

# REPORT TO THE CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michael J. Fetherman, Superintendent

April 24, 2018

## ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Grade	June 2017	March 2018	Change (+/-)
K	106	91	- 15
1	84	110	+ 26
2	120	82	- 38
3	130	123	- 7
4	113	128	+ 15
Total	553	534	- 19
5	127	113	- 14
6	125	127	+ 2
7	132	124	- 8
8	139	135	- 4
Total	523	499	- 24
9	115	130	+ 15
10	132	113	- 19
11	146	130	- 16
12	120	142	+ 22
Total	513	515	+ 2
Special Education (Self-Contained PreK-12)	20	28	+ 8
Preschool (Tuition)	4	14	+ 10
GRAND TOTAL	1613	1590	- 23
Students in other Public and Private Schools & Shared Time Students			41
Home Instruction			6

**BOE Goal #1: Student Achievement / College & Career Readiness - Assess the impact of character education as part of the curriculum in all district schools; *Character Committees* at each school will evaluate and rewrite Code of Conduct practices to reflect desired standards.**

- Each school's committee has made progress with reviewing current Code of Conduct practices and recommendations are currently being compiled for careful consideration.
- Needs assessment of AP and college prep courses offered at CGHS is on-going; consideration of student interest for the creation of new courses is on-going.
- Audits of all placement rubrics in grades 7-12 is on-going to establish a balance between inclusiveness and rigor; rewriting to occur, as necessary.
- Beginning with the Class of 2021, class ranking by decile (10% increments) will be offered.

**BOE Goal #2: Communication & Community Outreach - Facilitate open discourse with the greater Cedar Grove community regarding District happenings through the use of social media, print media and the hosting of events. Specifically, this effort will include the use of coffee talks, *Did You Know?* emails, Facebook, Twitter, public meetings with the CG Town Council and regular columns in the VCGT.**

- Our final Coffee Talk of the school year is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25 at South End School. As always, parents of all grade levels are welcome!
- The Friday Folder is sent out via email to all parents/guardians who have registered their email address with the school district. The Friday Folder contains district-wide announcements, school-level updates, FSA and/or APT reminders and recreation department fliers and registration documents. All announcements are archived for your convenience.
- Follow your superintendent on Twitter: @Cgssuper
- Follow you superintendent on Facebook: Cedar Grove Superintendent
- Follow your high school principal on Twitter: @CGPantherPride
- Follow Cedar Grove High School on Facebook
- Follow your middle school principal on Twitter: @CGMMSPRINCIPAL
- Follow your SE principal on Twitter: @southendprin
- Follow your NE principal on Twitter: @NEprincipal
- If you don't have a Twitter account, text "follow @account name" to 40404 and you will be connected!

**BOE Goal #3: Technology - Continue the pursuit of "Future Ready" certification in all District schools using the Future Ready - NJ Framework. Expand, where possible, the 1:1 Chromebook initiative across all district schools; increase STEM offerings, technology programs and extracurricular activities related to technology throughout the district.**

- Both South End and Memorial Middle School have earned Future Ready Certification.
- Future Ready Teams at North End and Cedar Grove High School are conducting the self-assessment ahead of submission for FR-NJ certification.

**BOE Goal #4: Facilities - Develop a Strategic Plan for the district that addresses the next five-year and ten-year goals; consider a Demographic Study upon finalization of the plan; remain informed and updated on any of the residential developments in town to plan effectively for changes in student population.**

- Strategic Planning in critical areas of school safety and security has been on-going. Working closely with the CGPD and various security specialists, the Board has determined that a large-scale safety and security improvement plan, with funds secured via public support of a referendum, is necessary to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Referendum details have been outlined to the public, most recently at our March 6 and March 26 BOE meetings. Additional information sharing meetings to follow.

**BOE Goal #5: Finance - Maintain fiscal responsibility while identifying and pursuing additional revenue sources for the district, including, but not limited to, signage on district property and the CGEF.**

### **Fire Drill / Security Drill Update:**

- CGHS: Fire Drill –TBD; Evacuation Drill – April 6, 2018
- MMS: Fire Drill – April 13, 2018; Evacuation Drill – April 20, 2018
- NE: Fire Drill – Week of April 23, 2018; Emergency Lockdown Drill – April 24, 2018
- SE: Fire Drill – Week of April 23, 2018; Emergency Lockdown Drill – April 23, 2018

### **Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Update (District-Wide Running Totals):**

- 16 HIB investigation to date:
  - 12 unconfirmed incidences; 4 confirmed incidences

### **CEDAR GROVE HIGH SCHOOL:**

#### **Student Activities/School Special Events:**

- The April Student of the Month is Sean Meixner, a studious, responsible, hardworking and friendly young man. Sean has consistently maintained a high grade point average in Spanish class throughout his high school years and has always strived to exceed in every possible way. He has also demonstrated an understanding of the importance of studying not just the language, but the culture, as well. His enthusiasm for learning has no parallel.
- On April 11<sup>th</sup> CGHS held its annual National Honor Society Induction. This year 14 students were inducted. Congratulations to all our new members as well as the fantastic “Guest of Honor” speech given by our very own Chuck Linfante.
- Members of the CGHS Art Club, along with advisor Ms. Jenna Sweeney, took part in the Chamber of Commerce’s Inaugural 1<sup>st</sup> Art Walk. Our very own CGHS students created a banner entitled “*Small Town, Big Dreams*” which is currently mounted on Pompton Avenue (before Food Town).
- CGHS will be having a Talent Show on Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7PM entitled “CGHS Got Talent.” All money raised will go toward the Globetrotter South Africa Summer 2018 trip.

#### **College & Career Readiness:**

- CGHS instituted a community service initiative for all students this year. We used a program through the Genesis data base called. X2VOL. This online tracking and reporting system was created to allow students to participate in community service, log their hours, and meet a goal. The school and outside organizations were also given the ability to post opportunities for our students and verify their hours online. Freshman and sophomores had a goal of completing 10 hours and juniors and seniors had a goal of completing 15 hours. There were a total of 193 students who registered for X2VOL. 95 of those students were active in submitting community service hours and 77 of those students completed their grade level goals. Below is a list of some community service organizations that students were volunteering at:
  - St Peter’s Church-The Opt shop
  - The Valerie Fund
  - Toni’s Kitchen
  - St Catherine's Church
  - Cedar Grove Education Foundation
  - The Blood Drive
  - Nursing Homes
  - EMS
  - UNICO

For those students that met their goal this year, there will be a luncheon on May 24, 2018. Students will be awarded with a certificate of completion at the luncheon. There will also be 12 seniors receiving a Community Service Cord at graduation. Students will have the opportunity to start obtaining community service hours for next year’s goals beginning August 1, 2018.

- CGHS students began PARCC testing on Monday, April 16. Our school-wide participation rate was 98%, broken down as follows:
  - ✓ 99% of our freshman

- ✓ 100% of our sophomores
- ✓ 95% of our juniors

### **Specialist Update (Guidance, SAC, PE, Media Athletics, Clubs):**

#### ➤ **Guidance (Mrs. Denman and Ms. Rubino):**

- The guidance office is busy processing local scholarship applications and preparing for the local scholarship ceremony in June.
- Mrs. Denman and Ms. Rubino are working closely with Mrs. Bieber on the scholarship ceremony.
- Letters will be mailed home to students in danger of failing a course for the year. Ms. Rubino will hold pre-administration sessions towards the end of the month for each AP exam and is planning for the May exams.
- The scheduling process continues...the counselors are working closely with the principal to begin organizing information for the master schedule.
- The counselors are test administrators for PARCC.
- Naviance Family Connection is switching over to Naviance Student and Mrs. Denman, Ms. Rubino, and Mrs. Bieber are working to familiarize themselves with the newer platform in order to train students properly next year.

#### ➤ **Student Assistance Counselor (Mrs. DeFabiis):**

- Continued to meet with students regarding any issues or concerns.
- Continued collaboration with staff and administration on a daily basis regarding any issues/concerns about students.
- Logging into X2VOL daily to approve student hours and monitor progress
  - ✓ Informed students of last day to log hours (April 8<sup>th</sup>).
  - ✓ Communicated with students over Spring Break for those that had questions regarding community service hours.
  - ✓ Ran reports to collect the names of all students that met their goal
- Attended monthly SAC meeting 3/23/18.
- Held Unity Day on March 28.
- Emailed Unity Day surveys to students to obtain feedback.
- Attended SAC Law workshop on 4/9/18.
- Working on making a Mental Health Bulletin Board with Guidance Office staff.

#### ➤ **Media Center Monthly Report (Ms. Swanson):**

- **Meetings Attended:**
  - ✓ Monday, March 26th, 3:00 PM - Middle State's Oral Report
  - ✓ Tuesday, April 10th, 3:30 PM - District Technology Committee Meeting
  - ✓ Wednesday, April 11th, 7:00 PM - National Honor Society Induction Ceremony
  - ✓ Thursday, April 12th, 3:00 PM - Panther Den at the Public Library - an activity for Middle School students where several young ladies from the Interact Club will assist the library staff
  - ✓ Friday Night - Sunday, April 13 - 15 - NJ State Convention of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, a Women's Educational Honorary
  - ✓ Monday, April 16th, 2:50 PM - Faculty Meeting
  - ✓ Wednesday, April 25th, 6:30 PM - Subject Area Honor Societies Induction Ceremony
  - ✓ Thursday, April 26th, 6:00 PM - Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Activities Since Last Report:**
  - ✓ The media center was/will be open at 7:30 AM on April 9, 10, 11, 12, 24, 25, 26 and 30. This is less than normal but due to the spring vacation and morning preparation for administering the PARCC assessments
  - ✓ Webinars attending/attended:
    - March 22nd - Future Ready Librarians: Curating Digital Tools and Resources

- April 25th - SAMR, TPACK and More: Transforming Learning with Digital Content
- ✓ ARCC testing
  - Printed out student testing tickets for PARCC ELA and Math assessment sessions
  - Created seating chart for ELA sessions in the auditorium
  - Will be setting up Chromebooks each morning in preparation to administer the PARCC
  - Will be a test administrator for all ELA assessment sessions, April 16 - 23 and Algebra II assessment sessions, April 23-25
- ✓ New Jersey Student Learning Assessment - Science
  - Set up testing sessions and printed out student testing tickets
- ✓ Setup spring testing season schedule and reserved Chromebook carts for the various tests
- ✓ Continue to work on new media center website
- ✓ Preparing purchase order requests for the 2018-2019 school year

### **Athletics (Mr. Gogerty):**

- The baseball team has started the season with a 5-3 record with nice wins over Waldwick, Glen Ridge, and Bloomfield High Schools. The team will play its annual rivalry game with Verona High School on May 9th at Yogi Berra Stadium.
- The softball team has started the season with an 8-2 record. The softball team is currently ranked 5<sup>th</sup> by nj.com in the State of New Jersey and has good wins over Mount Saint Dominic Academy, Verona, and West Essex. The annual Black and Gold Softball Tournament was held on April 21st. Ten highly competitive teams from around the state competed in the tournament.
- The boys' varsity tennis team has started the season with a 5-1 record. The team had some good early season wins over Nutley and Bloomfield High Schools. They competed in the 2018 Essex County Tournament on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Althea Gibson Tennis Center in Branchbrook Park going 1-1 with a lost to Seton Hall Prep and a win over Bloomfield High School.
- The boys' Track and Field team is off to a 2-0 start in the SEC dual meets with wins over Glen Ridge and Immaculate Conception. For the first time ever the Cedar Grove Track Program hosted a very successful eight school relay on April 7<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Grove High School. The team will compete in the Essex County Relay Tournament on May 4<sup>th</sup> and in the SEC Championship meet on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The girls' Track and Field team is also off to a 2-0 start in the SEC dual meets with wins over Glen Ridge and Immaculate Conception. For the first time ever the Cedar Grove Track Program hosted a very successful eight school relay on April 7<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Grove High School. The team will compete in the Essex County Relay Tournament on May 4<sup>th</sup> and in the SEC Championship meet on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The boys' lacrosse team again is off to a very hot start to the season. The team has a current record of 7-2 with some nice wins over Nutley, West Orange, and Pompton Lakes High Schools. The boys will compete in the upcoming Essex County Tournament.
- The girls' lacrosse team is off to a fantastic start with a record of 5-3. The team's five wins are already two more than their previous season record when they won three games during the first ever varsity campaign. The girls had some good wins over Park Regional, North Warren, and Union Catholic High Schools. The girls also competed in the Essex County Tournament for the second time dropping the first round game Verona High School by a score of 14-3.

### **APT and Parent Outreach:**

- APT Meeting Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7:00PM

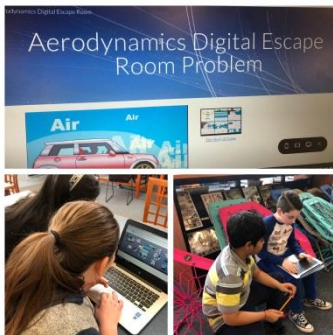
## **MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

### **Student Activities/School Special Events:**

- On March 26<sup>th</sup> our students and staff participated in the Student Faculty Challenge. Our FSA organized the event as a fundraiser for MMS. The teachers were victorious in volleyball and basketball. We had a large turnout and everyone who participated seemed to have a great time.
- PARCC testing is underway. We are pleased to say that our schedule is running extremely efficiently this year. Our students are testing 5 consecutive days in an effort to limit gaps and reduce the interruption to instruction time. A majority of our testing sites are located in grade level homerooms, which creates a more comfortable testing atmosphere with less disruptive student movement. We are also proud that our participation rate is approximately 98%.
- Our student council created a bulletin board that reflects student and staff names to recognize Autism Awareness Month.



- Our 5th grade ACE students completed their first Digital Escape Room problem. The subject of the escape room was Aerodynamics. Once the students unlocked their way out, they had to seek another teacher in a secret location in the building and provide the secret pass-code for a prize.



- David Njoku, former resident and student of the Cedar Grove school district (and current NFL tight end for the Cleveland Browns) returned to his roots on April 12th to speak with the students at MMS. After a brief background video on Njoku, students were surprised and delighted to see David step out from behind the stage curtain to personally greet the enthusiastic and star struck youngsters. After thanking his former teachers and administrators, he encouraged students to keep working hard towards their goals and to never give up. Njoku confessed to not being a particularly good football player when he first began playing in 7th grade, but with hard work, perseverance, and dedication to the sport, he was recruited by the University of Miami. In 2017, David was drafted in the first round

by the Cleveland Browns and began his rookie year. During his presentation, students were treated to a video clip showing highlights of David in action on the field, where they cheered and applauded at each catch. Through David's presentation, students and faculty at Cedar Grove Memorial Middle School were able to embrace the success of a former student and were inspired to continue their own efforts.

### **College and Career Readiness:**

- 7th grade Career Day will take place May 24th. This year we have a wide array of speakers coming to present to our students on their careers and how they got involved in their current line of work. Speakers are community members /parents coming to speak to the students. The careers range from law enforcement, fashion, nonprofit work, music/film video production and special education. Students will visit 6 presenters and listen to 15 minute presentations with time for questions and answers.
- 8th grade Career Day involves the students doing hands-on labs on the Rutgers Science Explorer Buses on May 22nd and May 23rd. The labs allow students to get in depth with Science Related Fields.
- Our current 6th grade S.T.E.M. cycle just completed a project where each team researched an invention designed with sustainability in mind. During the project, teams were responsible for creating a Google Slides presentation which they presented in front of the class. Each presentation ended with a question and answer session. Topics included pollination drones, marine cleaning drones, wind turbines, and Boyan Slat's Ocean Cleanup Project. This class has also taken over the MMS Greenhouse website and the responsibility of taking care of the courtyard. They have taken it upon themselves to update the blogging system on the website to include vlogs. They have also completely cleaned out the Greenhouse and restructured the setup to make it more efficient. Our students have begun pruning the shrubs in the butterfly garden and bird garden and have the compost almost ready to use. At the end of this week we will begin planting the new crop which will include tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, string beans, and fresh herbs on top of the fourth generation basil that has been growing throughout the winter. We soon begin construction of the water collection system that students have designed with this cycle specifically adding a water filtration system which they learned about in Mr. Czergovits' science class.

### **Grade Level Updates:**

**5th Grade** – In Language Arts, the students have finished reading *Number the Stars* and are set to watch *Miracle at Midnight* to compare and contrast both the book and the movie. They are going to analyze how it addresses similar themes as *Number the Stars* in order to build knowledge on the Holocaust. In social studies, the students have started their unit on Canada. They have been comparing and contrasting the United States and Canada to go along with the skill they are working on in Language Arts. They have compared their governments and the different land regions. Going forward, students will be researching various First Nations groups and designing totem poles based on their group and what they researched. They will research their culture, food, way of life, beliefs, and where they lived.

**6th Grade** – In Language Arts, students used *MobyMax* and *No Red Ink* to review various skills learned throughout the year including citing textual evidence, poetic elements, and parts of speech. In addition, students are currently participating in literature circles. They have been grouped according to readiness and will be completing double entry journals individually as well as group work. The unit will end with a *Body Biography* project where groups will collaborate to identify important quotes related to a particular character that correlate to different parts of the body. For example, the quote placed inside the brain illustrates the character's intelligence, and the quote placed inside the heart illustrates a desire the character has.

**7th Grade** – The students in English 7 have been working on completing literary discussion novel assignments throughout March and April. In their pre-assigned groups based upon their reading levels, the students chose which novels they were going to read with great enthusiasm. Once the students selected their novels, they were assigned weekly tasks to complete regarding their group novel. The students would collaborate daily when reading required chapters, taking notes, working on projects, and discussing the literature. The final closing project for the literary discussion novels is a differentiated presentation consisting of creating a scrapbook, a

Google Slides persuasive document, or making a book trailer that discusses the plot of the novel. Each group will present the project they chose to the class in order to execute their presentation skills and knowledge of the literary novel they read. In Science, students finished up the Cell's Unit by making models of both animal and plant cells as a group. They did an analogy activity comparing a school to an animal cell and a factory to a plant cell.

**8th Grade** – In Language Arts, the students are researching and selecting topics for their Research and Effective Presentation (REP) projects. This long-term assignment will allow students to explore controversial topics and create informed arguments within the scope of a full-length informative paper, along with a formal presentation. In Social Studies, the students worked in groups to research and present a first-person introduction as a member of a social class associated with Ancient Sparta. Most groups were comprised of three members, each of whom possessed a different identity and personality, but also expressed distinct similarities with others belonging to their social group. Students were also asked to make comparative statements between their identity and that of others belonging different social statuses. Eighth grade science students are currently exploring Earth's past by using several real index fossils. Students are using the fossils as a sample set to compare them with unknown fossil types to identify their place in Earth's history.

## **SOUTH END SCHOOL:**

### **Student Activities/School Special Events:**

- Thank you to our high school students for bringing the production of "Free to Be You and Me" to South End School. This amazing presentation provides an interactive and educational platform that initiates discussions and self-reflection on tolerance through music. South End students not only learned a great deal, but had fun in the process.

### **Grade Level Updates:**

**Preschool** – This month in preschool we are focusing on the season of spring, nature and taking care of our Earth. Students have started the Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Study that goes along with The Creative Curriculum for Preschool. Children are fascinated by what is in garbage cans and often pick up trash against our wishes. This natural curiosity provides a good starting point for finding out what happens to trash after it's thrown away and exploring the concept of reducing, reusing, and recycling. The children will be practicing recycling every day in our classroom at snack time. They are learning about all the ways we can take care of our Earth and keep it beautiful. In science we will be learning the parts of a plant, the life cycle of a plant and even growing our own bean plants after reading *Jack and The Bean Stalk*. We will be documenting and drawing pictures of what happens to our seeds every day in our science journals. In literacy we are learning about syllables. Preschoolers practice counting the syllables in our names everyday as a new part of morning meeting to help get us ready to read in Kindergarten. In math we are focusing on number recognition of numbers 1-20, 3D shapes and AAB patterns.

**Kindergarten** – The Kindergarten classes are continuing to build stamina. We are frequently working in our Daily Five groups and children are able to complete rotations independently. We have been working on Non-Fiction/Fiction comparisons with a focus on non-fiction reading and children are excited to begin our unit on Plants. We will be planting in the classroom and observing/recording/charting these plants as they grow. The students are feeling more confident in using sight words in sentences and have begun writing more complex sentences. We have been working on opinion writing in small groups and they are doing beautifully. In Math the kindergarten children will begin learning addition and subtraction. They will be using manipulatives, number lines along with acting out addition/subtraction stories. They are very excited to begin. We will also be getting ready for Earth Day! The children are creating amazing art projects to hang on the bulletin boards. We will be discussing the importance of recycling and other ways to help around our environment.



**Grade 1** – In Writing, the first graders are working on opinion pieces. They are using graphic organizers to state an opinion and then write reasons to support their opinion. Students have been focusing on character traits in reading. They have been identifying both physical traits and personality traits of characters in various stories. The first graders are also reading to find clues to identify who is telling a story. In math we are working in Chapter 6 – Count and Model Numbers. The students are working hard developing an understanding of whole number relationships and place value, including grouping tens and ones with the use of a variety of manipulatives. In phonics and word work we are focusing on long vowel sounds spelled with vowel teams. We are also working on compound words, suffixes, and synonyms.

**Grade 2** – In reading, the second grade has completed Unit 6 in our reading program *Good Habits, Great Readers*. The students have learned the sixth habit of a great reader: Monitor and Organize Ideas and Information. Students have applied the habit of *Monitor and Organize Ideas and Information* to help them better understand characters and remember the ideas from what they have read. Students have also learned what strategies to use to make sure they understand what they are reading. The children are continuing to use notes and graphic organizers to help them remember ideas from what they have read. The children have been incorporating the Daily 5/Café models to help foster independence and build their reading and writing stamina. The children have been listening to stories and are continuing to develop strategies to enhance overall reading comprehension skills. The students are continuing to work on building vocabulary skills and word study skills. Students are learning about synonyms, antonyms, and adjectives. Students are also learning how to recognize the main idea and supporting details in a story or paragraph. We are continuing to use Words Their Way to work on specific word study skills with each student. Students are working on sorting their words and recognizing words that follow the same pattern in a story or poem. The Second Grade is continuing to work on their Animal research reports. Students are researching their animals and have begun writing their animal reports. In Science, the students are learning how to put matter together and how to create different mixtures using various types of matter. In Social Studies, the students are learning about symbols and important figures in history. In Math, the second grade has learned how to measure objects using standard and non-standard units, including cubes, paper clips, inch rulers, yardsticks, and measuring tape. Students have learned how to measure and estimate lengths of classroom objects as well as objects from home. They continue to use problem solving strategies such as writing number sentences and drawing pictures to solve story problems.

**Grade 3** – In third grade the students are writing poems for the literary magazine, and the topic is what makes them unique. In addition, they have continued to practice their informational and narrative writing. They have been reading nonfiction text, and they are starting their third novel study on *Charlotte's Web*. Many students are familiar with the story, but they will take a closer look at the book as a class. In math the students are telling elapsed time by utilizing number lines which has been a helpful strategy for them. They are using rulers to measure to the nearest half inch and quarter inch. They are relating rulers to fractions on a number line. They are estimating and measuring volume and mass with the metric system. They have become familiar with line plots, and they will interpret pictographs as well as bar graphs. In science the students are finishing their chapter on magnets, and they have enjoyed activities connected to magnetism. Furthermore, students loved seeing their Kachina Dolls among other artwork at our annual Art Show.

**Grade 4** – In preparation of our novel study of *Holes*, our fourth graders participated in a “Book Tasting.” Classrooms were set up as restaurants with music, decorations, and menus. Students were given a menu of items which were discussed as they predicted how they would be related to the novel. Our students are excited to dive into their final novel of 4th grade and they will revisit their predictions to see how accurate they may have been.

**Specialist Update:**

**Music** – All students are busy practicing for their spring concert! Kindergarten and first grade are practicing movement with songs “Follow Me”, “Down the Street” and the activity “Little Brown Bear”.

We also wrote the rhythms for two songs we know, “Button You Must Wander” and “Are You Sleeping?” We also performed a partner dance to “La Raspa,” a famous song from Mexico. Second graders are taking short poems in song form like “Dr. Foster” and “Old King Cole” and practicing movement and a bourdon with the xylophones. Students created a rondo song form (ABACADA) with written/acting parts in small groups. They filled out a worksheet to describe and create a new rondo. The third graders are sharpening their recorder skills with “The Giant Krebbel Dance”. They practice like a real band splitting into sections and rehearsing measure numbers. Students also studied dynamics in music (soft, medium, and loud) and their place in our music. Fourth graders performed in an improvisation dance/game Pulcinella 47 (based on a puppet in a famous composer, Stravinsky’s, ballet), and reviewed dynamics and music symbols.

**Art** – All students have been extremely excited about the upcoming art shows!! Most especially, the kindergarten students can’t wait for their first show! Kindergarten students are hoping Spring comes soon, so stippled bunnies are hopping into the act! The children are learning painting techniques as well as background and foreground. First graders are in the process of creating Spring landscapes while exploring perspective and techniques to bring that concept to life! Second grades have completed gorgeous Chinese dragons in watercolor, focusing on warm and cool colors. Third grades have completed 3-D compositions based on the bedroom that Van Gogh painted in Arles, France. Fourth grades are preparing for Earth Day by designing collages with the thoughts of a Spring bird’s nest.

**Physical Education** – All Physical Education classes are continuing to participate in a cooperative learning unit. The unit teaches the students to use cooperation, communication, and problem solving. The lessons are designed to foster positive cooperative/communication skills and strategy development. The students have been very positive with each other and have been very creative with their different strategies.

**Media** – Happy Poetry Month! During the past few weeks in Library/Media, the students have been learning about and creating poetry in various formats, and it seems to be a fun topic for them! Fourth graders have begun working on their autobiography projects, and they are very excited! In Comp/Tech, the younger grades have been working on Earth Day, and in grade 3, we began a research project on the Titanic, which is of course, a topic of great interest to everyone! In the next few weeks, we will be incorporating technology into our poetry lessons in the younger grades, 3rd graders will begin to read aloud a Newberry Award winning book, and 4th graders will continue on their projects, since there are only a few weeks left and we want to display them for everyone to see!

**World Language** – This month Kindergarteners continue to practice numbers 0-20, their formas (shapes) and colors in Spanish! They are also making a card for *Día de Madre* as well and learning how to write *Feliz Día de Madre* (Happy Mother’s Day). First graders continue to practice *el cuerpo* (the body) by playing *simón dice* (Simon Says) and labeling cartoon characters using this vocabulary (word banks will be provided). They are also be making something to take home for *Día de Madre* as well! Second graders continue to practice naming their Spanish speaking countries and *animales del mundo* (Animals from Around the World). They are learning about *animales* native to Spanish speaking countries. Students are making something to take home for *Día de Madre* too! Third graders are now timing themselves on naming the Spanish speaking countries (Can they do it in under three minutes?!). They are also reviewing *la casa* (the house/furniture) and starting their unit on *la comida* (food). Students will finish up the month with constructing a food pyramid in Spanish using the new vocabulary. Fourth graders are finishing up their unit on telling time...not as easy as it sounds! Throughout the month students will be learning about subject pronouns in Spanish and focusing on *tú v. usted* (informal and formal you).

**Guidance** – In Kindergarten to second grade we are continuing to use Zippy’s Friends. Zippy teaches children social and emotional skills. It is geared to children between ages five and seven years old. In

each session the children listen to stories, participate in an activity, and learn how to find their own solution to problems. There are six different modules the students will be learning about. The students are going to begin the 4th module which talks about conflict resolution. The lessons in this module are how to recognize good solutions, deal with bullying, solve problems, and help other resolve conflicts.

### **Communication:**

- Mrs. DiMatteo encourages all families to follow her on Twitter (@southendprin) for the latest and greatest happenings at South End. If you don't have a Twitter account, text "follow @southendprin" to 40404 and you will be connected to Mrs. DiMatteo's account.
- You are cordially invited to join any classroom teacher's class account for Remind 101, Twitter, Instagram, etc. to stay in tune with all going on in your child's classroom.

### **FSA and Parent Outreach:**

- The FSA hosted an assembly to "pump" our students up for our June 10 Second Annual Color Run at Community Park. Students are so excited for this big event and ready to fill our world with color!

### **Professional Development Staff has attended:**

- South End teachers continue to hone the craft of teaching. The School Improvement Panel (SciP) recently led a workshop at a faculty meeting on teacher practice in alignment with the Stronge+ Teacher Evaluation Model. The strategies explored certainly benefit our children's learning in the classroom.

## **NORTH END SCHOOL:**

### **Student Activities/School Special Events:**

- Report Cards were posted to the parent portal on March 23, 2018 for Grades 1 – 4.
- All students attended the "Free to Be You & Me" performance on March 28, 2018. The students were amazed by the performers and have really embraced this important message!
- Big Brother/Big Sister was held for Kindergarten and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students on April 12, 2018. Students created a craft and enjoyed lunch with his/her partner.
- The FSA had a fundraiser activity at Jersey Mike's Subs on April 12, 2018. Families could get a free sub sandwich for every \$2.00 donation. Proceeds from the donations return back to NE School!
- Several staff members attended the Autism Awareness event at CG Library on April 18, 2018.
- The annual Art Show was held on April 19, 2018. Mrs. Martin showcased all of our artists by displaying a variety of student work. In addition, each year, Mrs. Martin selects two students to have his/her artwork showcased at the annual art show and then presents these items for permanent display in our hallway. The two students selected this year are: Ryan Dugan (from Mrs. Massotto's & Mrs. Grossman's class) and Sara Sarran (from Mrs. Danieli's Class). Congratulations to Ryan & Sara for this prestigious honor!

### **Grade/Department Level Updates:**

- *PK* – This month, the preschool students are anxiously awaiting springtime weather as we discuss weather changes. Additionally, in Science as Earth Day is approaching, the students are learning the importance of taking good care of our planet, Earth, as well as learning about some of the different landforms found on Earth. The book, *We Are Growing!* by Laurie Keller and Mo Willems inspired them as they planted grass seeds with their reading buddies and talked about what plants need to grow and survive. In keeping with the springtime theme, in Language Arts, the students are learning to use descriptive words to describe things like the spring season and rain. In Math, the students are busy working on their number sequencing skills for two digit numbers from 10-20. Lastly, the students are excited to be working on creating their very own poems for the school Literary Magazine!

- **Grade K** – The kindergarten students are beginning to share the signs of spring and explore spring and science themes related to Earth Day, seeds and plants. We have done some experiments for Earth Day and will be picking up trash for Earth Day and planting soon! Each child shared some things they did during their spring break. Afterwards, they wrote and illustrated the writing in journal entries. The children enjoyed their time during the spring break! In mathematics, the boys and girls are working on addition. All of the students are working on rhyming words and word families. We are also continuing to brainstorm and write words beginning with a specific letter in our alphabet picture-word journals and drawing pictures to match. Everyone is making great strides reading with buddies, in small reading groups and in reading circles. The students have been working on programs for technology including: Moby Max, Raz-Kids and Lexia. We are looking forward to the warmer weather. We will be continuing to build up and fine tune all of our skills to prepare to transition to first grade.
- **Grade 1** – First graders came back from Spring Break ready to learn. We continued to practice place value of tens and ones with a couple spring projects. We then moved into Measurement. Students have been measuring things using nonstandard forms of measurement. Time and money will also be taught this month before we roll into review of all math concepts in preparation for upcoming MAP tests. This month in Reading we have been focusing more on fiction stories. We read Harvey Moon Clean Your Room and had students write stories on the steps they would take to help Harvey clean his room. We have also been completing narratives using our transition words: First, Then, Next and Last. The students have been very excited to now type their final copies on the Chromebooks and insert their own pictures. We will also begin our Literary Magazine poems this month. With anticipation of warm weather, we began learning about plants and animals in Science. We hope to be able to take the kids outdoors to explore living and nonliving things. Lastly, in the third marking period, we will be working with Mrs. Leddy during our Computer Lab time. Students read Irving, the Theater Nut. They will write a letter to Irving and Mrs. Leddy will be helping students type them up to create a book for the author. We are hoping to have the author come in to talk to the students.
- **Grade 2** – Second grade is immersed in poetry for National Poetry month. The students are reading poems chorally and recognizing the rhythm, rhyme and expressive language used by the poets. Later, they respond to the poems with poems of their own in similar style or with illustrations of the original poem. Additionally, the students are writing and typing an original poem for the school Literary Magazine about something they learned in second grade. Weekly reading always also includes informational reading through Scholastic Magazine or ReadWorks articles, after which the students use textual evidence to answer questions. In mathematics, we finished a unit in 3-digit addition and subtraction using modeling, drawing and symbolic representations to solve problems. We are now learning to measure and estimate linearly in the customary system. Students will determine the appropriate measurement tool for the object to be measured and how to solve problems involving adding and subtracting lengths. In Social Studies, the students have learned to read maps and about the basic geographical aspects of earth (continents, oceans, regions, landforms, poles, equator and hemispheres). They will create booklets titled “A Look at Our Earth,” illustrating the parts of earth, the interior layers of earth, and the water/land ratio on earth. This marking period is also the time when second grade students will work with their teachers and Mrs. Leddy, the Media Specialist, to publish their Famous African Americans research in a Google Slide presentation, which they will present to their classmates when completed. Finally, when we returned from spring break, the students were excited to purchase animals for the Heifer Read to Feed Program with the funds donated to our classes during the Read Across America challenge. After reviewing on the website how the different animals could help families in developing countries, the children voted in each class for the animals they wanted to purchase.
- **Grade 3** – We completed our study of graphing. Students completed surveys, collected data, created pictographs, bar graphs and line plots. In addition, they had to interpret the data by comparing and

contrasting it. Other content areas were also revisited to show what we now know in preparation for PARCC, not only in math but also reading and writing. Students continued to discover ways to find the appropriate text evidence when comparing two articles or fictional stories in response to the various open-ended prompts. It was also critical to develop time management within the 60 and 75 minute constraints put on them for PARCC. The students thoroughly enjoyed our motion and forces Science unit. They really loved our experiments with simple and compound machines and magnetism.

- **Grade 4** –It’s that time of year...PARCC is just around the corner and our fourth graders are ready to show how Knowledge is their Super Power! Children have been working hard to synthesize all the information they have learned this year and put their best foot forward for the test. In Social Studies, the children completed their unit on the Midwest by presenting information on a famous Midwesterner. In celebration of National Poetry Month, the children have also been composing various types of poems as well. Finally, they are continuing to motivate themselves by creating posters to decorate the classroom walls with words of wisdom to themselves, so that come Monday morning, they are ready to knock it out of the PARCC!
- **Art** – All students have been extremely excited about the upcoming art shows!! Most especially, the kindergarten students can’t wait for their first show! Kindergarten students are hoping Spring comes soon, so stippled bunnies are hopping into the act! The children are learning painting techniques as well as background and foreground. First graders are in the process of creating Spring landscapes while exploring perspective and techniques to bring that concept to life! Second grades have completed gorgeous Chinese dragons in watercolor, focusing on warm and cool colors. Third grades have completed 3-D compositions based on the bedroom that Van Gogh painted in Arles, France. Fourth grades are preparing for Earth Day by designing collages with the thoughts of a Spring bird’s nest.
- **World Language** – This month Kindergarteners continue to practice numbers 0-20, their formas (shapes) and colors in Spanish! They are also making a card for Día de Madre as well and learning how to write Feliz Día de Madre (Happy Mother’s Day). First graders continue to practice el cuerpo (the body) by playing simón dice (Simon Says) and labeling cartoon characters using this vocabulary (word banks will be provided). They are also be making something to take home for Día de Madre as well! Second graders continue to practice naming their Spanish speaking countries and animales del mundo (Animals from Around the World). They are learning about animales native to Spanish speaking countries. Students are making something to take home for Día de Madre too! Third graders are now timing themselves on naming the Spanish speaking countries (Can they do it in under three minutes?!). They are also reviewing la casa (the house/furniture) and starting their unit on la comida (food). Students will finish up the month with constructing a food pyramid in Spanish using the new vocabulary. Fourth graders are finishing up their unit on telling time...not as easy as it sounds! Throughout the month students will be learning about subject pronouns in Spanish and focusing on tú v. usted (informal and formal you).
- **Guidance** –In kindergarten to second grade we are continuing to use Zippy’s Friends. Zippy teaches children social and emotional skills. It is geared to children that are between five and seven years old. In each session the children listen to stories, participate in an activity, and learn how to find their own solution to problems. There are six different modules the students will be learning about. The students are going to begin the 4th module which talks about conflict resolution. The lessons in this module are how to recognize good solutions, dealing with bullying, solving problems, and helping to resolve conflicts.
- **Music** – All students are busy practicing for their spring concert! Kindergarten and first grade are practicing movement in songs “Follow Me,” “Down the Street” and the activity “Little Brown Bear.”

We also wrote the rhythms for two songs we already know well, “Button You Must Wander” and “Are You Sleeping?” We also performed a partner dance to “La Raspa,” a famous song from Mexico. Second graders are taking short poems like “Dr. Foster” and “Old King Cole” and practicing movement and a bourdon with the xylophones in song form. Then we created a rondo form pattern (ABACADA) with speaking/ acting parts in small groups. They filled out a worksheet to describe and create a new rondo by themselves as an assessment. The third graders are sharpening their recorder skills with “The Giant Krebbel Dance.” We practice like a real band splitting into sections and rehearsing measure numbers, specifically practicing rests. We also studied dynamics (soft, medium, and loud) and their place in our music songs. Fourth graders performed an improvisation dance/game Pulcinella 47 (Based on a puppet in a famous composer, Stravinsky’s, ballet.) We also practiced our dynamics and reviewed musical symbols.

**Professional Development Staff has attended:**

- Teachers continued to attend Year 3 Conquer Math training.
- Ms. Dyer & Mrs. DiMatteo attended the NJPSA Leadership Conference on April 11, 2018.
- Our Faculty Meeting was held on April 11, 2018. The following topics were discussed:
  - Safety & Security Update
  - PARCC Security Training
  - Performance Matters – Data uploads