

Volume 6, Issue 1

November 2011

Our Schools

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF WHIPPANY AND CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ



HANOVER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Excellence in



A Message From the Superintendent

The annual fall edition of the *"Excellence in Our Schools"* newsletter features our new faculty and staff. We welcome the new faculty and staff members who bring a variety of skills and experiences to our schools. As they join our existing staff, they will surely find great role models and mentors within our schools. From our *MagForce 5* teachers (featured on the front cover), to our 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year recipients, our new educators will be surrounded by dedicated educators who embrace, and aspire to be part of *"A Community That Inspires Excellence."* As always, thank you for your ongoing support of our faculty, staff, and students.

Scott R. Pepper, Superintendent of Schools

Editor: Donna Majdosz, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Student and Staff Activities, Accomplishments and Recognitions

- **Pictured on the Cover (clockwise from the top):**

1. Mountview Road School teachers Linda Kerins (left), Drew Burns, Adrienne O'Keefe, Michelle Marks, and Kerry Brennan (right) participated in NASA's Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program (RGEFP), which gives teams of educators from across the nation the opportunity to propose, design, build, fly, and evaluate a reduced gravity experiment. The team was selected from over 70 proposals based on scientific merit and education outreach potential.
2. MTV teacher team, *MagForce 5*, stands in front of NASA's "Weightless Wonder," a microgravity aircraft that can produce periods of weightlessness lasting 18 to 25 seconds at a time by flying a series of about 30 parabolas—a steep climb followed by a free fall—over the Gulf of Mexico. *MagForce 5* flew their experiment, "Magnets in Space," from NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, from June 23 to July 2, 2011. The focus of their investigation was to study the magnetic force and field around a magnet. Would a magnet's ability to lift objects on Earth (1g) change in zero g, hyper g? Would the magnetic field around a magnet in 1g conditions remain the same in zero g and hyper g?
3. The recipient of the 2010-2011 Morris County Superintendent's Middle School Leadership Award attended an awards dinner at the Hanover Marriott on May 3, 2011 with Mrs. Barbara Heiser, 8th Grade Team Leader, Mr. Michael Wasko, Principal, and her parents.
4. Bee Meadow School celebrated Arbor Day in April 2011.

5. An MJS 7th grader was named a finalist in the 16th annual Wallenberg Honors Program, which recognizes students who exemplify in word and action the courage and compassion of Raoul Wallenberg. She attended the event with Mr. Michael Wasko, Principal, Mrs. Susan Ladov, LDT-C and Mrs. Colleen Murphy, Guidance Counselor.



Retiring teachers, Bruce Shirvianian, Leeann MacCabe, Ginny Salmon, and Nancy Mantone were honored at the annual HTEA end-of-year celebration at Ravello's in East Hanover on May 12, 2011.



Mrs. Stephanie Serido (second from the left) was chosen as Salem Drive School's 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year. She was informed of her selection by Dr. Michele Keenan, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Scott Pepper, Superintendent, and Mr. Rob Camean, Principal.



Second grade teacher, Mrs. Linda Murphy, who was selected as Bee Meadow School's 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year receives a congratulatory bouquet from Mr. Gary Murphy, Interim Principal.

Meet Our Excellent New Staff



- Lori Prout is the new kindergarten teacher at Bee Meadow School. She is a graduate from the University of Delaware with a BS in Accounting. Mrs. Prout

attended The College of Saint Elizabeth for her teaching certification, and student taught in Chatham. Last year, she was a long term substitute first grade teacher at Salem Drive School. In addition to being a Girl Scout leader, she enjoys reading, exercising, and spending time on Long Beach Island with her family. She is thrilled to continue working in the Hanover Township School District.

- Crystal Thompson is the long term substitute Library/Media Specialist at Bee Meadow School. She earned her BA in



Communications, and MA in School and Public Librarianship at Rowan University. She spent the past two years as a media specialist at the Joy Miller School in Egg Harbor Township. Obviously, as a librarian, Mrs. Thompson loves to read and talk about books. Some of her favorite books are *The Westing Game*, *Harry Potter*, and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. She also loves to travel and plan her next vacation. Her last big vacation was her honeymoon to Corsica and Paris. She also likes hiking, and is very excited to be back in North Jersey where there are actual hills and mountains to climb. Mrs. Thompson is happy to be filling in for Mrs. Pedalino this year.



- Krista Colabella is a long term substitute language arts teacher at Memorial Junior School. She received her BA in English and

Literary Studies, and an MA in Education from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She did her student teaching in Brick Township High School.



- L. Ashley Morris is a long term substitute language arts teacher at Memorial Junior School.

She graduated from Villanova University with a BA in Communications, and received her teaching certification from The College of Saint Elizabeth. She completed her student teaching assignment in 6th and 7th Language Arts in the Clinton Public Schools.



Marjorie Capasso is a new lunch/recess aide at Salem Drive School.



Sharon Brueno is a new lunch/recess aide at Salem Drive School.



Karen Melchionda is the new lunch/recess aide at Bee Meadow School.



Meet Our Excellent New Staff



- Jamie Cresbaugh is the new seventh grade science teacher at Memorial Junior School. She earned her BA at The College of New Jersey, where she played college basketball all

four years, and participated in the Final Four. She completed her student teaching in Levittown, Pennsylvania. Jamie has enjoyed being an ocean lifeguard for the past 8 years in Lavallette, NJ. In her free time she loves spending time with her family and friends, as well as playing various sports.



- Jason Ivenz is the new guidance counselor at Memorial Junior School. He earned his BS in Psychology at St. Joseph's University, and an MS

in Counseling at Villanova University. Prior to entering the field of education he was an accountant for a healthcare organization. He gained counseling experience at two private non-profit schools: Ambler Day School outside of Philadelphia, PA and Montgomery Academy in Gladstone, NJ. When he is not working, Mr. Ivenz enjoys reading, playing tennis, going to the gym, and spending time with friends and family.



- Christina Laietta is a long term substitute Basic Skills teacher at Bee Meadow School. She graduated from The College of Saint Elizabeth with a BA in Elementary and Special Education and Art.

Ms. Laietta completed her student teaching at Bee Meadow School. Last summer she was a teacher at the Huntington Learning Center, and a special education aide in the Extended School Year program at Bee Meadow School. In her spare time she enjoys painting and spending time outside.



- Stephanie Markey, a Memorial Junior School alumna, returns to Hanover Township Public Schools as the new seventh grade language arts/reading teacher. Ms. Markey received her Bachelor's degree in English/Secondary Education from Marist College and her Master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia University. Prior to joining the MJS family, she taught sixth grade at Randolph Middle School, where she was recognized as Teacher of the Year. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, writing, and spending time with her friends and family.



- Nicole Aboyoun is the long term substitute fifth grade teacher at Salem Drive School. She graduated from Muhlenberg College where she majored in dance, and completed the elementary teaching certification program. She is certified to teach in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. When she is not teaching, Ms. Aboyoun loves to spend time with family and friends at

the beach. She also enjoys dancing, watching football, traveling, and going into NYC to see Broadway shows.



Yelena Richter is the new lunch/recess aide at Mountview Road School.

Meet Our Excellent New Staff



- Caitlin Vassoler is the new kindergarten teacher at Mountview Road School. She graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a BA in Elementary (K-6) Education. She completed her student teaching in central Pennsylvania, and Ennis, County Clare, Ireland. In college, she was a member of the vari-

ety Penn State Fencing Team—2-time National Champions, which allowed her to meet President Barack Obama. She loves to travel and learn about European culture and hopes to enroll in graduate school to obtain an ESL degree.



- Catherine Murphy is the long term substitute second grade teacher at Mountview Road School. She received her BA from Penn State University, where she majored in advertising and public relations. After a few years in marketing, she decided to leave the profession to become an elementary school teacher. She received

her teaching certificate from the College of Saint Elizabeth. Prior to joining the Hanover Township Schools, she student taught, as well as worked as a paraprofessional and substitute teacher within the School District of the Chathams. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends, sports, and traveling.



- Ashley Strumolo is a long term substitute language arts and reading teacher at Memorial Junior School. She earned her BA in Elementary/ Early Childhood Education, Psychology, and Special Education from The College of Saint Eliza-

beth, and is certified as an Elementary School Teacher with Subject Matter Specialization: Language Arts/Literacy in

Grades 5-8. She has worked as a teaching assistant in a school for students with disabilities. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends at her family's home in Long Beach Island, going for walks with her two golden retrievers, reading, and rooting for the New York Jets.

Adam Papa is a new custodian at Mountview Road School.

- Katharine Keyser is the new sixth and eighth grade social studies teacher at Memorial Junior School. Ms. Keyser



received her Bachelor's degree in History and Master's degree in Teaching from Fairleigh Dickinson University. As part of her college studies, she traveled to eleven countries in Europe, South America, and Asia. Prior to coming to MJS, Ms. Keyser worked as a sixth grade teacher at Frelinghuysen Middle School and as a seventh grade teacher at Readington Middle School. Ms. Keyser was a student in the Hanover Township Public School system and is extremely excited about her return to MJS to teach. She enjoys running and is currently training for the Marine Corps Marathon. When she isn't in the classroom, she enjoys going to museums, reading, seeing Broadway shows, and spending time with her family and friends.

Daniel Hatchard is a new custodian at Mountview Road School.



Student and Staff Activities, Accomplishments and Recognitions



Mr. Rick Eva was selected as Mountview Road School's 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year. Dr. Michele Keenan, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Scott Pepper, Superintendent, and Mrs. Thea Spina, Principal visited him in his third grade classroom where they presented him with the news, and a balloon bouquet.



Ms. Aimee Niemysk, resource center teacher, was chosen as Memorial Junior School's 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Scott Pepper, Superintendent, Mr. Michael Wasko, Principal, Mr. Darrin Stark, Assistant Principal, Dr. Michele Keenan, Assistant Superintendent, and Mr. Greg Margolis, Supervisor of Special Education surprised her with the news while she was working with four of her students.



Drew Burns, Kerry Brennan, Adrienne O'Keefe, Michelle Marks, and Linda Kerins make up MagForce5. The Mountview Road School teachers participated in NASA's Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program last summer. They designed and tested experiments on-board a gravity defying aircraft at NASA Johnson Space Center's Ellington Field in Houston. They will be featured on Classroom Close-up, NJ. Their show segment "Teaching from Space" will air on NJTV (formerly NJN) December 11 and 17, 2011, and January 15 and 21, 2012, Sundays at 6:30 a.m., 12:30 and 7:30 p.m., and Saturdays at 5:30 a.m.



Every child at Mountview Road School participated in related magnet and gravity experiments prior to the MagForce 5 team's NASA trip. The students also formulated the hypothesis, and each signed a washer that would be taken onto the aircraft, flown in zero g, and then returned to them as a NASA souvenir.

"A Community That Inspires Excellence" Support Hanover Township Public Schools

Hanover Township Public Schools

Administrative Offices

61 Highland Avenue

Whippany, NJ 07981

Phone: 973-515-2400 Fax: 973-540-1023

www.hanovertwpschools.com

Board of Education

Brian Cahill, *President*
Anthony Scarpino, *Vice President*
Michael Alwell
Salvatore Azzarello
Nicholas Duva
Stephen Furda
Thomas "Ace" Gallagher
Brandie Linfante
Catherine Slattery

Administration

Scott R. Pepper, *Superintendent of Schools*
Michele R. Keenan, *Asst. Supt. for Curriculum and Staff Development*
Vanessa Wolsky, *School Business Administrator/Board Secretary*
Gregory Margolis, *Supervisor of Special Education*
Darrin Stark, *Principal, Bee Meadow School*
Thea Spina, *Principal, Mountview Road School*
Roberto Camean, *Principal, Salem Drive School*
Michael Wasko, *Principal, Memorial Junior School*
Aaron Wasserman, *Assistant Principal, Memorial Junior School*