experiences for students who will have the opportunity to enroll in classes as diverse as **Marine Science** and **Kitchen Chemist** to **Lego Robotics** and **Let's Put on a Show**. Other offerings, **Jumpstart on Summer Reading** or **Transition to Middle School**, have been designed to provide extra assistance to improve students' reading skills or to prepare them for a new grade level in the fall. According to Mr. Romagnino, "The enrichment classes have been developed to enable students to sharpen their skills and creativity in a fun, hands-on way." The registration deadline for the summer enrichment program is June 24, 2011. For more information, please see the brochure on the district's website or contact Program Director, Linda Ludwikowski, at School # 6.



Students show their appreciation for hands-on science.

Dr. Meier Named Bergen County Counselor of the Year

The Cliffside Park School District and the Bergen County School Counselors Association are pleased to announce that CPHS Guidance Counselor, Dr. Edward C. Meier, has been named "Counselor of the County-2011" for Bergen County, New Jersey. He was selected for this honor based on his work with the Bergen County "Caring Awards" as well as his dedication to a support group that helps Cliffside Park High School students who must deal with the death of a parent. Dr. Meier was honored at a breakfast held at New Jersey City University held on May 25, 2011, that was sponsored by the New Jersey School Counselors Association. Dr. Meier's wife Paulette Meier, and other family members were in attendance for the award presentation. Dr. Meier has worked at Cliffside Park High School since 1982 when he was hired to teach United States History. During his career in Cliffside Park, he was named Cliffside Park High School "Teacher of the Year" in 1989 and Time Warner "Star Teacher of the Year" in 1996. In 1992, Dr. Meier was appointed to the position of guidance counselor. He was honored with the Bergen County Professional Counselors Association "Human Rights Award" in 2003. Dr. Meier is a graduate of Palisades Park High School. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree at St. Peter's College, Masters Degree at William Peterson University, and Doctoral Degree at Fordham University.



Dr. Ed Meier receiving his Bergen County Counselor of the Year Award.

Mr. Casamento Nominates Star as "Friend of Guidance"

On June 3, 2011, the Bergen County School Counselors Association presented Cliffside Park resident, Steven Antolos, with the "Friend of Guidance" Award. Mr. Antolos was nominated for the award by Cliffside Park counselor, Don Casamento, a member of the association. Steven is the professional wrestler, popular known as "STEVE OFF." Despite his busy schedule, Steven visited the Cliffside Park Middle School on numerous occasions to utilize his experiences to promote a positive message with students. In addition to discussing professional wrestling, STEVE OFF encouraged students to stay in school, do their schoolwork and develop their talents. He was a big hit within the school community, but dramatically impacted individuals as well. One student, in particular, was struggling with many personal issues, both at home and in school. Steven became aware of this and invited the student to watch wrestling matches from front row seats. Mr. Antolos introduced the student to the other wrestlers and helped him to see that he was, in fact, a VIP, who could overcome his challenges. It was because STEVE OFF gave so generously of his time and talents that Mr. Casamento mentioned Steven Antolos's name to the Counselors Association. The membership, of over 350 school counselors, agreed that Steven Antolos was the perfect candidate for the award. Congratulations, Mr. Antolos.



STEVE OFF, professional wrestler, shared a positive message with CP Middle School students.

World Language/ESL Students Win Poetry Recitation Contest

On May 19, 2011, nine students represented the CPHS World Language/ESL at the 28th annual Orlando Saa Poetry Recitation Contest at William Paterson University. Carmine Panuccio won first prize for his recitation of The Italian Native Poem. Melissa Vazquez received a third place for her interpretation of The Spanish Native Poem, and Pratima Gautam won first prize in the category of Beginning Spanish. According to William Paterson University's web site, more than 700 students from 50 New Jersey middle and high schools participated in the annual Poetry Recitation Contest. The competition challenges students in the ten languages taught in regional schools: Arabic, Chinese, English as a Second Language (ESL), French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin and Spanish. After being selected by their schools to compete in one of four levels in each language—beginner, intermediate, advanced or native—students recite an assigned poem for a panel of language specialists from the University faculty and area high schools.

Congratulations to our local winners!



Mayor Calabrese congratulates Carmine for soccer achievements, but he is a star in poetry recitation as well.

Kudos from the Athletic Department

Athletic Director, Mr. John Lombardo, recognizes the following athletes and teams for their outstanding accomplishments in 2011. He also offers his gratitude to the community for their ongoing support:

- *The Boys Soccer Team won the Group State Championship for the 2nd time in three years. Congratulations to Coach Jim Fucci and assistant Coaches Carmine Cambareri and Ozgur Uyaraglu and the players who worked so hard for this goal.
- *The Boys Basketball Team won the Big North American Title for a second year in a row. Congratulations to players and coaches Brian Cameron, Jason Cameron for back-to-back titles.
- *The Wrestling Team won the Big North American Title. Congratulations to the wrestlers, Coach Marc Cabrera and, Assistant coaches, Mike Spirito and Charlie O'Hanlon.
- *The Boys Cross Country Team won the Big North American Title. Congratulations to the runners, Coach Lindsey Reggo and Assistant Coach Jamie Woyce.
- *The Boys Indoor Track Team won the Big North American Title. Congratulations to the runners and Co- Coaches Lindsey Reggo and Jim Fucci.
- *The Boys Outdoor Track Team won the Big North American Title. Congratulations to Head Coach Lindsey Reggo and Assistant Coaches Tom Mandile, Lou Wotman ,Jamie Woyce, Jim Fucci, and Jim Gaffeny.

Mr. Lombardo acknowledges these outstanding accomplishments and thanks the coaches for their dedication to Cliffside Park Athletics. Specifically, Mr. Lombardo honors Coach Lindsey Reggo, for winning the Big North American League title for all three seasons that she coaches, including Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track.



Coach, Lindsey Reggo, lead her teams to win the Big North American League title for all three seasons that she coaches; including Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track.

CPHS Business Education Dept. Hosts Career Day

On Friday, May 6, 2011, The CPHS Business Education Department hosted the Annual Business Education Department Career Day extravaganza. The event showcased over 30 representatives from our local businesses as well as from area-wide technical preparation schools. Participating students got a jump on their own career choices by interviewing the vendors and learning more about their future career pathways.



Students greet 2011 Career Fair guests.

Middle School Students Enjoy Living History

The Middle School Social Studies department has had a very busy year. To help develop real-time 21st Century learning skills, students conducted a mock election and a Colonial Fair. Another major project was the annual 8th Grade Culture Fair. Students exchanged information, dance and food from their native countries in a day-long celebration. After all that hard work, 8th graders spent a fabulous day in Washington, DC where they toured our nation's Capitol Building and even had the opportunity to sit in the House Gallery during a joint session of the House and Senate. Students also observed the changing of the guard at Arlington Cemetery and were able to tour the National Mall where they saw the Lincoln Memorial and other monuments. Meanwhile, 7th graders enjoyed a trip to Philadelphia, where they saw the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall as well as other historic sites.

Middle School Inducts Honor Society Members

The Middle School Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held at School # 6 on Tuesday, May 10, 2011. Twenty-one students were inducted into this nationwide association of scholarly middle school students. To qualify, students maintained a 3.75 Grade Point Average over a two-year period. They also completed a rigorous community service program and showed outstanding leadership, character and citizenship in their peer relationships over the course of their middle school years. The Honor Society Induction Ceremony included a speech by John Calvaruso, a 1998 graduate of Cliffside Park High School. Mr. Calvaruso talked about his experiences and focused on his belief that you have to learn how to accept failure before you can really succeed in your life's work. Parents, family, faculty and friends enjoyed the evening and are very proud of our newly inducted students who will soon be Middle School graduates.

CP Early Learning Program Accepted for Participation

Cliffside Park Pre School Program has been accepted to the *Preschool Research Network*. This network is a small, diverse group of districts committed to processing and disseminating information and conducting research to guide preschool policies and practices with a special focus on English Language Learners (ELL). The group will meet 4-6 times throughout the year to engage in discussions about the application of policies and practices in participating school districts. The intention of the group is also to develop a collective research project that will address local issues. The project will be conducted under the guidance of the Education Research Section. ELC Principal, Janet Merrill stated, "It's an honor to participate in this program because it will enable us to bring research-based best practices to our district to help our diverse students with embarking on their educational careers with all possible advantages."

ELC Celebrates Diversity

Recently, Mrs. Nonna Lina Vicchio, from Calabria, Italy, who was in New Jersey visiting her children and grandchildren, came to Mrs. Bracco's classroom to share the beauty of Italy. She brought a map so the children could see exactly where she resides and guided children through the process of making homemade pasta. Nonna Lina also cooked the homemade pasta and served it to the children. Mrs. Bracco adds, "I never saw so many empty plates from four and five year olds! Some children asked for seconds."

Delizioso! Grazie Nonna Lina!



Mr. DeLisio reports that music is thriving in the district. Below are photos of outstanding 2011 events.



Spring vocal concert



Annual Spring Band Concert



At Lincoln Center, NYC



Little League Opening Day



New Jersey Jackals Baseball Game.

Mr. DeLisio

Around the Hallways...School # 3

School # 3 students spent 2010-2011 exceeding expectations and winning numerous awards:

*The sixth graders at School #3 adopted a United States Marine, who is serving in Afghanistan. The students have been sending cards, letters and care packages to 1st Lt. Jeremy Thomas who is a member of the Combat Logistics Battalion 7. Lt. Thomas kept in touch with the students through emails to their teachers and via Facebook.

*Sixth grade students, Ginger R. and Gabriella B., in Mrs. Luderer's Search class, scored high in the Spring Session of The Stock Market Game. The team finished 39th out of 816 teams in New Jersey. Students participated by buying and selling a simulated \$100,000 in stocks and bonds with classroom computers. Congratulations on a job well done.

*Cliffside Park School #3 PTO held their annual American Idol Talent Show. Approximately 20 acts performed featuring nearly 40 students. It was a fun event that helped demonstrate the talent we have in our local community.

*All sixth graders in all of Cliffside Park participated in the COPE Program (Cliffside's Own Positive Education) which is sponsored by the Cliffside Park Police Dept. The twelve-week program, taught by Det. Joe Davis, shows students how to solve conflicts and how to handle bullying. As the program concluded, COPE sponsored an essay competition among the 185 sixth graders. Katelyn Quino was the overall winner. Katelyn received a monetary award, movie tickets and a trophy. Way to go!

School # 3 Teachers are Rising Stars

Congratulations to the following School # 3 teachers who received recognition for their outstanding work throughout this school year:

* First grade teacher, Jill Guider, was inducted into the Class of 2011: Teachers Who Rock. She was nominated by her fellow teachers. The program honors 24 teachers across Northern NJ, who are an inspiration to their students and colleagues.

*5th Grade teacher, Craig Nichols, won the Barnes & Nobles, My Favorite Teacher Contest, for the Eastern Bergen County Area. He was nominated by sixth grader, Ivania Rivera.

*The teachers at School #3 applied for and won a \$2,000 Lois Lenski Covey Foundation Grant to purchase books for the school's library. After winning the grant, the teachers researched and purchased over 250 books for their library. All of the books were award winners (such as Newbery and Horn Awards) or books that are "in demand" based upon popularity and reviews.

*School # 3 third grade teacher, Susan Candee, was recently selected as a Star Teacher. The Star Teacher Award is sponsored by the Record Newspaper. Any teacher in Northern New Jersey can be nominated, but only by a student. This is done by the student writing an essay, creating a small film or a Power Point presentation. A panel of judges names the top ten nominees and then selects the three most outstanding teachers—who they believe represents the innovative 21ST Century Teacher. The presentation of the Star Teacher Award was made at Ramapo College on May 20, 2011. School # 3 Principal, John Brunelli, Dr. David Jordan, Jonathan and his family attended the ceremony. Ms. Candee stated that she appreciated Jonathan Lopez's essay about how she made a difference in his life. His nomination made a difference in hers as well.



School # 3 selects its own idols.



Ginger and Gabriella excel in The Stock Market Game.



Katelyn's parents, Mrs. Unagast, Principal Brunelli and Det. Davis celebrate her essay win!



Jill Guider is a 2011 "Teacher who Rocks."



Susan Candee with student, Jonathan Lopez, who nominated her, and Principal of School #3 John Brunelli.

Around the Hallways...School # 4

School #4 students did an outstanding job preparing for the 2011 Science Fair. Sixth Grade students presented their Science Fair projects on Thursday, June 2 from 9:30 AM for the school students and from 7:00PM - 8:30 PM for family and friends. The Science Fair was held in the school gym and was a delight for all in attendance. According to Mrs. Anita Ferrante, sixth grade science teacher at School #4, what made the fair unique was that it was interactive. Sixth grade students tested experiments and created projects to present. Some fair projects included: making butter the old-fashioned way, elephant tooth paste, the suspenseful egg, water molecules on the move, lava in a cup, salt water battery, liquid layers, coin pop and bending water. There were many other wonderful projects as well. Grades 1-3 were also able to obtain stickers by asking the presenters questions about their projects. The 4th and 5th grade students benefitted from an information treasure hunt while observing as they "searched" for answers to various questions related to Science Fair submissions. Mrs. Ferrante congratulates all student participants and looks forward to next year's Science Fair.

Mrs. Carden's class participated in a very unusual event: United Water's Gingerbread House Contest. Her students had a blast designing and figuring out how to even get started! They took photos along the way and ate a lot of leftovers. The house ended up with a pool on the roof after a major collapse. Mrs. Carden delivered the student's creation to the Haworth United Water offices, and was surprised to learn that her class won in the 4th-6th grade category. Soon after, a \$500 gift card arrived, which will be used to purchase a new class camera and a flip video recorder for future projects.



Mrs. Carden celebrates cake makers.



Dive into this underwater gingerbread house.

School # 5 Students are Mighty Milers

School # 5's fourth, fifth and sixth graders took part in the Mighty Milers challenge this spring. Mrs. Muro, their physical education teacher, and Mr. Bucco, principal of School #5, applied to become participants of the free program sponsored by the New York Road Runners. Mighty Milers is a running program designed to encourage students to opt for living a healthy lifestyle through good eating and running. Additionally, the project aims to help children establish a active lifestyle to fight against childhood obesity. Each student in the fourth, fifth and sixth grade had to reach the goal of running 6 miles by the end of the school year. To attain this goal, each week students completed two running sessions. During these sessions, they ran a full half mile. Through the Mighty Milers program, our students have learned the many positive aspects of running, including how to use running as an outlet for their energy. Additionally, they benefitted from a sense of accomplishment after setting and then reaching their running goals. School #5 will be continuing this program next year and hopes to establish even higher goals.



Mrs. Muro and her Mighty Milers pause on the way to the goal of running six miles in a program sponsored by the New York Road Runners.

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT...

Piloting a New Program to Improve Writing

Throughout the 2010-2011 school year, the district piloted an amazing new writing program at the 2nd and 3rd grade levels. Classroom teachers, Reading Specialists, and administrators partnered with Pat Pollack, a top-notch literacy consultant for Schoolwide, Inc., who is also the author and educational consultant for their Writing Fundamentals Program. Schoolwide, Inc.'s Writing Fundamentals Program's central mission is improving student writing and learning by increasing the tools teachers can use to teach writing.

Ms. Pollack created a professional learning community within CPSD, spearheaded by curriculum coordinators Donna Calabrese and Dana Martinotti. Together, the team discussed the future of the district's writing program as it related to improving student performance on the Writing portion of NJASK. They carefully selected units of study within the Writing Fundamentals Program that aligned directly with our current calendar of study.

According to Ms. Calabrese, Curriculum Coordinator, "Learning to write is often an intimidating and frustrating process for students and teachers who fear their own lack of experience or skill will be a hindrance to success. Many teachers who teach writing are not writers themselves. Also as educators, they see many students struggle with the process approach to writing because students, in the past, have been taught to write in response to a prompt."

Schoolwide's Writing Fundamentals Units of Study provided teachers with 10 mentor texts, coupled with mini-lessons and appendices, to implement the process approach in the classroom. Through Professional Development and the Writing Fundamentals Units of Study, the goal, now, is to build that vital bridge between knowing best practices and implementing them in the classroom. By providing teachers with mini-lessons, Units of Study, demonstration workshops, and on-site professional development, Schoolwide, Inc. helped teachers create a routine in their classroom to improve students' writing.

The beauty of the entire program is that teachers and students are both embracing it quickly. The program has changed their view of writing and elicited a desire for both groups to become better writers. In fact, according to Ms. Calabrese, a few teachers recently commented that they now better understand the process of writing and feel much more capable as teachers of young writer's. As classes completed their units of study and students published their own writing pieces, there were celebrations throughout the district. Teachers, students, parents, administrators, and support staff were invited to participate in the most important part of the writing process--- **Recognition & Celebration of Literacy!!!** Congratulations to all on a job well done. We look forward to **LAUNCHING** this exceptional program on a full scale in September.

"The beauty of the entire program is that teachers and students are both embracing it quickly. The program has changed their view of writing and elicited a desire for both groups to become better writers."

*Ms. Donna Calabrese
Curriculum Coordinator*

Our Community Offers Best Wishes to 2011 Retirees

The Cliffside Park community recently honored 2011 retirees Carmella Brunelli, Jim Shelley and Martha Rudolph at a dinner at Villa Almalfi. Each honoree at the event has given a lifetime to dedication to the Cliffside Park School Community. Carmela Brunelli has been employed by the district for the past 30 years as a school nurse. Jim Shelley has worked as a social science teacher, guidance counselor and vice principal since 36 years. Martha Rudolph has worked in special education for 47 years.

Together, they have positively impacted the lives of thousands of children and hundreds of teachers, for whom they served as mentors. The Cliffside Park Board of Education and the local Education Association wish the retirees peace, health and prosperity as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Their influence will continue to impact our community for years to come!

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

~Henry Brooks Adams

