



CLIFFSIDE PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

November
2017

FALL NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM:

Michael J. Romagnino, Superintendent of School

The Cliffside Park School District has established and maintains an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust with all who enter our doors. One of the district's greatest strengths is the diversity of our student population. With this foundation of cultures combining to foster mutual respect and social growth through diversity, the result is a very nurturing atmosphere for our students. This environment is constantly maintained via high academic standards and a differentiated classroom structure to serve the needs of all learners. We are deeply committed to providing a quality education to all of our students in order to increase their opportunities for future success. Looking ahead, we will continue to investigate and implement research based strategies in the classroom that will allow our teachers to truly connect with our students and prepare them for college and careers in the 21st Century. I am extremely enthusiastic about the exciting future of education in the Cliffside Park School District and thank our community and parents, in advance, for their unwavering partnership and support.

CLIFFSIDE PARK RECEIVES BEST BUY GRANT

Fifty of our 8th and 9th grade students will have the opportunity to build their own KANO computer and take it home as a result of our district receiving a Best Buy Grant. Students will be trained in assembling the computer, receive an introduction to coding and explore the many jobs and internships available in the tech world.

CLIFFSIDE PARK AWARDED NJ AFTER SCHOOL/SUMMER GRANT

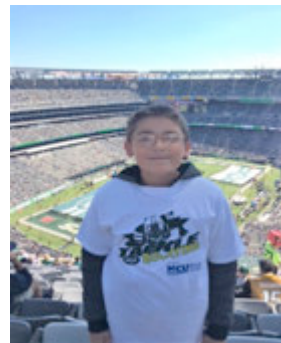
The Cliffside Park School District has been selected to receive the 21st Century After School/Summer Grant for the 2017-18 school year in the amount of \$250,000. **Only four districts** in the state have received this award!!! This grant will be used to provide after school programs for a limited number of students in grades 4-6 across the district as well as a summer remediation program for many of our students.

School 3 – From the Desk of Mrs. Calabrese, Principal



Pictured above: Ms. Mollinedo, Commissioner Thomas S. Kelley, BCUA Chairman Ronald Phillips, Bergen County Freeholder, Germaine M. Ortiz.

Cliffside Park School No. 3 was chosen as a recipient of the *Bergen County Utilities Authority Environmental Challenge Grant*. The school received \$1,000 to incorporate a program with activities that promote environmental awareness. This year, the school will incorporate composting bins to reduce trash and begin an indoor gardening program that will lead to spring planting in our school garden. At the end of the school year, the school will present the program results to the BCUA in order to apply for the grant again and continue promoting positive environmental lessons and activities.



School Three's Sixth Grade teacher, Mrs. Unagast & Mrs. Katie LoRocco, joined with the NY Jets Upstander of the Week program. The Upstander of the Week Program highlights one student per week during their season from the fourth, fifth and sixth grades. The purpose of the program is to teach students how to recognize when someone is being bullied and/or cyberbullied. Students need to stop being a bystander and become an Upstander! Students receive three tickets to a Jets game, a t-shirt and a parking pass. Upstander, Julian Alban (pictured) and his family had an amazing time at the game.

School 4 – From the Desk of Mrs. Roussos, Principal

Cliffside Park School 4 teachers and students have had a busy couple of months establishing routines and rituals in their classrooms. The beginning of the year is always a very exciting time. The building is full of energy and everyone is getting settled into a new grade full of exciting new adventures! Many of our teachers came in over the summer to set up their classrooms and prepare for their students. They also participated in a variety of Professional Development Opportunities during the summer to prepare for the new curricular updates. This year teachers are using the FOSS Science program which aligns to the Next Generation Science Standards. The program is extremely hands on and interactive. The teachers embraced it and students are becoming amazing scientists. Our Math program was updated and we are now using Pearson 2.0. Teachers and students are adjusting to the new way math is being taught and as a result we are seeing steady growth. The dedication of the staff at School 4 and the enthusiasm from our students is what allows us to see the success we do each and every day! I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents for a great beginning of the school year and appreciate all of their continued support and cooperation.

School 5 – From the Desk of Mrs. Martinotti, Principal

School No. 5 began the year by welcoming our new pre-kindergarten and first grade students to our school! Our pre-k classes settled in quickly and enjoyed exciting learning through our rules, apple, and pumpkin units. Weekly trips to the park have begun as well as special story time with the fifth grade. Students in grades one through six got started right away establishing routines in their reader's and writer's workshops. While the lower grades have been studying words in our Foundations program, the upper grades began using our new vocabulary resources Flocabulary and Membean. All grades have been learning our new math program and are enjoying exploring science like real scientists! Our third through sixth grade classrooms are making use of their chromebooks. We have enjoyed assemblies such as the Ned Show and Firefighter Phil. The whole school enjoyed the first monthly School 5 assembly where we celebrate our Students and Citizens of the Month. In early October, we began our "Girls Who Code" club for our sixth-grade girls - they have already begun working on their computer science project...stay tuned!

School 6/MS – From the Desk of Mr. Bargna, Principal

Recently, our Middle School's 8th grade Advanced Art Class participated in a permanent art installation. Students studied the works of artist Keith Haring which included graffiti art. They developed large scale drawings based on the style of Haring that represented love, peace, respect, and friendship. Students worked in small teams to create their own symbols of peace and recreated them in large white paint outlines. These painted areas will then be used as an interactive playground for the elementary students to be recolored with chalk over and over again. The paint area was also combined with playground activities such as hopscotch. The project has been completed at Schools 5 & 6 and will be expanding to both Schools 3 and 4 during this school year.

Pictured Below: Art designs by students in Mrs. Tulli's Advanced Art Class.



New MS Course

ELL Business and Career Technology is a multi-leveled class of students with varying English proficiencies. The goals of this full year class are to expose students to personal finance concepts and foster technological skills by building efficiency in computer applications. Additionally, this class is designed to assist students with exploring careers and developing necessary skills that will help students achieve success both inside and outside of school.

Congratulations to **Logan Yoon** a 4th grade student who received a perfect score on both the Math & ELA section of the 2016-17 PARCC Exams.

High School – From the Desk of Mr. Pinto, Principal

Cliffside Park High School began the school year by welcoming students back to a number of updated facilities. Three bathrooms were renovated. The CAD room was updated. Four new classrooms were created to better meet the needs of the students. One hundred additional lockers were installed to meet the needs of our growing population. A number of classrooms received air conditioners, dry erase boards and new furniture.

Programming included an expansion of bilingual classes, opportunities to take twenty-four Advanced Placement courses, grade based seminars, and new electives. A one to one chromebook initiative and available wifi hotspots have provided all students access to technology and collaborative learning opportunities.

Cliffside Park students have found individual and team success in the classroom, through activities and on the athletic field. Eighty-eight students will be recognized with honor roll for the first marking period. A number of students have been recognized as upstanders of the week by the New York Jets for their community involvement and kindness. The robotics team recently took second in a local competition. The biology club has cleaned the courtyard and welcomed the arrival of nine laying hens to accompany the reptiles and other animals under their care.

Boys and Girls Cross Country and Girls Soccer won league titles, with Coach Camberari, Coach Reggio and Coach Jannucci all being recognized amongst their peers as coaches of the year. The Girls tennis team had their most successful season in a long time. Both Volleyball and boys' soccer finished near the top of the league. Boys football has a different energy and Victor Armani was named an Athlete of the Week by North Jersey for his tremendous performance.

The first marking period concluded with the Student Government's unity dance. The students who participated enjoyed ethnic foods and music while recognizing the school's diversity and many cultures.

Opportunities abound in the winter for our students. Competitive athletics, with rich traditions in basketball and wrestling, are available. Our chess team will look towards reclaiming the county championship. The Model UN team will compete again in a simulated delegation with the hopes of passing a resolution amongst schools from around the world. Ski club will hit the slopes on Wednesday afternoons. At Cliffside Park High School, there is an activity or club for everyone.

Vets Visit HS

On November 8 four Vietnam Veteran's visited our HS to share their story of the Vietnam War. Jim McGinnis, Jim Biringer, Bill McClung, and Gary Monsees all served in the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam in some capacity--whether voluntarily or through the Selective Service Draft. Pictures, helmets, and maps were used to give the students a detailed account of what Vietnam looked like in the late 1960s and early 1970s. United States History II students will be attending a field trip in the Spring to the Vietnam Veteran's Museum in Holmdel, NJ.



FOSS - Our New Science Curriculum

Are your children coming home excited about Science?

What is FOSS? (Full Option Science System) is a research-based science curriculum that has been purchased by the district this year for grades K-5. It was developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California, Berkeley. FOSS has evolved from a philosophy of teaching and learning that has guided development of successful active-learning science curricula for more than 40 years. The FOSS Program bridges research and practice by providing tools and strategies to engage students and teachers in enduring experiences that lead to deeper understanding of the natural and designed worlds.

In addition to the science framework, every FOSS module provides opportunities for students to engage in and understand science practices, and many modules explore issues related to engineering practices and the use of natural resources. FOSS promotes these science and engineering practices:

- Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering)
- Development and using models
- Planning and carrying out investigations



- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Using mathematics, and computational thinking
- Constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering)
- Engaging in argument from evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

It is widely accepted that children learn science concepts best by doing science. Doing science means hands-on experiences with objects, organisms, and systems. Hands-on activities are motivating for students, and they stimulate inquiry and curiosity. For these reasons, FOSS provides the best possible materials and most effective procedures for deeply engaging students with scientific concepts. FOSS students at all grade levels investigate, experiment, gather data, organize results, and draw conclusion based on their own actions. The information gathered in such activities enhances the development of scientific and engineering practices.

Experiences out of the classroom develop awareness of community

By extending classroom learning into the outdoors, FOSS brings the science concepts and principals to life. In the process of validating classroom learning among the schoolyard trees and shrubs, down in the weeds on the asphalt, and in the sky overhead, students will develop a relationship with nature. It is our relationship with natural systems that allows us to care deeply for these systems.

Science-centered language development promotes learning in all areas

Effective use of science notebooks can promote reflective thinking and contribute to lifelong learning. Research has shown that when language-arts experiences are embedded within the context of learning science, students improve in their ability to use their language skills. Students are eager to read to find out information, and to share their experiences both verbally and in writing.



Mrs. Piccirillo's Kindergarten class (below) is having so much FUN working on the Animals Two By Two Unit in Science. The students used their binoculars to go bird watching in our schoolyard. They observed a mockingbird on a pole and some sparrows flying in and out a tree. In their science notebooks, the students compared features and behaviors of birds.



Visit our website at: www.cliffsidepark.edu for up-to-date information on all of our schools.

Download the **CP APP** on your smartphone for up-to-date activities and notifications.

<http://www.cliffsidepark.edu/index.php/2017/07/04/download-the-cliffside-park-school-district-app/>

Use our **"Parent Portal"** for attendance info, progress and report card data & school lunch balances.

<https://www.fridayparentportal.com/portal/security/login.cfm>

School Calendar... <http://www.cliffsidepark.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2017-2018-School-Calendar.pdf>

No Homework Nights.... <http://www.cliffsidepark.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/No-Homework-Nights.pdf>