

February, 2010

Eatontown Board of Education

Board of Education

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the midway of the school year, we are not only amazed at how quickly the time is passing, but also all the things that we have been able to accomplish since September.

On Monday, January 11, 2010, our district was monitored by the state using the new evaluation model QSAC (Quality Single Accountability Continuum). Six members of the Monmouth County office visited all of our schools and reviewed our performance and documentation in 5 categories: Instruction/Program, Governance, Fiscal, Personnel and Operations. Although the official scores will not be available until April, we believe, based on the examiners' comments that we did very well. Congratulations to our staff for making this process so successful!

This year our staff has formed Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) as part of their professional development with the focus on student learning. In-service and release time have afforded these groups the time to

work on goals to implement improvement in student achievement. This collaborative effort has been positively utilized by the staff.

The district is working with a consulting firm, Standards Solution, to provide professional development training for staff in the areas of language arts literacy and math. The focus is to key in on essential strategies and materials that address the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.

The training sessions, demonstration lessons, and materials have been embraced by the staff and incorporated into daily lessons. We expect to see significant improvements in student performance based on the influence of Standards Solution on our program and staff.

We have administered benchmark assessments in grades 3 - 8 in Language Arts Literacy by using Predictive A and Predictive B assessments of Acuity, a software program. Examination and analysis of the data have shown that

there has been improvement made in all grade levels when comparing the 2 assessments. A third test will be given in March, where even further progress is expected. This valuable data is used by teachers to drive instruction.

The District has received federal stimulus dollars (ARRA) in the areas of special education and Title I. Our special education ARRA funds are being used for technology: laptops, Activboards, LCD projectors, and document cameras. Title I ARRA funds are being used to provide newly implemented after-school NJ ASK classes for Title I students.

Many successful initiatives are taking place in our district as we continue our ongoing quest to provide high quality education for our students.

Barbara A. Struble

Superintendent of Schools

Activities & Happenings in the District!

March 9 & 10
Kindergarten Registrations
March 9—Last Name A to K
March 10—Last Name L to Z
9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and/or
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
At Meadowbrook, Vetter &
Woodmere Elementary Schools

March 18 One Session day for
Students Parent/Teacher Conference (Invitation Only)

March 19 - Schools Closed for
Students/Professional In-service
Day for Staff

March 24 7:00 p.m.
6th Grade Parent Orientation
Memorial School

March 29 7:30 p.m.
Budget Hearing on the 2011-
2012 School Budget

April 2 through April 9
All Schools closed for spring
recess . Schools reopen on April
12, 2010.

April 20 School Budget/Board
Elections—Polls opened through
3 p.m. to 9 p.m.





"The first and most important step toward success is the feeling that we can succeed. --Nelson

Boswell

Student Council

Members of

Memorial School

Samantha Halvorsen,

President

Laura Douglas,

Vice-President

Matthew Stromberg,

Treasurer

Jenna Eustace,

Secretary

PETER PAN, CAPTAIN HOOK, & TINKERBELL HAVE RETURNED TO NEVER NEVER LAND

The Memorial School Drama Club's fifth musical production of "Peter Pan—the Musical" was a rousing success. Sell out crowds for all three nights cheered the cast and crew on to superb performances. Thanks go the cast, crew and many volunteers who gave countless hours of their time to make this production the success it was. A special thanks go to Mrs. Barbara Van Wagner, Mr. Mark Van Wagner, Mrs. Nicole

Collins, and Mrs. Cindy Carretta who respectively produced, directed, sewed costumes and did all the other countless things to make this musical such a success.

A special thank you to Mrs. Mary Mindas and the Monmouth Regional High School Orchestra who accompanied the cast.

A very special thank you to the supporters who attended the play.

And last but not least, a thank you

to the Eatontown Board of Education and the Eatontown Foundation for Excellence in Education for co-producing this joint project.



Message from the Board of Education President

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Mark Kramer, and I am the newly elected Board of Education president. Prior to becoming president, I served as a general board member for six years, and most recently served as Board vice president. During my tenure as a board member, I served on and chaired various committees. I am most proud of my efforts in facilitating the bringing of the wide-area network (WAN) to the district. This project has proven to be a hugely successful one that has greatly increased efficiency for the district, while most importantly, decreasing costs.

I have lived in this district for 15 years. Through my daughter, who is now a junior in high school, I have experienced our educational system first-hand. I have worked with the board to make improvements that have impacted my youngest daughter, a 4th grader in our district. I am committed to putting forth whatever efforts are needed to continue to improve the educational success of our students.

Eatontown, like most school districts, is facing financial cuts by the state of New Jersey. The board is determined that we will not let this financial crisis prevent

us from maintaining effective programs, while at the same time initiating new programs that are essential to our children's learning and their future. The Board of Education, and I personally, will continue to ensure that we utilize all of the available financial and educational resources to meet this goal.

I personally invite each and every one of you to take an active interest in the educational process of our children by attending a board meeting. I look forward to more great things to come.

Mark Kramer

Meadowbrook School Community Helps Haitians

Students at Meadowbrook have learned the value of spare change. Students donated their spare change used to buy snacks at lunch to the Clinton/Bush Fund and the American Red Cross. The donations took place over a one week period and a total of \$1,794.91 was collected. Students not only donated their snack money, but many students also donated money from their "piggy banks." Families of students also donated fifty emergency health kits to Haiti. These kits included a hand towel, a washcloth, a comb, fingernail clippers, a bar of soap, a toothbrush, bandages, a dollar to buy toothpaste (bought before shipping due to the expiration date). The kits were brought to Old First Church for the United Methodist Committee on Relief and shipped to Haitians forced to leave their homes as a result of the disaster. Helping others in need is a life long lesson; students and their families should be very proud of their generosity.



Memorial School Memos

The Orientation Program for our 8th graders going to Monmouth Regional High School next year began with a trip to the high school on January 28 for an orientation assembly. In addition to important information provided by the administrators and a video highlighting all aspects of high school life, a group of high school students (including a number of Eatontown graduates) shared a great deal of helpful information.

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Mrs. Jill Wetzel, 7th grade science teacher, has been selected to receive a Green Works!

Community Action & Service Learning Grant in the amount of \$500. The grant is awarded by "Project Learning Tree" for her project proposal, "Memorial School Courtyard Restoration and Composting Project." The grant funds will be used to purchase equipment and materials for the composting project which will involve all science classes.



Despite the threat of snow, the 38th Annual Memorial School Italian Dinner was held on Friday, February 5. The dinner was prepared entirely by the Memorial School faculty and served by 8th grade students. As they always do, the community came together to enjoy this long-standing tradition. Funds raised by the dinner are used to offset the cost of the annual 8th grade class trip to Washington, D.C., another 55 year Eatontown tradition.



"Teaching is more than imparting knowledge, it is inspiring change. Learning is more than absorbing facts, it is acquiring understanding.

William Arthur Ward

Administrative Team

- Barbara A. Struble, Superintendent
- Ronald Danielson, Principal (Memorial)
- Valerie Cioffi, Principal (Meadowbrook)

- Scott McCue, Principal (Vetter)
- Joseph Polinski, Interim Principal (Woodmere)
- Joseph Mazzarella (Curriculum & Instruction)
- Lee Lasser (Special Services)
- Robert Green, (School Business Administrator/Board Secretary)

Vetter School Proudly Announces Winner of the First Annual Winter Door Decorating

During the month of December, Vetter School conducted its First Annual Winter Door Decorating Contest. The contest helped to bring joy, excitement, and some friendly competition to the halls of the school. Working together teachers and students created classroom doors that captured the spirit and feelings of the winter season. The Winter Door Decorating Contest winners were:

Winner One was Mrs. Ingrassia's and Mrs. Martelliti's classes. This door was the most clever, creative and ingenious. It dazzled the onlookers.

Winner Two was Mrs. Huhn's and Ms. Dischley's classes. This door was the most humorous. A smile appeared on the faces of everyone who viewed it. **Winner Three** was Mrs. Trask, Mrs. Gronau, and Ms. DeVito's classes. These doors were the smartest. You cannot help but pick up pearls of wisdom by gazing upon their intellectual dominance. **Winner Four** was Mrs. Reagan's class. This door was the kindest. Students poured their hearts into their work. It reflected the warm and soft side of the Vetter Tiger.

Participation in the contest was strong and everyone did a fine job decorating their doors. Winning classrooms will receive a pizza party and the teachers received a small treat. The doors were so cleverly and creatively constructed that removing the colorful, decorations and tape from the classroom doors was a painstaking task for all. We look forward to next year's contest.



ATTENTION: EATONTOWN PARENTS

Any parent who has concerns about the development of:

- A preschool child attaining age 3 within the next year
- A child between the ages of 3 and 5
- A school age child between the ages of 6 - 21
- Children who are highly mobile such as migrant and homeless students should contact:

THE EATONTOWN CHILD STUDY TEAM

The child can be experiencing physical, sensory, emotional, communication, cognitive, or social difficulties. Please contact the Office of Special Services at 732-735-3309 with your concerns.

Handling of H1N1 & the Flu (Winter is not done yet!)

As we are all aware the flu season is still with us, along with the strain H1N1. We remind all parents and staff to instill in our children these practices:

- ◇ Cover coughs and sneezes
- ◇ Stay away from people who are ill
- ◇ Wash hands often with soap and water

◇ Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth

Adults and children should stay home at least 24 hours after a fever is gone (without assistance of fever reducing medication.)

Parents must notify their child's school of all absences. Please indicate if your child has flu-like symptoms and what these symptoms are.

The school continues to routinely disinfect common areas and do its part to reduce the occurrence of the flu.

If we all work together to follow the best practices of hygiene and common sense, we should be able to weather this flu season with minimal impact on our school community.



Eatontown Board of Education

Special Services

The Tournament of Champions Bowling Program for our academically challenged students began on January 23 and will continue through April. Currently 34 Eatontown students in grades 1 through 8 who attend district and out-of-district schools are participating in the program held at Fort Monmouth. The program is sponsored by the New Jersey Tournament of Champions, Inc. and our own Eatontown Elks. Each of our athletes receive a specially designed T-shirt from the Eatontown Elks. At the conclusion of the program, the Elks host an awards luncheon in their Broad Street building which in past years has been attended by over seventy students, their families and friends. The program is coordinated by Ms. Tara Micciulla of Meadowbrook School. Present and retired staff assist in the Saturday morning program. We still have room and there is still time for your child to participate. If interested please call Ms. Micciulla at 732-542-2777.



OFFICE OF THE CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

This year has been another productive year for the curriculum office. The Curriculum Supervisor regularly reviews results of standardized tests, including State mandated tests, and District selected ability and benchmark testing. While matching test scores to objectives, the District continues curriculum alignment with State and national standards, and identifies areas of strength and weakness. Interpreting test scores to the instructional staff and to the general community is a function of the Office of the Curriculum and Instruction.

In addition to standardized testing, informal assessments are used to guide instruction. While teacher-constructed tests have traditionally been used to evaluate students, the District is working with teachers to develop and use performance tasks that extend student learning and require the use of "real-world" skills and applications. Newly developed curriculum guides include performance tasks under consideration for use as benchmark tasks. To keep consistent with newly adopted State Standards, the areas of Art, Technology Literacy and Guidance are being revised for final Board adoption. The curriculum is written in the Understanding by Design format, with particular attention paid to the NJ Focus Areas. Key Understandings, Essential Questions and Performances tasks are emphasized for greater depth of knowledge and understanding.

Our professional development committee has been working hard. This year, we continued our work in the areas of Response to Intervention, Technology, Professional Learning Communities, Differentiated Instruction and 21st Century Skills for all students. These programs have proven through extensive research to be an integral part of the students' learning process. Through the Professional Learning Committees, schools will learn ways to bring more collaboration among teachers instead of teachers working independently. The point of the PLC is for schools to impact classroom practices in ways that will lead to better results for the students.

2010-2011 School Budget

The 2010-2011 school budget preparation is well under way with many new challenges facing the school district. In the upcoming school year it is possible that State Aid to the district may be cut by as much as 20%. Recently the new Governor of New Jersey reduced the amount of excess surplus that can be used to fund the following year's budget. With the reduced amount of funding to the district and rising fixed costs such as energy, insurance, and health benefits, developing a fiscally responsible budget will be a difficult task. The budget will focus on educational programs and student learning as well as maintaining the facilities in proper working order. A tentative budget will be adopted by the Board at its public meeting on March 8, and the final budget will be adopted on March 29 only after a public hearing. This will allow members of the public to review the budget and voice any comments or ask questions they it may have before final adoption.



"Soup" er Bowl

Woodmere School Celebrates "Soup" er Bowl Friday!

February 5th was designated as "Soup"er Bowl Friday at Woodmere School. Students wore their favorite team shirts, dressed in their favorite team colors, and brought in a can of soup or other canned food to help the needy. Approximately 300 cans of food were collected and donated to the Eatontown Food Bank. Mrs. Oliva's first grade class was the winner of the Woodmere School trophy for most cans collected. With the help of the Woodmere PTA, two students also received the Super Bowl School Spirit Awards. Patrick Nevins from Ms. Britton's fourth grade class received a football, and Destiny Bland from Mrs. Sisolak's third grade class received a soccer ball. It was very clear that on "Soup"er Bowl Friday, the Woodmere Family was definitely a winning team!

