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Our Schools

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF WHIPPANY AND CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ



HANOVER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Excellence in



A Message From the Superintendent

Welcome to the first annual edition of “*Excellence in Our Schools*”. As you know, the Hanover Township Public Schools have a long-standing reputation for educational excellence. The purpose of this newsletter, is to share with the community a snapshot of selected highlights from the past year that capture the essence of what happens in our schools on a daily basis. These outstanding accomplishments are made possible through the commitment of our Board of Education, district staff, and the on-going support of the parents and residents of the Township of Hanover. As you read through this newsletter, I know you will share our pride for the accomplishments of our students, staff and the entire school community. These highlights are representative of our vision for the Hanover Township Public Schools, which is “*A Community That Inspires Excellence*”. Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Pepper, Superintendent of Schools

Student Activities, Accomplishments and Recognitions

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

1. A welcome home celebration was planned for Lance Corporal Michael Laws upon his return from Iraq. Students made a banner, posters and flags to wave as Michael marched through the halls of Mountview Road School.
 2. Mountview Road School welcomed Herman Parish, author of Amelia Bedelia books. Mr. Parish held a writing workshop for all students.
 3. Bee Meadow School Student Council advisors, Linda Capone and Susan Pedalino, stand with fourth and fifth grade officers and principal, John Leister.
 4. Memorial Junior School sixth graders participated in the Morris Museum outreach program, “Simple Machines” science demonstration.
 5. Salem Drive School K-5 students participated in a school wide Science Fair. There were 60 projects by 124 students.
- Bee Meadow held a “Kids Walk To Cure Diabetes” and raised \$1220 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The PTA, Hanover Township Police Department and Senior Citizens participated in this project.
 - Two Mountview students and one Bee Meadow student donated twelve inches of hair to Locks of Love, an organization that makes wigs for children in need.
 - Memorial Junior School Students participated in a “Trick or Treat for the Troops” Program, collecting over 40 boxes of candy.
 - Salem Drive had a holiday “Toys For Tots” collection. Over two hundred toys were collected.
 - Mountview Road School Student Council members organized a collection drive of comfort items (flavored teas, coffees, cookies, lotions and candy) for the Mission of Hospice of New Jersey in Bloomfield.
 - Bee Meadow families and faculty purchased and wrapped 293 holiday gifts for the HeadStart program in Morristown.
 - Bee Meadow students sent letters to the troops in Iraq.
 - Salem Drive students in grade 3-5 participated in funeral procession for a soldier from Hanover killed in action.
 - MTV staff and families donated gifts to Team Walker in Jersey City, which provides holiday gifts for over 500 disadvantaged youths each year.
 - 8th graders participated in the community service Heifer Project. They raised over \$600.
 - A sweater collection drive was organized at MTV to celebrate Valentines Day by collecting sweaters for needy families.
 - BMS raised over \$1000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society with their “Pennies for Patients” fundraiser.
 - MJS collected “comfort” supplies (leisure reading materials, toiletries, etc.) for our troops in Iraq.
 - SDS Student Council held a toy drive, collecting over 250 toys for the “Valerie Fund” and “Tomorrows Children Fund” at Hackensack Hospital.
 - MJS Student Council sponsored a project to collect supplies for the Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter.
 - SDS Student Council donated 30 boxes (almost 400 pounds) of food to the Interfaith Pantry in Morristown.
 - BMS Student Council collected 1000 canned and non-perishable food items for the Interfaith Food Pantry.
 - BMS Student Council raised \$300 for the Valerie Fund, \$300 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and \$100 for the WPHS Project Graduation.



Fourth grade students at MTV made and decorated gingerbread cookies that were sent to Lance Corporal Michael Laws, who was stationed in Iraq.

Student Activities, Accomplishments and Recognitions

- MJS students raised over \$6000 in the St. Jude's Math-athon Community Service Project.
- Fifth grade students at BMS participated in a "Bee Readers" program where they read stories to first graders.
- SDS students in grades 4 and 5 participated in the Continental Math League competition. One student had a perfect score on both tests.
- Grade 3 at BMS held a "Garage Sale" to practice counting money and making change.
- Young entrepreneurs in Michelle DiMarcantonio's class operated the MJS Cookie Jar program for its fourth year.
- MJS was chosen as one of the schools to pilot the Spanish Reading and Speaking exam as part of the S.T.A.M.P. program in Spanish.
- Mr. Anderson's social studies classes named book series (Global Connections) focusing on the life of teens around the world for Compass Point Books, a division of Coughlan Publishing based in Mankato, Minnesota.
- Fifth grade students at BMS participated in a "Bee Readers" Program where they read stories to first graders.
- Third graders at BMS created Gingerbread Houses to coincide with a social studies community unit.
- Eleven MJS students were honored and recognized as Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth Scholars.



All three elementary schools participated in a week long "Jump Rope for Heart" activity and fundraiser, which raised over \$19,000 for the American Heart Association.

- SDS grade 4 "Biography in a Bottle" projects were on display at the Whippanong Library during January 2007.
- Irene Kelly, author of many children's books discussed the writing process with students in the halls of MTV.
- BMS third graders visited the "Seeing Eye" in Morristown to learn about puppy training and service dogs.
- Mrs. McLaughlin's art classes made paper mache masks, Chinese New Year Dragons.
- Third grade artists from BMS created "Pride In Our School" posters for the MCCEA.



Close to 100 3rd, 4th and 5th graders played against their parents at the 19th annual SDS Student Council parent-student basketball game. Over a dozen teachers and the principal helped at the snack bar or played in the game.

- A BMS third grader had a poem published by Creative Communication, Inc.
- A SDS student was selected to the New Jersey Youth Symphony Junior Strings for the 2006 - 2007 season.
- Six MJS students were named to the North Jersey Area Band.
- Two BMS fifth graders had their holiday essays published in the Daily Record newspaper.
- Three MJS students won the Patriots Pen Essay Contest, "Citizenship in America," sponsored by the VFW Post 5351 and the Ladies Auxiliary.
- MJS Character Education/Advisory Program held a "Kick-off" Tee-Shirt Contest.
- MJS hosted its 32nd Annual Career Awareness Day.
- SDS students participated in an Author in Residence assembly with author/illustrator Bruce Van Patter.
- Think First Program on head injuries and helmet safety was held at SDS.
- 160 sixth graders attended the Resident Outdoor Education field trip to Camp Speers-Eljabar.



MJS honors local war veterans, John Sheridan, George Coppola, Camen Blandino, John Rapisardi and Stephen Lind with Veteran's Day Assembly Program.

Student Activities, Accomplishments and Recognitions

- MJS hosted the Greater Morris County Junior School Coaches Association Girls Basketball Tournament.
- MJS boys Soccer Team won the Group III GMCJSCA Soccer Tournament.
- MJS girls field hockey team finished second in GMCJSCA Field Hockey Tournament.
- MJS Boys Baseball Team wins the Group III GMCJSCA Baseball Tournament (Spring 2006).
- MJS crowns a seventh grader Morris County Middle School shot put and discus champion in the County Track and Field Championships (Spring 2006).
- MJS Boys wrestling team finished third in GMCJSCA Wrestling Tournament.
- David Breslauer, Executive Director of the Macculloch Hall Historical Museum presented artworks by Thomas Nast, political cartoonist in a “Thomas Nast & the Animals of Politics” assembly at MJS.



MJS Students participated in the 5th Annual Caring and Sharing Program collecting over 400 gifts and toys for children at the Collinsville Daycare Center.

- Red Ribbon Week activities at MJS:
 - MJS student assembly, “Making Positive Choices” was presented by Tom Malloy.
 - “Positive Choices Parent Program” was presented by Tom Malloy.
- MJS received a “CrimeStoppers” Grant from the Morris County Sheriffs Office.
 - MJS will participate in the Morris County Sheriffs Office CrimeStoppers Program by posting the CrimeStoppers logo on the back of our 2007-2008 agenda books. In addition, Hanover Township will receive CrimeStoppers signage which will be installed under our current “Drug Free School Zone” signs that are located throughout the Township.
- The school district and Board of Education participated in Hanover Township Day.



MJS Student Council Members wrapped the gifts collected for the Caring and Sharing assembly.

- WPHS Marching Band performed at MJS.
- Two student council bingo nights were held at MTV. A great time was had by all!
- MJS Student Council sponsored 2 Fun Nights.
- Over 100 SDS students came to the fall PTA sponsored Outdoor Movie Night.
- BMS PTA sponsored its annual Super Saturday.
- Scott Chesney, a motivational speaker who uses his handicap to teach children that anything is possible, visited all three of the elementary schools.
- Each month, one SDS student was chosen as Artist of the Month by art teacher, Lauren Herrera and their artwork was displayed in the hall for the entire month.
- MJS hosted New Philharmonic sessions for BMS, MTV and SDS third graders, to help them decide what instrument they might want to play in fourth grade.
- MJS Treble Choir performed for the Whippany Rotary Club at their annual holiday breakfast.



Contemporary Art and Design classes baked gingerbread cookies.

Staff Activities, Accomplishments and Recognitions

- Mrs. Linda Kerins, grade 4 teachers, was awarded a certificate of recognition by the Veterans of Foreign Wars as an outstanding Citizenship Education Teacher in the Hanover Township School System. Mrs. Kerins also was selected from a national pool of nearly 2300 applicants to travel to Japan in the summer of 2006 for three weeks in an effort to promote greater intercultural understanding between the two nations. Mrs. Kerins shared her experiences with all members of the school community.
- Dr. Cloey Talotta donated her hair to Locks of Love, an organization that makes wigs for children in need.
- Mrs. Lauren Herrera and Dr. Cloey Talotta ran a 5K race in Montclair for charity.
- Mrs. Mary Conner, school nurse at MTV, collected money from staff for a gift bag for a student who has a very ill family member. Clothing was also collected for a needy family.
- Linda Murphy (Chairperson for Bee Meadow School) gathered projects to display at Rockaway Mall – “Pride in Education”.
- Joanne DeNotaris (BMS), Crista Vogt (MTV), Colleen Daly (SDS), and Aaron Wasserman (MJS) were chosen 2006 Teachers of the Year.
- Mr. Leister performed at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall with the Orchestra of St. Lukes.
- Mr. Wasko was inducted into the Fairleigh Dickinson University Division I Athletic Hall of Fame.
- Mrs. Short performed in Las Vegas with the Hickory Tree Chorus.
- MJS World Languages Teachers received FLAP Grant.
- Dr. Hadzima participated in an East Asia Grant, sponsored by Project on Asia of Columbia University that includes studies of Chinese, Japanese and Korean literature, history and art.
- MJS staff member, Mary Barrows ran the New York City Marathon.



MJS students with guest speaker, Fred Morsel at the “Frederick Douglas” workshop in January 2007.



A reception was held at the Whippanong Library for the 21 student artists who had their art work selected for display in the “Petit Gallery” at the Whippanong Library Art Show.

- Veteran’s of Foreign Wars Robert C. Gulick Post Number 5351 selected Paula Duer, SDS 5th grade teacher, for recognition as the Outstanding Citizenship Education Teacher in Hanover Township for grade 5.
- Social Studies teacher, Leeann MacCabe, advanced to the New Jersey Statewide level of competition for the “Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year”
- Mrs. Mary Conner, school nurse at MTV, received a Certificate of Recognition from the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network for making a difference in the lives of people with food allergies.
- A parent of a third grade MTV student met with lunch-room aides to review peanut allergy procedures in the cafeteria. She will also present workshops for students in grades K-5 on the same topic called *Be a Pal*.
- MJS hosted the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA) State Wide Middle School Committee Meeting.
- A group of 25 staff members, including teachers, administrators and new teachers, participated in the workshop, “How to Be a Super Successful New Teacher” presented by Dr. Harry Wong, internationally known educator at Kean University.
- Seventy staff members, including Hanover Township School Age Child Care staff members, received certification in CPR and AED (Automatic Electronic Defibrillator).
- Forty teachers received training in Differentiated Instruction.
- All staff training for teachers to develop pages for new website
- Implementation of new social studies and science programs at grades six and seven
- Implementation of an on-line writing practice program for grades six, seven and eight

**SPRING 2006
STATE TESTING
DISTRICT RESULTS**

MATHEMATICS

GRADE	NUMBER TESTED	TOTAL PERCENT PROFICIENT
3	177	94.9%
4	164	93.9%
5	175	93.2%
6	154	84.4%
7	160	82.6%
8	162	88.9%

LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY

GRADE	NUMBER TESTED	TOTAL PERCENT PROFICIENT
3	178	92.2%
4	162	97.0%
5	175	96.6%
6	154	90.9%
7	159	94.4%
8	162	93.2%

Selected Test Score Highlights

- All district schools exceeded Adequate Yearly Progress standards under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act.
- The combined scores (language arts literacy and mathematics) of third graders at MTV were in the top 3% (45 out of 1,371 schools) in the State of New Jersey.
- The language arts scores of fourth graders at BMS were in the top 5.5% (73 out of 1,290 schools) in the State of New Jersey.
- The combined scores (language arts literacy and mathematics) of fourth graders at SDS were in the top 2.5% (33 out of 1,332 schools) in the State of New Jersey.
- The combined scores (language arts literacy and mathematics) of fifth graders at MTV were in the top 1% (10 out of 1,214 schools) in the State of New Jersey.
- The language arts literacy scores of sixth graders at MJS were in the top 16% (131 out of 822 schools) in the State of New Jersey.
- The combined scores (language arts literacy and mathematics) of the seventh graders at MJS were in the top 15% (102 out of 700 schools) in the State of New Jersey.
- The mathematics scores of eighth graders at MJS were in the top 7% (44 out of 670 schools) in the State of New Jersey.
- The number of eighth graders achieving advanced proficiency in mathematics increased dramatically from 29.1% in 2005 to 39.5% in 2006.

***“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

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