

# REPORT TO THE CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michael J. Fetherman, Superintendent

June 12, 2018

## ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Grade	June 2017	May 2018	Change (+/-)
K	106	90	- 16
1	84	110	+ 26
2	120	83	- 37
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	29	+ 9
Preschool (Tuition)	4	14	+ 10
GRAND TOTAL	1613	1591	- 22
Students in other Public and Private Schools & Shared Time Students			41
Home Instruction			6

**BOE Goal #1: Student Achievement - Assess the impact of character education as part of the curriculum in all district schools; *Character Committees* at each school shall evaluate and rewrite, where necessary, Code of Conduct guidelines 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.**

- 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 is 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, March 26 and May 8 BOE meetings. Additional information sharing 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 –June 8, 2018; Shelter-in-Place Drill – June 11, 2018
- MMS: Fire Drill – TBD; Shelter-in-Place Drill – June 1, 2018
- NE: Fire Drill – June 8, 2018; Shelter-in-Place Drill TBD
- SE: Fire Drill – TBD; Shelter-in-Place Drill - TBD

### **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:**

- Ms. Sweeney and Mrs. Salka state that the CGHS June Student of the Month's instinctive talents has only been shaped by the intelligence and drive to become the best. This student excels in each aspect of the fine arts and has grown to become a refreshing and exemplary creative individual. This recipient is a dedicated member of the Art Club and designs, paints, and sketches with the utmost creativity. The award winner encompasses a keen eye for detail and is an asset for the Art Department. The CGHS Student of the Month for June is Aryan Abedini.
- Mr. Cardinale and Mr. Gallagher organized a senior career day on Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Close to 30 careers were represented and several of the speakers graduated from CGHS!
- On June 5<sup>th</sup>, CGHS held its annual Scholarship night. This was a fantastic night for 67 seniors who received 178 scholarships totaling \$120,000 dollars. Thank you to Mrs. Denman, Ms. Rubino and Mrs. Bieber for all of their hard work!
- The annual Senior Breakfast took place on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Seniors gathered together as a class one more time to eat breakfast (omelet station & waffle station) and sign yearbooks in the cafeteria from 8:10 AM -9:50 AM.
- On June 7<sup>th</sup>, the juniors and seniors of CGHS descended on "The Manor" in West Orange for Prom. The students were fantastic, the food was great and the atmosphere was perfect! Kudos to Senior Class Advisors Mrs. Cali and Mr. Cardiello for their hard work and commitment to our kids.

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

- **Guidance (Mrs. Denman and Ms. Rubino)**
  - On June 5th, the Guidance Department held its annual Local Scholarship Ceremony - 67 seniors received 178 local scholarship awards totaling \$120,690, our highest total to date!
  - We will be processing MP4 and final grades and sending final transcripts to attending colleges as well as the NCAA for student athletes.
  - We are working on finalizing last minute schedule changes in preparation for building the 2018-19 master schedule. We will start to organize for summer work (mailing, master schedule, student schedules, etc.).
- **Student Assistance Counselor (Mrs. DeFabiis)**
  - Continued collaboration with staff and administration on a daily basis regarding any issues/concerns about students
  - Attended the Art Show, Academic Awards, Scholarship Night and Prom
  - Attended NJPN Addictions conference May 18, 2018
  - Set up for X2VOL luncheon on May 24, 2018
  - PARCC and AP Proctor
  - Attended student GSA presentation on May 30, 2018
  - Participated in Career Day on June 4, 2018
  - Had speaker, Timothy Shoemaker, present to Juniors and Seniors at an assembly on June 5, 2018

- Attended School Climate meeting on June 7
- Scheduled student presentations for next year:
  - ✓ Vaping - September 21
  - ✓ Fearlessly Girl Workshop (in collaboration with Mrs. Denman) - September 24
  - ✓ Anti-bullying on Unity Day - October 24

➤ **Media Center (Ms. Swanson)**

- **Meetings Attended:**
  - ✓ June 4th, 2:50 PM - Faculty Meeting
  - ✓ June 5th, 6:30 PM - Scholarship Night
  - ✓ June 8th, 8:00 AM - HS Future Ready Meeting
  - ✓ June 12th, 3:30 PM - District Technology Committee Meeting
  - ✓ June 14th, 6:00 PM - Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Activities for June:**
  - ✓ Administered the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – Science (NJSLA-S) on June 1st and the makeups for those absent the week of June 4<sup>th</sup>
  - ✓ Printed out Student Progress reports for MAP for grades 9-11 and processed them for mailing to parents
  - ✓ Worked on Future Ready indicator reports for high school certification submission
  - ✓ Set up spreadsheet for teacher submission of student outstanding obligations and direction sheet which I will present at the June faculty meeting. I will then email parents who have students with outstanding obligations to let them know what needs to be returned or paid. Collect money and checks for lost and damaged materials and provide a final accounting of money collected on June 20<sup>th</sup>
  - ✓ The mornings of June 11th and 12th I will be at the middle school to judge 8th grade REP presentations
  - ✓ Finish creating a new website for the media center since the current one will go offline in July

➤ **Athletics (Mr. Gogerty)**

- The boys' lacrosse team finished their second varsity season with a record of 12-7. The team finished the NJILL Kirst Division 7-0 to capture the Kirst Division Championship. The team competed in the Essex County Tournament dropping a first round game to Montclair HS, 13-3. The boys' competed in the North 1 Group 1 State Tournament and dropped a first round game to Pequannock HS, 6-5.
- The girls' lacrosse team finished their second varsity season with a record of 11-9 which was an eight win jump from a season ago. The team competed in the Essex County Tournament dropping a first round game to Verona HS, 15-3. The girl's competed in the North 2 Group 1 State Tournament and dropped a first round over-time game to Villa Walsh Academy, 11-10.
- The baseball team finished the season with a record of 15-12. The team reached the NJSIAA North 1 Group 1 State Tournament but dropped its first round game against Hasbrouck Heights High School.
- The softball team finished the season with a record of 25-6. The team had an absolutely stunning run by winning the 2018 Essex County Tournament, the SEC American Division Championship and the NJSIAA North 1 Group 1 State Section Championship. This was the second year in a row and third time in the last four years the softball team has won the NJSIAA North 1 Group 1 State Title.
- The boys' varsity tennis team finished their 2018 season with an outstanding 14-3 record. The Panther squad went 12-0 in the SEC Colonial Division to win the Super Essex Conference Colonial Division Title. The team dropped a close first round NJSIAA Group 1 State Match 3-2 to Leonia High School.
- The boys' Track and Field team finished the SEC dual meets season with an undefeated record of 9-0 in the SEC Independence Division. The team backed up their dual meet record up with a nice showing at the SEC Championships finishing in second place. Congratulations to Sawyer Moe (Javelin), Mike Pronesti (High Jump), and Patrick Smurla (3200m) who all captured NJSIAA North 1 Group 1 State Sectional Titles and advanced to the Group 1 Championships!

- The girls' Track and Field team finished the SEC dual meets season with a record of 6-3. The team backed up their dual meet record up with a nice showing at the SEC Championships finishing in third place.
- Congratulations to all our student-athletes and coaches on a great 2017-2018 Athletic Season!

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

- CGHS, with continued support from the Superintendent and BOE, will be offering a Robotics Class to our upper classmen next year. The program will focus on building robots (Legos) as well as STEM-related activities, with engineering concepts integrated into the course.

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

- APT Meeting Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 7:00PM

## **MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

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

- On June 13<sup>st</sup> we will be conducting our annual incoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent orientation. At this event we provide parents with information that should ease the transition from elementary school to middle school. Five 5<sup>th</sup> grade essay winners will also speak to the parents on their experience in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Topics to be discussed will span academics to their first-time experiences with a locker.
- On June 1<sup>st</sup> our band, orchestra, and choir students participated in the annual Dorney Park High Note Festival. There were approximately two hundred students in attendance. We achieved 4 *Superior* ratings and 2 *Excellent* ratings. Congratulations to all who participated!
- This MMS school math team participated in the American Scholastic Mathematics Association's annual international contest. The team received a second place standing in the middle school competition. Additionally, we would like to recognize Louis Cicala and Alexandria Eustice for special recognition as high scoring students.
- On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class will take part in our annual Health and Wellness Day organized by Ms. Jacqui Giammetta. Ms. Giammetta has created a morning schedule where students travel throughout MMS to different stations based around a healthy lifestyle. The FSA will be providing a healthy lunch (catered by Shoprite) that will include grilled chicken sandwiches, veggie bags and fruit cups.
- On June 5<sup>th</sup>, MMS held the finals for their first school-wide *Academically Speaking* contest. *Academically Speaking* is a jeopardy-like competition held after school under the supervision of Mrs. Hill. Since the fall, students have been practicing by competing against each other in after school matches. Each match contains one hundred trivia questions. This year's winning team was made up of 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Tara Smurla, Ava Chickering and Alexandria Eustice (see photo below).



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

- On May 24<sup>th</sup> our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in a career day event. The program consisted of multiple presenters. Students were extremely engaged in the event and genuinely interested in the presentations that they selected, which ranged from a wide variety of professions. Students had an opportunity to rotate through presentations. We are excited to continue this program next year. We hosted a branding manager for the music industry, the CEO of the Montclair YMCA, and a food flavor developer, just to name a few.
- Mr. DeCorte is proud to say that we have just exponentially increased our S.T.E.M. lab's 3D printing capabilities with the addition of a MakerBot Replicator +. This new machine includes a mode to print multiple designs at once, thus greatly increasing how much, the efficiency of resources and what we can print. The large build plate also gives our students the ability to create larger designs which has proven advantageous for the "Create a Useful Tool" project. Along with this new machine, we have also purchased an experimental extruder which is compatible with both this and our MakerBot Replicator Mini. We now have the power to print designs in Copper, Brass and Wood as the new extruder has many customization settings and accessories. Our students now have everything they need to become effective 3D Designers (see photo below).



### **Communication:**

- On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Mr. DeCorte hosted his final Parent Round Table of the year. We have been able to implement many suggestions this past year in order to benefit our students.

### **Grade Level Updates:**

**5th Grade** -- In science, students completed an A-Z research project on invertebrates. Students were required to identify and research invertebrates that started with the letters A-Z. They created Google slides for each and presented their research to the classes. They are currently learning about and researching behavioral and structural adaptations. In language arts, the students are starting research projects on endangered animals. They are required to find and take out books to do their research. In social studies, students will be researching either the ancient Aztecs or Mayans. They were given the choice of either one, and will be researching their religious practices, culture, food, astronomy, calendars, and their step pyramids. They will have also free choice topics to research such as specific Mayan City-States, Mayan math, sports, smallpox epidemic, amongst others. They will create a Google slides presentation on their findings and present it to the class. In math, students are currently working on converting measurements within the customary system. The students are recording the measurements they are making, and using that data to compare and contrast various items around their rooms. They are also working on making predictions before they measure certain items.

**6th Grade** – Using their prior knowledge, and recently learned concepts of geometry, the students in 6th grade math are working on designing their own courtyard. The students must maintain some of the structures that are

presently in the courtyard, such as the greenhouse, pond, and some tables, but are then required to add their own design elements and theme to what they feel would be the best MMS courtyard. The students are also required to then write a one page response to their choices and ideas for their design in a persuasive format.

**7th Grade** – This month in 7th grade math we explored the concept of fractals, or self-similarity, in nature. Students created Sierpinski Triangles by hand, drawing equilateral triangles in a recursive pattern. The students added their own creativity with elements of color and design. They then worked to connect the pattern to further their algebraic readiness through writing expressions that represent this exponential pattern mathematically.

**8th Grade** – In Language Arts, students in Ms. Bianchi's and Mrs. Bulmer's classes are preparing to present their research presentations. Over several weeks, students have been engaged in the steps of the research writing process. They have chosen topics, written thesis statements, gathered information from authoritative sources online and in print, and completed their research papers. The final step to this process is when students present their knowledge and arguments about the issues they have learned about in front of judges and their peers. The overall goal of this comprehensive project is for students to understand how to find and incorporate information from valid sources and create effective arguments in the forms of research papers and presentations. In Social Studies, students were introduced to different perspectives on the role of the Aryan race/culture played in the development of early Hindu society. One perspective (Aryan migration) was provided using a video and the second (non-migration) was through an article. After comparing and contrasting the differing version of this formative period, students participated in a debate in which the two sides read their persuasive paragraphs in a head-to-head format.

## **SOUTH END SCHOOL:**

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

- Congratulations to Mrs. Victoria Tedesco, grade 3 teacher, for being honored as South End's Teacher of the Year. We are so thankful for all she does for our students.
- Thank you to Mr. Luogameno at MMS for coming to South End and using their drone to help take a picture of our grade 4 students forming 2018. What a great experience for our children.
- Our children once again dazzled us with their musical talents at our Spring Concert in May. The students sang beautifully and our grade 4 string orchestra was amazing. We are so proud of their talents and thank Ms. Stroh and Mr. Savino for all the work they do with our students.
- Grade 2 students enjoyed their field trip to the Roseland Environmental Center and our grade 4 students to the Hudson Play in Jersey City. The students learned and had fun.
- Kindergarten students had a fantastic Fun Day. They danced along with a DJ, played with hula-hoops, were entertained by a magician and petting zoo. What a fun way to celebrate a great year!
- The fourth grade is starting to wind down their last days at South End. The traditional Fourth Grade Olympics began. Each class represents a different country, England, China, Egypt, and Italy. Students compete in different activities including a Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, Limbo, and multiplication and division races. Of course, the Olympic torch is passed each day from classroom to classroom throughout the school.
- The fourth grade had a great time at their Pool Party with their future classmates from North End. No matter the slight breeze, the kids were thrilled to be swimming all afternoon.
- Mrs. DiMatteo thanked our fourth grade Safety Patrol students by giving them a pizza party. The fourth graders ate lunch outside and received thank you awards for working so hard all year helping at lunch and recess with our Kindergarten and grade 1 students.
- Field Day was a huge success. Each class competed in fun activities throughout the day, but by far the huge Velcro soccer ball target and dunk tank stole the show! We thank all our teachers who braved the cold dunk tank waters, over 100 parent volunteers and of course Mrs. Manning who organized a phenomenal day for South End students.

### **Specialist Update**

**Music** – Kindergarten and first graders are finishing compositions and playing assessments on instruments. They are composing four bar rhythms with quarter and half note values and performing in front of our classmates. Students play “Rhythm Tic Tac Toe” and compete against each other, saying the rhythms as a team to earn the X’s and O’s. Students learned the song “Are you Swimming?” to the tune “Are you Sleeping?” Students kept a beat, practiced call and response, sang independently, improvised new verses, and dramatized the song with locomotion. Second and third graders are learning about famous film composers Michael Giacchino and John Williams. They composed the scores for the movies *Up*, *The Incredibles*, *Coco*, *Star Wars*, *Doctor Strange*, *Harry Potter*, *Jurassic Park* and more. Students learn how music is recorded, identify instruments in the orchestra, identify the genre of music, and learn the history of these important figures in modern music. They also discuss the melodic themes of character composing, or writing music to fit personalities and moods of people and their stories. Fourth grade is finishing their time at NE by practicing for their promotion ceremony and watching a Lemony Snicket story “The Composer is Dead,” that combines art, literature, and music to practice identifying instruments and their role in the orchestra. Students fill out a listening guide with new vocabulary and characteristics of the instruments. They were also introduced to band instruments for next year by Mrs. Imperatore. Students interested in pursuing an instrument next year were able to test out trombones, flutes, clarinets, and other band instruments. Students are excited and celebrating their success in music! All students are excited for what the following school year has in store for us. In addition, we now have an Instagram account for music class! Follow @southend\_music. This was announced on our HomeworkNow site. Videos and pictures are posted to show our activity, progress, and performance in music! Although the end is near, we are busy as ever!

**Art** – As the year comes to a finale, we certainly close the art room in a grand manner! It’s all about Art History! All students have been enthralled with learning about new artists. We have read books, viewed prints and enjoyed many deep discussions about a variety of artists. Kindergarten students discovered Vincent Van Gogh and have completed two paintings in his style; both “Sunflowers” and “Starry Night.” These will surely be hung in the homes of the artists! First grades have moved from the Netherlands of Van Gogh to Italy to study the great works of Leonardo da Vinci...and of course, painting “Mona Lisa” with a surprise twist! Second grade students are enjoying the magnificent gardens of Claude Monet; the iconic artist from France. The play of light and stippling effects are the focus of their interpretation of “The Japanese Bridge.” Third grade classes are designing beautiful collage landscapes in watercolor and mixed media. Time allowing, they will paint images of Gustav Klimt. Fourth grade students are completing STEAM projects, based on shapes and perspective. These drawings are enhanced by using charcoal and color. This was a fun-filled, very productive year in the art room! I’m so proud of the growth and many successes demonstrated by my students and look forward to another wonderful year of art!

**Physical Education** – All Kindergarten PE classes are participating in a parachute unit. The parachute is a great way to teach teamwork, and group cooperation. The students are also improving basic motor skills, as well as a sense of rhythm. Grades 1-4 are currently participating in a wiffleball unit. Students will demonstrate sports skills and motor movements of batting, running bases, catching/fielding, pitching, passing, sportsmanship and peer support.

**Media** – In the media center, 4th graders have completed their Autobiography projects, and they will be displayed during the Promotion Ceremony. They did a great job! Several grade levels are creating brochures to help incoming students in September learn about their teachers, what special things happen in each class, and what they think the students can look forward to in the coming year. Students in grade 3 are finishing up and presenting their Titanic projects and are very proud of them.

**World Language** – This month, Kindergarteners will be reviewing all of their *colores*, *números* and classroom greetings/farewells to prepare for first grade! First graders will be reviewing *el tiempo*



(weather vocabulary), *los meses del año* (months of the year) and *los partes del cuerpo* (parts of the body) to get ready for second grade! Second graders will be reviewing *la familia* (family), *los animales* and Spanish speaking countries (and making sure they know where to find them on a globe!). Third graders will be reviewing *la clase* (classroom objects), *la casa* (the house) and *la comida* (food). Fourth grade will be reviewing *los deportes y los pasatiempos* (sports and hobbies), *la hora* (telling time) and subject pronouns...along with everything else they have learned from Kindergarten to fourth grade by participating in a World Language Trivia game!

**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 on their last unit which is called we cope. The lessons are about learning how to cope, help others, and adapting to new situations.

### **Grade Level Updates:**

**Preschool** – This month in Pre-K students are reviewing everything they have learned this year! They are finishing their last letter of the week. Students have spent a week on all 26 letters, learning its uppercase and lowercase formation, the sound it makes, and words that start with that letter. On Fridays, the students are able to bring in an object from home that starts with the letter for show-and-tell. Show-and-tell has allowed students practice public speaking at the preschool level, while boosting language, self-esteem and questioning skills. In math students are practicing counting backwards, as they count down the last days of school with a fun balloon popping activity during morning meeting. In science, they have watched our lima bean plants grow the past few weeks and are excited to finally bring them home. Preschoolers learned the parts of a plant, as well as the life cycle of a plant, and kept track of their own plants in our science journals. Each day students observed and drew a picture of what they saw. Children also practiced writing words in journals by thinking about what sounds they hear in different words. Overall, all students have had a fantastic year in preschool! They learned so much and made a lot of new friends. Eleven of our friends will now be heading to Kindergarten at South End!

**Kindergarten** – The Kindergarten classes have been working very hard on Reading and writing. The children are writing opinion paragraphs using tips we learned at one of our previous professional development workshops. The students are brainstorming ideas together and working collaboratively to formulate their thoughts and opinions. In conjunction with the theme, students have completed Character Book Reports based on their favorite story character this year. We are writing letters to next year’s students telling them all the fun things they will do to practice letter writing and sentence structure. They are putting their knowledge of sentence structure while developing their sense of creative writing with the use of adjectives to describe events. In Math, the children have completed their unit on Addition and are working on Subtraction. We will end the year with a review of all concepts introduced this year. In Science, we have completed our unit on Plants with the children planting seeds. We are now working on our Five Senses. Children will be investigating their world through their senses. We had our Kindergarten Fun Day celebration with a dance party, magician and with a petting zoo. Our culmination of the year will take place this week with a DVD presentation to the parents along with a class Italian Ice party. What a YEAR!

**Grade 1** – In math first graders are finishing the year with measurement and graphs. The students are working on using different items to measure objects. For reading we started our novel study on *Cam Jansen and The Mystery of the Gold Coins* by David A. Adler. The students are enjoying reading this book in school and at home. For each chapter, students are answering comprehension questions, retelling the events of the chapter, and using evidence from the text to try to figure out the mystery. Our last writing piece for the year will be a personal narrative focusing on the students’ favorite small moments from first grade.

**Grade 2** – In reading, the second grade has completed Unit 7 in our reading program *Good Habits, Great Readers*. The students have learned the sixth habit of a great reader: Think Critically about Books. 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 nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs and are reviewing skills they have learned throughout the year, such as subjects, predicates, plural nouns, and adverbs. Second graders 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. In Social Studies, the students are continuing to learn about American symbols. In Science, the Second Grade is continuing to learn about the properties of matter and how matter changes from one state to another. In Math, the second grade has learned about Fractions and Geometry. Students have learned how to create equal parts using shapes and have learned to recognize two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. 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 reading texts that relate to music and art. They are learning about Yo-Yo Ma, and it can peak their interest in string instruments for next year. They are looking at artwork from various artists and discussing their styles. They are completing their novel study on Charlotte's Web, and they have truly enjoyed this classic. They are writing opinion pieces on Hey, Little Ant which has incorporated multiple writing skills. In math the students are finishing their geometry and data units. They are reviewing concepts from earlier in the year and demonstrating what they have learned. In social studies they have become experts on the three branches as well as the different types of government. In addition, the students have taken over as safety patrols, and they are preparing for their responsibilities as fourth graders.

**Grade 4** – The fourth graders truly seemed to enjoy their trip to Hudson Play in Jersey City. There were team building activities and lots of opportunities for the fourth graders to have fun and make lasting memories. They showed great sportsmanship and "conquered" things like rock walls and obstacle courses. The traditional grade 4 Olympics have begun. Students compete in a number of educational and fun activities including multiplication, division, a spelling bee, the limbo, Minute to Win It and geography. Each class represents a different country and keeps the entire school updated each morning on which students won gold, silver and bronze. Fourth graders have been working on bio poems and state reports. They have gathered information and written expository essays. Students are learning to imbed websites and slides into their existing reports.

#### **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:**

- Sincerest thanks to our FSA for "outfitting" our students for Field Day in the colors of the rainbow. It was amazing to look across the field and see those bright bold colors!
- Congratulations to South End's new FSA officers, Mrs. Bozek, Mrs. Velonas, Mrs. Sewell, Mrs. Birney, Mrs. Blanco-Gordon and Mrs. Fletcher. We look forward to working with you in the coming school year. Thank you to our outgoing officers Mrs. Turken, Mrs. Immersi, and Mrs. Miller. We appreciated your hard work.

## **NORTH END SCHOOL:**

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

- William G. Allen, author, visited 1<sup>st</sup> Grade students on May 16, 2018.
- Kindergarten screening for 2018-19 students was held on May 21 – 23, 2018.
- Adriana Brad Schanen, author of *Quinny & Hooper*, visited fourth grade students on May 30, 2018.
- The final Big Brother Big Sister was held for Kindergarten & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students on June 7, 2018.
- The NE & SE FSA held the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Pool Party on June 7, 2018. This activity is a way for the two schools to spend some time getting acquainted before moving on to middle school.
- The annual Field Day & FSA BBQ was held on June 8, 2018.
- Several fourth grade students participated in the NJ Special Olympics Torch Run on June 8, 2018.

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

**Grade K** – The kindergarten students have learned so much this school year. In reading, they are showing us how they can decode words, blend sounds together and recognize all their sight words while reading! They can also answer numerous comprehension questions about characters, setting, main idea and details. They continue to work on retelling stories by sharing the beginning, middle and end with details. They have become great writers as well. They are writing several sentences using capitalization, spacing and correct type of punctuation. We are so proud of them. In Math, we continue to show our counting skills to 100. We are counting objects that we have sorted by various attributes as well. We are reviewing many other math skills as well, including 2D and 3D shapes, decomposing numbers, addition and subtraction and so much more! Kindergarten is also practicing daily for our end of the year show. We are learning songs about different careers. The students will be dressing up as what they want to be when they grow up. Each will have a speaking part to share with our families during the show. All the students have been working hard and can't wait for the "big show!" After our show, we will have a family picnic to celebrate all our accomplishments this year.

**Grade 1** – The first graders prepared for their first field trip by reading books about two of their favorite characters, Henry and Mudge. They enjoyed going to the Mayo Theater in Morristown to see a Henry and Mudge play. Students also participated in honoring their mothers by creating Mothers' Day gifts along with buying plants and flowers at the annual plant sale. We are lucky to have such a talented group of first graders. They sang fabulously during the spring concert. They are talented poets as well...just take a look at their poems in the NE Literary Magazine. Another special event for our 1<sup>st</sup> graders was a visit from the author, William G. Allen (a personal friend of Mrs. Jacob), who wrote the book, *Irving the Theater NUT!* Each first grade class received a copy of the book for their classroom libraries. Our MAP and STARS testing have been completed. Currently we are DRA testing. The end-of-the-year projects are completed and the students have been presenting them to their classmates. In Language Arts, the students learned about ways to improve their grammar and usage when writing or speaking. They learned about verb tenses, adjectives, adverbs, personal and possessive pronouns, conjunctions, and simple and compound sentences. In Math, students learned how to add two-digit addends using pictorial representations. It has been a year of tremendous growth and is rewarding to witness the progress of our first graders.

**Grade 2** – The second graders had a wonderful time on their field trip to the Meadowlands Environment Center on May 31. In spite of the rain, our salt marsh explorers were able to catch a variety of native creatures with their nets such as blue crabs, midge larvae, grass shrimp and killifish! Learning about water habitats through our Inspire Science series and experiencing a marsh habitat such as the Meadowlands truly made Science come to life for the students! In ELA, the children completed the novel *Freckle Juice*. Everyone loved the discussions and many opportunities to respond to the novel by predicting, comparing and contrasting characters, and making inferences. We even participated in several Kahoots to show our knowledge of the characters and plot. Currently the students are reading the novel *The Chalk Box Kid* which will take us through the end of the year. Our second graders have completed their MAP, DRA, and

STARS testing. In math, the children are studying data collection. They are happily taking their own class surveys on various topics and creating both picture and bar graphs to represent their data.

**Grade 3** – It is hard to believe that third grade is coming to an end. In math, we have been doing various math puzzles in which the students use clues to find mystery numbers. We have also been practicing area, perimeter, and even planning vacations to Disney World on a budget! Third graders also pretended they won the lottery, and wrote about how they would spend their million dollars. Lots of mansions and cars were purchased, however, many of them decided to donate their winnings to help those in need. For science, we have been learning about how magnets and electricity work. The children have been performing lots of experiments in order to discover how and why magnets work, as well as what produces electrical charges. We also had a blast on our third grade field trip to the Essex County Environmental Center where we experienced what life was like for the Lenape tribe.

**Grade 4** – The fourth graders can hardly believe the end of the year is here. In math, we are completing their ABC of Math publication and are reviewing skills for 5th grade. In ELA, they are coming to a much anticipated end of the novel Holes. They will culminate the novel by preparing “camp” t-shirts and viewing the movie. The students have indicated this has been their favorite text this year. In writing, our young authors are composing their 4th Grade Memories essay. Each class will select an essay to be read at promotion. In science, the children are completing their investigation of living things and the systems used for their survival, while in social studies children are working on a differentiated project that allowed them to select a means to present information about the southwestern or western regions of the United States. Finally, the children will begin practicing for their promotion ceremony. They are so excited about the day and proud of all they have accomplished this year.

**Art** – As the year comes to a finale, we certainly close the art room in a grand manner! It’s all about history! All students have been enthralled with learning about new artists. We have read books, viewed prints and enjoyed many deep discussions about a variety of artists. Kindergarten students discovered Vincent Van Gogh and have completed two paintings in his style; both “Sunflowers” and “Starry Night.” These will surely be hung in the homes of the artists! First grades have moved from the Netherlands of Van Gogh to Italy to study the great works of Leonardo da Vinci...and of course, painting “Mona Lisa” with a surprise twist! Second grade students are enjoying the magnificent gardens of Claude Monet; the iconic artist from France. The play of light and stippling effects are the focus of their interpretation of “The Japanese Bridge.” Third grade classes are designing beautiful collage landscapes in watercolor and mixed media. Time allowing, they will paint images of Gustav Klimt. Fourth grade students are completing STEAM projects, based on shapes and perspective. These drawings are enhanced by using charcoal and color. This was a fun-filled, very productive year in the art room! I’m so proud of the growth and many successes demonstrated by my students and look forward to another wonderful year of art!

**Music** – Although the end is near, we are busy as ever! Kindergarten and first graders are finishing compositions and playing assessments on instruments. We are composing four bar rhythms with quarter and half note values and performing in front of our classmates. We play “Rhythm Tic Tac Toe” and compete against each other, saying the rhythms as a team to earn the X’s and O’s. We learned the song “Are you Swimming?” to the tune “Are you Sleeping?” Students kept a beat, practiced call and response, sang independently, improvised new verses, and dramatized the song with locomotion. Second and third graders are learning about famous film composers Michael Giacchino and John Williams. They composed the scores for the movies Up, The Incredibles, Coco, Star Wars, Doctor Strange, Harry Potter, Jurassic Park and more. We learn how music is recorded, identify instruments in the orchestra, identify the genre of music, and learn the history of these important figures in modern music. We also discuss the melodic themes of character composing, or writing music to fit personalities and moods of people and their stories. Fourth grade is finishing their time at NE by practicing for their promotion ceremony and watching a Lemony Snicket story “The Composer is Dead,” that combines art, literature, and music to practice

identifying instruments and their role in the orchestra. We fill out a listening guide with new vocabulary and characteristics of the instruments. They were also introduced to band instruments for next year by Mrs. Imperatore. Students interested in pursuing an instrument next year were able to test out trombones, flutes, clarinets, and other band instruments. Students are excited and celebrating their success in music! We are excited for what the following school year has in store for us. It is with excitement that we share, we now have an Instagram account for music class! Follow @northend\_music. This was announced on our HomeworkNow site. Videos and pictures are posted to show our activity, progress, and performance in music!)

**Physical Education** – As the year comes to a close and we look forward to this year’s Field Day! Students have been participating in different relay races in preparation for field day! As we come to a close, we will be revisiting the various games in which students found to be their favorites. All different games in which the students expressed a liking for throughout the year will be revisited. Games that will reinforce different skills such as cooperative game play, throwing, kicking, striking, and balancing. Hopefully the students will have a refreshed memory of these games and play some of them over the summer with friends and family keeping everyone active!

**World Language** – Kindergarten will be reviewing all of their colores, números and classroom greetings/farewells to prepare for first grade! First graders will be reviewing el tiempo (weather vocabulary), los meses del año (months of the year) and los partes del cuerpo (parts of the body) to get ready for second grade! Second graders will be reviewing la familia (family), los animales and Spanish speaking countries (and making sure they know where to find them on a globe!). Third graders will be reviewing la clase (classroom objects), la casa (the house) and la comida (food). Fourth grade will be reviewing los deportes y los pasatiempos (sports and hobbies), la hora (telling time) and subject pronouns...along with everything else they have learned from Kindergarten to fourth grade by participating in a World Language Trivia game!!!

**Professional Development Staff has attended:**

- Our final I&RS Committee was conducted on May 18, 2018. Grade 3 & Grade 4 finished up the Conquer Math trainings for the year!
- Our Future Ready Committee met on May 29 & June 5 to finalize our plan to be submitted by June 30, 2018. All indicators point to NE School being certified very soon!
- Our Faculty Meeting was held on May 30, 2018. The following topic was discussed:
  - Google Classroom – (completed by Mrs. Leddy)
  - Directions for setting up Google Classroom
  - Assigning students work
  - Parent communication tool
- Our School Improvement Panel (ScIP) met on May 31, 2018 to discuss our plan for professional development for the 2018-19 school year.