



CLIFFSIDE PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

November
2018

FALL NEWSLETTER

From the Desk of Superintendent Romagnino

I am happy to deliver the 2018 Fall Newsletter for the Cliffside Park School District. We have included important news as well as interesting activities and events that have or will take place in each of our schools.

District Reorganization - September 2019

Due to an increase in student population during the past five years, the Cliffside Park Board of Education has approved the addition of twelve (12) new modular classrooms to be installed at School 3. The planned installation must first be approved by the NJ Department of Education prior to the board moving forward with the bidding process. The tentative start date for installation of the new classrooms is April 1, 2019. As a result, effective September 2019, district schools will be tentatively reorganized as follows;

Grades 1-4 will be located at Schools 3, 4 & 5.

Grade 5 will be located at Schools 4 & 6.

Grade 6 will be located at School 6.

Kindergarten classes will be located at Schools 3, 4 & 5, PreK at Schools 3 & 5 and Special Ed classes at Schools 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Students currently attending School 6, Grades 1-3 will be reassigned to Schools 3, 4 or 5 depending upon address. Parents will be notified on or about January 1, 2019 of new school assignment.

Looking Ahead - September 2019

School 3 – PreK, PreKH, Grades K-4 & Spec Ed.

School 4 – Grades K-5 and Special Ed.

School 5 – PreK, PreKH and Grades K-4.

School 6 – Grades 5-6 and Spec Ed.

Perfect PARCC Scores

Congratulations to the following students who received a **PERFECT** score on the Math and/or ELA 2017-2018 PARCC Test.

<u>School #3</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Erisa Korovesi	ELA
Chloe Nunez	ELA & Math
Thomas Vivas	ELA

<u>School #4</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Catherine Garcia	Math

<u>School #6</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Brooklyn Pak	ELA
Erik Turdiu	ELA & Math

<u>High School</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Oais Awad	Algebra II

Proposed Changes to PARCC Testing

Changes are coming to the Spring 2019 PARCC test, newly renamed, The New Jersey Student Learning Assessment in Math/ELA. Follow this link for more information regarding the proposed changes...

<https://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/Oct3ProposalLevel ppt 2.pdf>

Test Scores continue to Rise!!

I am happy to report that student test scores in grades 3-12 have shown marked improvement this year compared to the past two years. We are now exceeding state averages in all areas!! Review our scores at...

<http://www.cliffsidepark.edu/index.php/2018/10/15/2017-2018-parcc-scores/>

After School Happenings!!

Our 4th and 5th grade afterschool students have been working with a federally funded grant program called SNAP-ED who we have partnered with as a result of **winning** the 21st Century After School Grant. SNAP-Ed classes give students practical information about good nutrition, cooking, food safety and the importance of physical activity while teaching about healthy living, reducing world hunger and how to prevent obesity.



Title One Parent Night

Mrs. Luraschi (**pictured, lower-left**) along with the district's Title One staff hosted a night for parents on Wednesday, October 23rd. During the evening parents had an opportunity to meet their child's teacher, discuss techniques that will provide support for their children at home and take part in a parent survey where the information collected will be used to improve our Title One services across the district. Thank you to our parents and staff for attending!!!!



Cliffside Park APP/ Parent Portal

Download our APP (**pictured, upper-right**) at the Apple APP or Google Play stores for the latest calendars, events, athletic info and **instant notifications/alerts** for events and school closings.

Also visit us at www.cliffsidepark.edu for the latest school information and log onto the parent portal at <https://www.fridayparentportal.com/portal/security/login.cfm> for information on your child's attendance, grades and much more.

Buddy Bench Project

Elementary school counselor Mrs. Kathleen L. Matulewicz who's helping to organize our first district-wide Buddy Bench Project informs us that part one of the program is completed thanks to HS teacher, Mr. Ed Jones and his Advanced Woodshop students (**Joel Aldaz, Charlen Cordova, Angelic Lopez, Weleed Masoud, Cesar Quino and Francisco Roca**) who built four park benches, one for each elementary school. The buddy bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. A designated bench will be available at recess for students who need a playmate. Students are encouraged to approach students on the bench and invite them to play, walk and/or talk. Now that our benches are built, part two of the Buddy Bench Project will begin. That is painting and decorating them. This will be done by students in each elementary school under the guidance and supervision of their art teachers. We look forward to providing updates on this project over the course of the school year.

Additional information about the Buddy Bench Movement may be found at <http://buddybench.org/>.



From the Desk of Principal Calabrese School #3

First grade SUPERHEROES (pictured, below) from Ms. Guider's class with Mrs. Arp and Mrs. Brennan taking a stand against violence during School Violence Awareness Week.

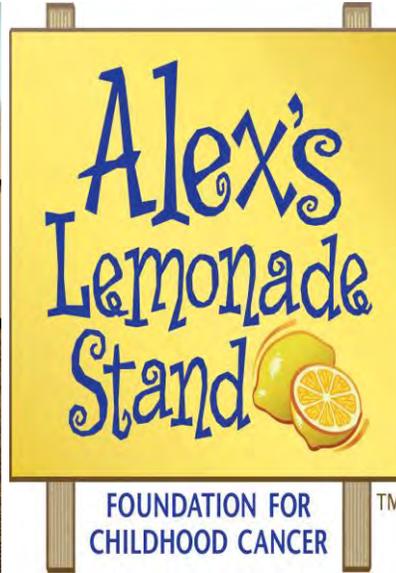


Kindle Grant

School #3 won a \$7500 grant from Visions (Federal Credit Union) Loves Educators to create an e-book lending program for our students. The grant allowed the school to purchase 30 Kindles plus hundreds of online books for the students to loan out.

Bergen County Utilities Grant

School #3 (pictured, below-left) is the recipient of several grants this year. One such grant, the Environmental Awareness Grant was received from the Bergen County Utilities Authority. Mr. Ryan, Ms. Mollinedo and Ms. Mandracchia attended a ceremony on October 12, 2018 to receive grant money for Schools No. 3, 5 and 6. These \$1000 grants will fund programs to educate our students in Environmental issues and assist with existing gardening and recycling programs as well.



Skyler Rain Barber Foundation and Alex's Lemonade Stand

School #3 (pictured, upper-center, upper right & below) participated in Alex's Lemonade Stand, a fundraiser to bring awareness to childhood cancer and support our own Mr. Barber with the Skyler Rain Barber Foundation. Mr. Barber and Jaidyn Rivera, a student who survived neuroblastoma cancer, gave a moving presentation to the school while the PTO hosted a Lemonade Stand and coin collection. The school came together and collected a large amount of money to donate to Childhood Cancer and the Skyler Rain Barber Foundation.

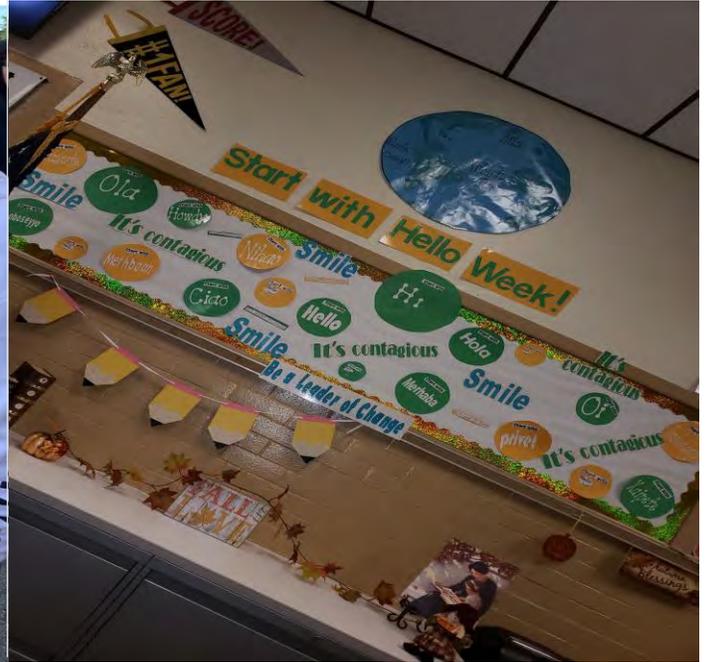


"School 3 Hits It Out of the PARCC Again"

School #3 continues to excel on the annual PARCC test. The test is administered statewide to all students from 3rd grade to 11th grade. Once again, School #3's students were amongst the best in the State of New Jersey, carrying on the tradition of academic excellence we have established over the last few years. Our students' scores showed increased performance over the previous year, which were already the highest in our school's history! In addition to this, two of our students, Erisa Korovesi (3rd grade) and Thomas Vivas (4th grade), earned perfect scores of 850 on the English Language Arts portion of the PARCC, and our very own Chloe Nunez (3rd grade) earned perfect scores of 850 on both the Mathematics and ELA portion of the test! This is a very rare achievement and worthy of praise! A big thank you to our district parents, we could not do what we do for your children without your care and endless support of their education.

Say Hello Week at School #3

School #3's Sixth Grade Safety Patrol (**pictured, below-left**) gave a warm welcome of high-fives, handshakes and personalized hellos to incoming students in grades 1-6 to kick off "**Start with Hello Week**". The school climate continued to "warm up" as the week progressed with many daily events to acknowledge this special week. SWH Week was initiated in all of our schools in September as The Mayor and Council passed a resolution declaring 9/24/18-9/28/18 "**Start with Hello Week**" in Cliffside Park. SWH is the result of a collaborative effort started by the Sandy Hook Promise. The purpose of this initiative is to increase awareness of social isolation and to create a connected and inclusive classroom and community where "Everybody Matters". The school's favorite activity was "Compliment Day". Students wrote compliments about their classmates, teachers and staff who they feel have made a strong impact in their lives. Our goal was to encourage all students to feel connected and understand that EVERYBODY matters!



Anti-Bullying Week At School #3

Our school's Anti-Bullying week activities (**pictured, upper-left**) culminated with a wonderful assembly and performance by Yojo. His show consists of BULLY NO MORE which teaches students various techniques to use if they are a bully target, a witness to bullying or the person doing the bullying. Yojo was a bully without even realizing it and used it to make others laugh. The students interacted with Yojo and witnessed firsthand how others feel when being bullied. They learned how to act in certain bullying situations. We are sure Yojo left a lasting impression on the students at School #3! One of our own teachers, Mrs. Biscocho received grant funding to bring Anti-Bullying Books (**pictured, upper-right**) to our school and has made them available for staff to use in their classrooms. Julia Cook, a former teacher and school counselor, writes books for children that allow them to laugh while learning to solve their own problems, use better behavior and develop healthy relationships.

PTO Information Session at School #3

School #3 hosted the first PTO information session. This was a special night to inform our parents of important school functions and how to utilize various school applications such as; The Parent Portal which includes report cards, lunch fines, attendance, etc., School Subject Log-Ins, Lunch Application, Remind APP and Class Dojo. Parents were also informed about the recent PARCC score reports. The Cliffside Park Library, Voter Registration materials and the Girl Scouts were also available to parents for questions and answers. Teachers were on site to assist parents in all of the activities.



From the Desk of Principal Roussos School #4

School 4 has had an exciting start to the school year. Both teachers and students have worked hard establishing classroom rules, routines and rituals, which has set the foundation for student learning this year. School 4 had many exciting events during the first few months of school. Students participated in School Violence Awareness Week, where students learned how to treat everyone with kindness and respect. Each day during that week, School 4 teachers and students wore crazy socks, dressed as a Superhero to “Fight against Bullying,” followed by many other fun activities.

Sixth Grade Student Katherine Garcia was honored at our October 16th Board of Education meeting for receiving a Perfect Score on the Math PARCC assessment. We are very proud of her accomplishment.

The School 4 PTO, along with Faculty and Staff are working hard in preparing for our Harlem Wizards Game on December 2nd. This activity will be a lot of FUN and a great fundraiser to support School 4. Please do not forget to purchase your tickets.

School #4 Celebrates Halloween!!!



From the Desk of Principal Martinotti

School #5

School No. 5 has been buzzing with activity since the first day of school! In addition to our second through sixth graders, we welcomed our new pre-kindergartners and first graders at the beginning of school – they were part of our school family in no time! School 5 also welcomed our high school interns who partner with our pre-kindergarten classes in a work-study program so they can gain valuable experience in the education profession.

We love reading at School 5 and we are so happy that this year we are fortunate to have a full-time media specialist in our building! Mrs. Allmers joined us in September and in addition to providing our students with greater access to books and instructing our students in computers, we are designing STEM classes and activities. In keeping with STEM, School 5 has launched its second year of our “Girls Who Code” program offering our sixth-grade girls the opportunity to gain more exposure to computer science. We also got our Early Risers program up and running to provide students, who were identified by their teachers, extra time before school to work on literacy and math skills.

We had a lot of outstanding students to celebrate at our first School 5 Assembly of the new year! Under the guidance of Ms. LaRose and Mrs. Morales, our new Safety Patrol Squad was sworn-in after applying and interviewing for the position. These sixth-grade leaders impressed us all with their maturity and willingness to serve our school community. September Students of the Month and Citizens of the Month who exhibited the outstanding qualities of “Cooperation and Citizenship” were awarded certificates. We also recognized all the students who had perfect attendance for the month of September – 210 students out of 340 were in school on time, every day in September! Great job, School 5 Families!

School 5 would also like to share the good news that we are the proud recipients of two grants - each for \$1,000.00! The first grant is from the Bergen County Utilities Authority to install a water bottle refill station to help keep our environment clean and our bodies healthy! We have Nurse Jenn to thank for working on the grant! The second grant was awarded to pre-kindergarten teacher Ms. Clinton (pictured below-right) who was nominated by a colleague for always going “above and beyond for her students and trying new techniques and approaches to get the best results for her students.” This Special Classroom Grant from the First Day of School Foundation will enable Ms. Clinton to provide communication devices, multisensory tools, and behavior management resources for her students!

We are so proud of our students and teachers and look forward to the next few months!



Ms. Hompesch's class (pictured above-left) enjoyed visiting School 5 this month to join their Pre-K friends for a morning of pumpkin picking and fall activities. It was an enjoyable day right from the beginning. They loved riding the school bus, participating in various fun games that also strengthened their fine and gross motor skills, and even got a doughnut and apple cider to enjoy before they left. Of course, the highlight of the day was picking their very own pumpkins and spending time with their teachers and friends. We look forward to continuing to learn about the change of seasons and all of the enjoyable activities that come with each one!

From the Desk of Principal Bargna School #6/Middle School

The students at School 6 (pictured below-right) were happy to help and “team up” against violence during School Violence Awareness Week and they proudly displayed their Raider Pride colors with Principal Bargna, Secretary Kathy and Guidance Counselor, Renee Arp.

As part of their ongoing service commitment, members of the Middle School National Honor Society of Cliffside Park (pictured below-left) participated in the Coastal Clean-Up Day in Edgewater on September 15th. Twenty NJHS members and one NHS member spent the morning on the banks of the Hudson River collecting washed up debris and litter from the shoreline. After, all volunteers were generously treated to lunch provided by Outback Steakhouse.

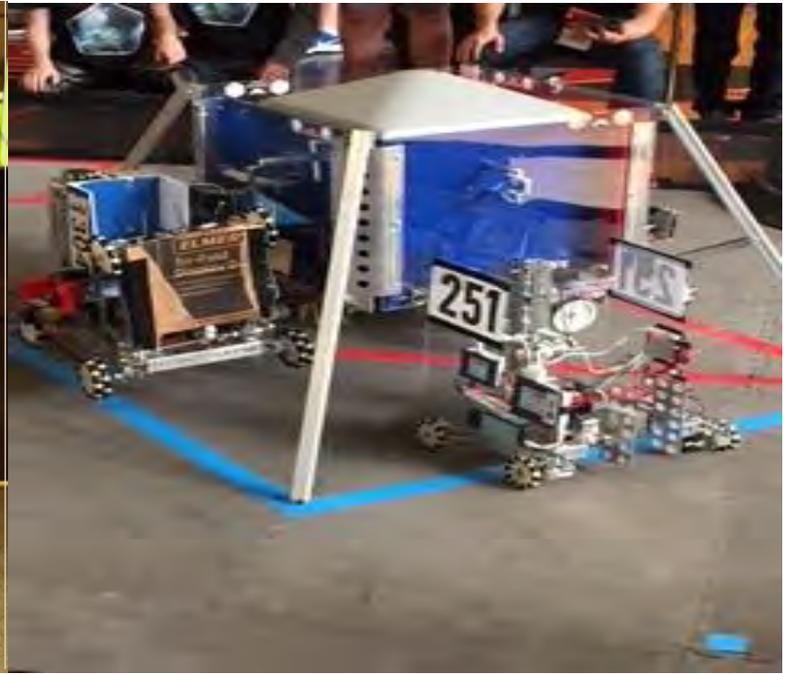


October is National Fire Prevention Month and to help raise awareness, the Cliffside Park Fire Department arranged for a school assembly (pictured below-left) by Firefighter Phil. The assembly for young students helps teach students how to prevent a fire and what to do if they see a fire.

In September, the Cliffside Park School District hosted a Day of Hello (pictured below-left). The program is designed to show students how to better communicate and make friends with their peers. The hope is that by “saying hello” and inviting others to join an activity, game or lunch table...new friendships will form. Principal Bargna (pictured below-right) joined in by saying “hello” to students as they arrived to School #6.



School #6 Media Specialist, Linda Ludwikowski won School #6 a \$1,000 Bergen County Utilities Authority Grant to help create an outdoor classroom for our elementary students. She also received Certificates of Appreciation (pictured below-left) that she shared with our students from the Bergen County Freeholders and Executives.



This year our middle school is offering a new **STEM** elective (pictured upper-right) for our 8th grade students taught by Mr. Capizzi. The first half of the year students will focus on engineering and collaborative skills. Students will build catapults, balloon powered race cars, design and construct wooden bridges, as well as their own Rube Goldberg machines. The second half of the year will focus on coding and computer programming. Students will have the opportunity to build their own KANO computers, learn the basics of block coding and adapt what they have learned to program computers, retro video games, and small robots using Raspberry Pi and Python interfaces. With this elective Mr. Capizzi hopes to provide our students with the hands-on experiences while developing creativity and interpersonal skills that will spark a future interest in these valuable and in demand careers.

[Dive into Reading Program at School #6](#)

The School #6 ‘Dive into Reading’ program encourages students to read each night. Reading is fundamental to a child’s growth whether they are read to, they read aloud, or they read silently to themselves. The book and number of pages a student reads each night will be monitored by his or her parents who will submit the results to the classroom teacher. Students will receive a cut-out of a ‘fish’, when they meet their grade-level goals, that will be used to help construct a mural outside the School Six Media Center.

[Yojo Show at School #6](#)



The YOJO SHOW (pictured above) an anti-bullying program, entertained students at School Six during [Week of Respect!](#) Yojo taught students the importance of being a buddy, not a bully. His anti-bullying message was well-received by all.

From the Desk of Principal Pinto High School

During the first marking period our freshmen adjusted to high school life while seniors were finalizing post-secondary opportunities for college or vocational schools. Our sophomores and juniors were encouraged to join an activity and begin identifying their goals and plans for post-high school.

Over the last year Cliffside Park High School has enjoyed tremendous success. This success is only possible by the unwavering commitment from students and staff. We are making tremendous strides, especially in test scores, but our work isn't done. We continue to offer leadership experiences for students and provide rigorous programs.

Two programs we are investigating and hope to make available next year include an early associates' program and an academies program. Through a partnership with Bergen Community College, the early associates' program would enable students to graduate Cliffside Park High School with an associate's degree. If students maintain a 3.5 or higher they can enroll at New Jersey State universities on scholarship. The academy program would be available to students interested in STEM, Humanities, Culinary Arts and Business. In addition to coursework, students will complete an internship/externship or service project to better our community.

Below are just some of the achievements and acknowledgements Cliffside Park High School has received over the last year:

- **We have been recognized as one of the 25 most improved schools in the state of New Jersey.**
- Our school rank amongst high schools has increased over 50 spots since last year and nearly 80 overall since the 15-16 school year.
- Since 15-16 our Chronic Absenteeism has decreased from 37.1% to 8.5%.
- The class of 18-19 is exceeding the state proficiency rates for both ELA III and Algebra II.
- Graduation rate is approaching 90%.
- 50% of students exceeding 3 or higher in Advanced Placement assessments in Computer Science, Calculus, English, Spanish, Social Studies and Biology.
- 22 AP courses offered.
- 54 credits are approved to students through Bergen Community College and available at a discounted rate.
- Two students serve on the Junior Commission for Status of Women in Bergen County. All other participating schools have one.
- 150 students were registered to vote, highest in Bergen County.
- New Jersey State Champions for the Vocabulary Bowl.
- Over 60 seniors participate in various internships in hospitals, law firms, engineering firms, government, and schools to name a few.
- Ongoing leadership and mentoring opportunities for students.
- Nine of Ms. Baskerville-Norris's Accounting Class students were featured on WBLS radio, during the Steve Harvey Morning Show for their "Pay it Forward" project. The students explained how their charitable projects benefited the lives of not only local charitable organizations and people in need, but needy organizations worldwide.
- Ms. Basioli took eight of her student DECA leaders to the NJ State DECA Leadership Conference at Kean University. The DECA Program, under Ms. Basioli's leadership, has grown to over 30 students this year. The entire department teamed with the Guidance Department to organize and run the CPHS College and Career Night which was attended by over 40 traditional colleges, trade schools, and local businesses.



(pictured upper-right) In October, CP Athletic Teams wore modified pink uniforms & accessories for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

(pictured upper-left) Girls Cross Country Team won the Brett Taylor Invitational Tournament!!!

Arts Education Scholarship

Congratulations to Ms. Spiliotes, HS Art Teacher, who has won an Arts Education Scholarship from Young Audiences New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania (YA). Winning this grant will allow our high school students the opportunity to experience extraordinary and inspiring performances delivered by YA's team of professional teaching artists. Each customized program is developed to maximize students' experiences with quality arts programs, provide opportunities to understand the cultural importance of the arts and creativity and connect to the classroom curriculum. Cliffside Park HS was one of only eight schools to be selected from the many that applied throughout New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania region.



First Robotics

Cliffside Park High School recently hosted the first Robotics competition of the 2018-2019 school year. The events are part of The First Inspires, an international robotics organization whose mission is to involve students in grades 9-12 in the learning and workings of STEM skills which could transition into valuable careers. The event was a huge success with over 16 teams participating including Cliffside's own "Mecha-Iodons 251" team. Advisors Mr. Guerra and Mr. Capizzi would like to congratulate all robotic students for their hard work, time, commitment and to this project.

The students pictured (**upper-center**) are Christian Cruz (lead builder) and Tony Major (lead programmer).

