

REPORT TO THE CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michael J. Fetherman, Superintendent

March 26, 2018

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Grade	June 2017	February 2018	Change (+/-)
K	106	92	- 14
1	84	110	+ 26
2	120	82	- 38
3	130	123	- 7
4	113	128	+ 15
Total	553	535	- 18
5	127	112	- 15
6	125	127	+ 2
7	132	124	- 8
8	139	135	- 4
Total	523	498	- 25
9	115	129	+ 14
10	132	113	- 19
11	146	130	- 16
12	120	142	+ 22
Total	513	514	+ 1
Special Education (Self-Contained PreK-12)	20	27	+ 7
Preschool (Tuition)	4	14	+ 10
GRAND TOTAL	1613	1588	- 25
Handicapped 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. Recommendations are currently being compiled for careful consideration.
- Conduct needs assessment of AP and college prep courses offered at CGHS; consider assessing student interest for the creation of new courses.
- Conduct an audit of all placement rubrics in grades 7-12 to establish a balance between inclusiveness and rigor; rewrite, as necessary.
- Conduct a needs assessment of "decile" class ranking at CGHS.
 - 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 most recent Coffee Talk was held at Memorial Middle School on March 5th. Several parents were in attendance to discuss topics that included the school district's budget drivers, the importance of a media specialist at MMS, fundraising initiatives and the recent safety notification to parents regarding an alleged incident at MMS.
- The Cedar Grove Education Foundation is back! The superintendent and Board of Education wish to extend their sincere appreciation to Mrs. Kathleen Jablonski, CGEF President, Mrs. Trish Wilson, CGEF Vice President, and Mrs. Jennifer Warkentin, CGEF Treasurer. The Foundation held its first event since its rebirth on March 15 - A Taste of the Arts in CG. It was a wonderful start to what promises to be an exciting slate of events put together by the Ed. Foundation. Thank you to all the students, staff and community members for participating!
- 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 your 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. South End School and Memorial Middle School were recently certified as Future Ready as a part of the inaugural certification process!
- 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.
- The district-wide January 15, 2018 EdCamp was a huge success! This full-day professional day experience engaged staff in personalized learning that was embedded (for the most part) in technology education and self-improvement. Feedback surveys have been disseminated and will be analyzed to assist us with the planning process for next year's EdCamps! The Technology Committee extends their sincerest appreciation to all of the presenters and organizers of this meaningful and worthwhile event.

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 be able to plan effectively for any changes in student population.

BOE Goal #5: Finances

- Maintain fiscal responsibility while identifying and pursuing additional revenue sources for the District including, but not limited to, signage on District property and the Cedar Grove Education Foundation.

Promoting Mathematics and Science in our Schools:

- Teachers in K - 8 have continued the Conquer Mathematics program with a great deal of positive feedback!
- Mrs. Stanford and Mrs. Barboza attended the Association of Math Teachers of NJ workshop on Feb. 7, 2018. In addition to diverse workshops, they had the pleasure of working with guest speaker Dan Meyer - a math educator known as the “father “ of 3-Act Lessons and the current Chief director for the online graphing program DESMOS. Information was relayed to teachers at a department meeting. Several teachers have applied DESMOS in their classroom to provide further opportunities for investigation and exploration of new concepts.
- Teachers of Science are utilizing the practice assessments recently made available in preparation for the new NJSL Science Assessment. The Pearson “PARCC” platform will be used for testing. Teachers are exposing students to the multi-step problems and have scheduled times in their calendar to have student practice using Test-Nav.
- The most recent conversation regarding program of studies for mathematics is push students more to a statistics track as opposed to pre-calculus and calculus, which is what is known to the general population as the “track of choice.” 85% of college majors in which students are required to take a math-based course is actually founded in Statistics and one of the reasons that schools are encouraging more students to choose this course after Algebra II.

Fire Drill / Security Drill Update:

- CGHS: Fire Drill – Week of March 26, 2018; Lock Down Drill – Week of March 26, 2018
- MMS: Fire Drill – March 19, 2018; Lock Down Drill – Week of March 21, 2018
- NE: Fire Drill – Week of March 26, 2018; Lock Down Drill – March 23, 2018
- SE: Fire Drill – Week of March 26, 2018; Lock Down Drill – March 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 March Student of the Month is a learner who brings intellect, insight, and most importantly, laughter wherever she goes. She is a student who has continuously set the bar higher and higher within the English department. As an AP Literature student, she has mastered the art of the written word and is positively fearless when it comes to class discussion. Her participation and leadership in extra-curricular activities such as All School Council, National Honor Society, and tennis shows her unwavering dedication to CGHS. Congratulations, Elissa Johnson!
- Congratulation goes out to senior Hunter Romanko for being selected as a Boston University Trustee Scholar. The scholarship covers full tuition and is renewable for up to eight semesters. Trustee Scholars are selected based on their outstanding academic records, their contributions to their school and community.
- Mrs. Jessen-Foose and the CGHS drama, choir and band students will be presenting “Free to Be You and Me, an interactive and educational platform which initiates discussions, self-reflection and tolerance through

a musical performance. This presentation will be at North and South End Elementary Schools, Laning & Forest Elementary Schools in Verona and KDM Elementary School in Rockaway. There will be an additional performance on March 28th at 7:00 PM at the Cedar Grove High School auditorium.

- The CGHS Sports Management class held their 2nd Annual Orange Invitational on March 22nd at 7PM. Students and staff played for bragging rights on the volleyball court! The event was well attended and hugely successful!
- Thank you goes out to the Irish Club and Mr. Sweeney for organizing the annual Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon. There was a tremendous amount of corn beef sandwiches and dessert for the students and staff to eat. We were even blessed with one CGHS student doing an Irish Jig.
- Good Luck to the CGHS Film Club who will be participating in the Garden State Film Festival on Saturday, March 24 in Asbury Park.

College & Career Readiness:

- CGHS offered the SAT test on Saturday, March 10th from 8AM -12:00PM. 125 students took the assessment!

Communication:

- Students at CGHS exercised their first amendments rights on Wednesday, March 14th with an organized "walk-in." Parents and law enforcement officials were informed of the situation and an eblast was sent to all parents/guardians.

Specialist Update (Guidance, Student Assistance Counselor, PE, Media Athletics, Clubs):

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

- The counselors are currently meeting with juniors to plan senior schedules and start the post-high school planning process. These meetings are taking place during a student's elective or study hall and lasting approximately 20-25 minutes.
- Ms. Rubino will visit St. Catherine's to meet with 8th graders who will be attending CGHS next year to plan their schedules. Ms. Rubino and Mrs. Denman visited MMS on 3/15 to meet with all 8th grade students for scheduling.
- The school counselors are inputting course requests for next year and providing this information to the principal to determine section #s for next year.
- The guidance office is collecting college acceptance information in Naviance. There are currently over 40 local scholarships available to CGHS seniors.
- The Spring newsletter will be posted by the end of the month.
- The 3rd marking period report cards will be processed and posted in the parent portal on 3/29

➤ **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.
- Continued contact via email/phone with parents regarding student issues or concerns.
- Proctored SATs on 3/10/18.
- Logging into X2VOL daily to approve student hours and monitor progress.
- Working and communicating with non-profit organizations to inform staff of current volunteer opportunities.
 - ✓ Updating X2VOL bulletin board to provide students with important information.
 - ✓ Addressing student and parent concerns/issues relating to X2VOL and community service hours.
- Scheduled Luncheon (May 24) for students who complete the required amount of community service hours.
- Attended NJPSA workshop on 3/15/18.
- Attended Essex County Student Recognition Program on 3/15/18.
- Attending monthly SAC meeting on 3/23/18.

➤ **Athletics (Mr. Gogerty):**

- **Spring Athletics Opening Dates:**
 - ✓ Baseball: April 2, 2018 @ Science Park
 - ✓ Softball: April 2, 2018 vs. Mount St. Domenic Academy
 - ✓ Boys' Lacrosse: March 30, 2018 @ Pequannock
 - ✓ Girls' Lacrosse: March 29, 2018 vs. Union Catholic
 - ✓ Boys' Tennis: April 2, 2018 vs. West Orange
 - ✓ Boys' Track and Field: April 4, 2018 vs. Christ the King, Technology, and Newark Collegiate
 - ✓ Girls' Track and Field: April 4, 2018 vs. Christ the King, Technology, and Newark Collegiate
- **Congratulations to the following student-athletes for their selection to the Star Ledger/NJ.com All State Teams:**
 - ✓ Wrestling - Anthony Clarizio – 5th place @ 132lbs; Anthony Clarizio – Essex County Wrestler of the Year
- **Congratulations to the following student-athletes for their selection to the Super Essex Conference Divisional Teams:**
 - ✓ Boys Basketball - Mike Pronesti – 1st Team; Dennis Mitola – Honorable Mention
 - ✓ Girls Basketball - Ava Fernandez – 1st Team; Ava Mandala – 2nd Team; Jessica Sinisi – Honorable Mention
 - ✓ Wrestling - Anthony Clarizio – 1st Team; Joe McCarthy – 1st Team; Dominic Tafuri – 2nd Team; Matthew Lay – Honorable Mention; Antonio Cuffari – Honorable Mention
 - ✓ Ice Hockey – Big North Conference (Patriot Division) - Alex LoPresti – 1st Team; Nick LoPresti – 1st Team; Matthew O'Donnell – Honorable Mention
- **Congratulations to the following student-athletes for their selection to the Passaic County All County Teams:**
 - ✓ Ice Hockey - Alex LoPresti – 1st Team; Nick LoPresti – 1st Team

➤ **Media Center (Ms. Swanson):**

- **Meetings Attended:**
 - ✓ Thursday, March 1st, 11:00 AM - Middle States Planning Meeting
 - ✓ Monday, March 19th, 2:50 PM - Faculty Meeting
 - ✓ Thursday, March 22nd, 6:00 PM - Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
 - ✓ Monday, March 26th, 3:00 PM - Middle State's Oral Report
- **Activities Since Last Report:**
 - ✓ 20 Classes are scheduled to come to the media center as of March 16th
 - ✓ The media center was/will be open at 7:30 AM on March 1, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28 and 29.
 - ✓ Middle States:
 - Revised Middle States Validation Team Google calendar as events changed
 - Attended Middle States Reception and Oral Report
 - Spoke to Middle States Validation team at two meetings. One on the Information Resources Standard and the other as a member of the Planning team
 - ✓ Created two online surveys - for Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Gogerty
 - ✓ MAP testing - Created 42 test sessions for the spring testing cycle
 - ✓ PARCC testing
 - Created 12 test sessions for the spring testing cycle
 - Created training slide show for proctors and presented at March faculty meeting
 - Printed out security agreements, Chain-of-custody forms, scripts
 - ✓ Setup spring testing season schedule and reserved Chromebook carts for the various tests
 - ✓ Working on a new media center website since I have been informed that the web hosting service I'm currently using is shutting down this summer

MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Student Activities/School Special Events:

- All students in grades 6 - 8 participated in the NJ Math League competition on February 27th. The students answered challenging math questions and competed against each other within MMS and other students around the state. The winners of our school competition will receive \$10 Amazon gift cards provided by Mrs. Hill who also runs the competition here at MMS. If our students perform well at the state level, they will be afforded the opportunity to attend a math camp this summer provided by NJ Math League. This year's school winners include: Grade 6 - 1st - Matthew Qassis, 2nd - Nancy Guan, 3rd - Nicholas Genuario, Emma Millman, Gianna Murray; Grade 7 - 1st - Isabella Galioto, 2nd - Aidan Daura, Madison Lemongello, Yilin Zhou, 3rd - Daniel Armanious, Mia Green; Grade 8 - 1st - Brandon Yeu, Louis Cicala, 2nd - Alexandria Eustice, Samuel Maarek, Aaron Sprigle, 3rd - Joseph Adubato.
- MMS will be having its 5th annual Student Faculty Challenge on Monday, March 26th. The event will take place in the middle school gymnasium at 3:00 PM. Students and staff will compete in Volleyball and Basketball. Presale tickets are \$5; \$7 at the door
- Teachers have been utilizing the Performance Matters platform to create assessments, gather data, and review data to help inform instruction. We have had 3 full-day visits at MMS from our representative to assist our staff in the process.
- On February 28th, Peer Leaders participated in their first of three "Sidekicks" trainings. The focus of these trainings is on important life skills that lead to good choices including goal setting, anti-bullying, cyber-safety, etc. 8th grade Peer Leaders conducted class lessons on March 16th for 5th grade students and, in essence, became their peer mentors.
- TREP\$ Marketplace at CGHS was a huge success! Our young entrepreneurs attended workshops over the past few months in preparation for the marketplace. Participants sold products that were handmade or selected in hopes to make a profit!
- During the week of February 23- March 2, MMS participated in the Essex County Education Association Pride Expo at the Livingston Mall. Student art work was displayed from grades 5-8. This was the first year that Cedar Grove participated in the expo and we are looking to add more tables to the event next year.
- On March 5th, 8th grade band members took a trip to watch our CGHS ensembles rehearse. The intention of this trip was to expose students to the high school group in hopes that they will continue playing their instrument during their high school careers. The event was well received and we hope that this will increase enrollment in the ensembles at the high school; 13 students attend this trip.

College and Career Readiness:

- In Tech Club, we have a group of students that recently updated the firmware on our Phantom 3 Drone and are in the process of making some repairs. During a recent flight, the gimbal bracket was cracked. A new bracket and mounting system was ordered and students are in the process of taking the existing setup apart and replacing the damaged pieces. Another group of students just completed a firmware update on the Drone. The app has changed and no longer allows for direct updating. Students researched the new process and figured out how to download the zip file and perform an update using a Windows computer. It was very impressive to see how our students persisted with the troubleshooting processes to get everything working correctly.

Grade Level Updates:

5th Grade - In social studies the students are working with partners on the chromebooks as they research the Amazon Rainforest. We continue to learn how to research a topic, what to look for, and how to summarize in our words. The students are researching the layers of the rainforest, plants, animals, and major issues the rainforest and the people of the Amazon are facing. We will also be taking our South America assessment on Performance Matters. In science, they are researching organisms and their classifications on the chromebooks. It is free choice for the students. In science and social studies we have

been working together on teaching the students how to research. In math, students are continuing their PARCC practice and using their skills to prepare for PARCC. They are working with fractions using pattern blocks and tiles and making connections to all fraction operations. In language arts, the classes have been reading Number the Stars as a follow up to the Holocaust speaker the 5th graders listened to in social studies. They have been continuing to work on close reading and using those strategies to help them on their PARCC practice tests. As for writing, they have started narrative writing and using dialogue and descriptive writing.

6th Grade - In Language Arts, students are completing research for their Influential Person Projects. They are currently reading a biography or autobiography and gathering relevant information from online sources. Students have begun using this information to compile research papers. These incorporate writing strategies taught throughout the year as well as MLA citations and format. In Mrs. Cecire's math class the students are utilizing a PARCC resource packet to complete and answer a variety of questions covering topics and concepts that they already have been taught. The students will then be checking their work by comparing their answers to a completed answer key where they will have to find the mistakes within the work, and justify the errors made.

7th Grade - After researching the CNN Heroes of 2017 and watching the top 10 nominees for the year, 7th grade English students analyzed the characteristics of what makes a hero and discussed the qualities needed to be considered one. Students then brainstormed, gathered ideas, and composed a letter to their own personal hero. After mailing over one hundred letters, the responses were overwhelming. Many students were excited to receive a phone call from a relative that lived across the world, a visit from a firefighting uncle, and hear the tears of joy from a loving grandparent. One student received a package from the Hayden Planetarium that included a book, poster, and stickers from Dr. Neil Degrasse Tyson, while another student's letter was read live on the air with Delilah on WLTW Lite FM. Former Cedar Grove High School graduate Jelani Remy and star of Broadway's *The Lion King* read the hero letter he received on an episode of his YouTube program. More stories keep coming in from the 7th grade heroes, and all students are proud of their own accomplishment in writing.

8th Grade - As an introductory lesson to a unit covering Ancient Greece, students will work with a rotating set of partners to identify characteristics of American society across five categories: politics, economics, athletics, social classes, and academics. This content will be compared to information based on the same categories that is representative of ancient Greek society and culture. Classes will identify similarities and differences. This lesson will be followed by a mapquest assignment in which students will find maps that display geographic characteristics of Greece such as mountainous terrain and trading patterns. Using the maps, students will make inferences about how aspects of Greek geography affected the development of the society and culture. In Ms. Bianchi's Language Arts classes, students are teaching Edgar Allan Poe. After completing an internet search about his life, students were assigned a text in groups of two to five. In their groups, students analyzed "The Black Cat," "The Tell-Tale Heart," portions of "The Raven," or "Annabel Lee," created worksheets to identify or review vocabulary terms and main ideas, and developed a lesson plan. Additionally, each group was required to submit its plan, a reading check, and approximately five quiz questions. The groups had the freedom to present, or teach, the class in any manner they chose which included slideshows, audio recordings, journals, discussions, and review games such as Jeopardy and Kahoot!

SOUTH END SCHOOL:

Student Activities/School Special Events:

- Read Across America was a great success at South End. Individual classroom activities, dress-up days and community volunteers reading to our children, all contributed to our celebration and encouragement to read, read, and read!
- A celebrity in our midst! South End welcomed David Walliams, author of *The Midnight Gang* and 18 other books to South End. Our grade 3-4 students were entertained by the author and judge of Britain's Got Talent (known in Britain as the other Simon Cowell).
- Congratulations and thank you to all our 3rd graders for dazzling us with their amazing Science Fair projects this month. Students presented their projects to parents, friends and fellow South End students in the gym. We are proud of your creativity and science knowledge.
- Our hallways were alive with the sound of bagpipes for St. Patrick's Day. Thank you to Mr. O'Connor, father of a Kindergarten student and grade 4 student, for playing the bagpipes for us in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Even Mrs. Petrillo was part of the act, playing the drum alongside him.
- South End welcomes Ms. Mary DeNunzio as our new Media Specialist. Ms. D. is very excited to be part of South End and has hit the ground running. We look forward to the great things she will do with our children. We are excited to have her with us.

Grade Level Updates:

Preschool – The month of March has been a fun and exciting month in preschool. The students have been learning all about the weather. (Because of all of the snow, they all know the word “nor’easter” now!) Along with our daily weather chart during morning meeting, the students have learned basic graphing skills. They graph the daily weather every morning using linking cube manipulatives and compare and contrast the weather from other weeks. Preschoolers use our math skills to count how many sunny days we have had, compared to rainy days, etc. In math, they are also continuing to practice counting and patterns. Students currently are working on “AAB” patterns on our number line. In language and literacy, the students are becoming more familiar with the connection between writing and reading. During story time, they know that the author writes the words and the illustrator draws the pictures. They have also been writing in their journals weekly. During this time, students are allowed to draw a picture of whatever they would like. After they are finished, they are encouraged them to “write words” that go along with their pictures. They use the phonological skills they have so far to write the letters they hear when they say the words in their pictures. The kindergarten teachers are very impressed with their journals!

Kindergarten – In Kindergarten, the children will be working on the short and long vowel sounds to further their writing and reading fluency this month. They will also be reviewing all their high frequency words. The children are continuing to work on completing journal starters and using inventive spelling. They have come a long way in journal writing. Students have just finished celebrating Read Across America. They completed lots of fun activities involving Dr. Seuss and we were entertained by Dr. Seuss books read aloud by our parent and staff volunteers. It was a great week! Students prepared for a fun St. Patrick's Day celebration by making fun projects! From hats with beards to leprechauns, the kindergarten children were ready for a day filled with bagpipes and mischief from the leprechaun. Lucky the Leprechaun brought the children, necklaces and bracelets to make up for messing their classroom. That crazy leprechaun inspired lots of great writing also! In math, the Kindergartners just completed chapters on Composing and Decomposing Numbers from 11-20 and used the great ideas we've learned from the math workshop. We will be starting a new chapter soon on Addition. Dr. Seuss stories and characters provided great opportunities to use tally marks and analyze data with graphs to review various concepts already introduced.

Grade 1 – The first grade “Writing Celebration” was a huge success. Each student had an opportunity to share their writing and published writing with their parents. The students were thrilled to have their parents join us and walk them through the writing process. The parents were impressed with what they

have accomplished thus far and gave wonderful feedback. We look forward to another celebration in the future. In math we are completing Chapter 6 – Count and Model Numbers and moving on to Comparing Numbers in Chapter 7. The students worked hard in Chapter 6 developing an understanding of whole number relationships and place value, including grouping in tens and ones with the use of a variety of manipulatives. The students continue to use Moby Max for math. In phonics and word work, we continue to focus on long and short vowels. As we move on from the controlled r pattern, our next couple of weeks will focus on vowel teams.

Grade 2 – In reading, the second grade has completed Unit 5 in our reading program *Good Habits, Great Readers*. The students have learned the fifth habit of a great reader: Read to Learn. They have also begun Unit 6 in *Good Habits, Great Readers* and the students are learning how to *Monitor and Organize Ideas and Information*. Students have applied the habit of *Read to Learn* to identify non-fiction text features such as captions, glossary, maps, table of contents, and index. Students have also learned how to understand and monitor their purpose for reading and how to use nonfiction text features and structures to help them better understand what they read. The children are beginning 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 Cause and Effect relationships and have also learned about singular and plural pronouns. Students 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 has been researching animals and will create a book about their animal. Students used a graphic organizer to assist them in the pre-writing stage of the writing process. In Social Studies, the students have learned about symbols and honoring people and events in our country's history. In Science, students have learned about the states of matter and properties of matter. In Math, the second grade has learned how to count groups of coins and how to tell time to the 5 minutes, half hour, and hour. They continue to use problem solving strategies such as writing number sentences and drawing pictures to solve story problems.

Grade 3 – Third grade students had the Science Fair at the beginning of the month, and they did a wonderful job. The students presented projects that were based on the solar system, weather, climate, electricity, and magnets. They have continued to study magnetism and have participated in investigations to further explore this topic. In math the students are finishing their fractions unit, and they have learned more complex concepts. They have been comparing, ordering, and finding equivalent fractions. The students have begun geometry, and they are seeing the application of these shapes in the real world. In language arts the students have read and made connections with fictional text. They are also reading nonfiction text and are using text features to help them summarize. They are writing informational responses in relation to their reading, and they are practicing narrative writing as well. They truly enjoyed a recent author's visit with David Walliams which has sparked their interest in his books. They are still involved with their Kachina Dolls project with decorating and adding final touches. In addition, the third grade watched the movie *Wonder* together, since they have been focusing on the theme of kindness.

Grade 4 – In fourth grade, we have been exploring living things in science. Students have been discovering similarities and differences between plants and animals. They are taking an in depth look at what makes living things living! In language arts, students are practicing writing narratives from a new point of view. Students have been comprehensively analyzing characters to be able to understand their perspective, to be able to rewrite the story from that character's' point of view. Students are working diligently to incorporate sensory details and figurative language to make their writing unique! In mathematics, we have continued on our fraction journey and students have learned to multiply whole numbers by both fractions and mixed numbers. Students have demonstrated mastery of this skill by using both manipulatives and models. Next, students will learn to relate fractions to decimals.

Specialist Update:

Music – In music class, students are preparing for their spring concert. They have been practicing proper vocal and breathing technique in our songs, and highlighting melodic form. Students in K have been learning properties of percussion instruments and identifying sounds without looking in their song/game *Can You Guess the Instrument*. First grade students have also been reviewing their instruments with this game. In first grade, students are learning how to read sheet music, learning what chorus means and how to repeat it in songs. Second graders have been practicing instruments in songs and ostinatos. They learned about the instruments and culture of Trinidad in the growing up song, and watched videos on the steel drums and how they are made and used in Caribbean style music. Third graders are practicing canons and reading Iconic Notation in songs *BA Marching Monster*, and the *Krebel Dance*, and *Sweet Water*. They know all notes and rests appropriate for third grade, and continue practicing them in our concert songs. The fourth grade finished an assessment for our song/game *Chicken on a Fencepost*, highlighting sixteenth notes. They also practiced rhythms in most grades through Rhythm Bingo. Students clap and repeat the rhythms after a student read it, and the students find the notes on their board. All students are learning the *Free to Be...You and Me* theme song for the play the high schooler students are coming to perform.

Art – All students have been preparing to be “showcased” artists in the annual art show! Kindergarten students focused on investigating the whimsical style of artist, Wayne Thiebaud, and are in the process of creating “sweet treats” in a collage style. One class is creating cupcakes, one is designing donuts and one class is creating ice cream cones in a mixed media manner. First grade students have been engulfed in the creation of South African art, specifically, the Ndbele tribe. They are designing dolls and houses in the colorful and multi-patterned style of this tribe. Second graders created mixed media masks, using symmetry and engineering to design these colorful decorations. Third grade students have enjoyed the 5 week kachina sculpture project! We are in week five; the final task is decorating these magnificent spirit dolls. We are well represented by parent helpers. Grade four is creating a portrait in conjunction with the autism awareness curriculum, based on the novel, “Wonder” and inspired by the artist, Sandra Silberzweig. We understand that we’re all alike on the inside...the true spirit of our soul! The art shows will be held on April 17 at South End.

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 – This week in Media, Ms. Mary DeNunzio has been introducing herself and having the younger grades do the same by creating a small poster about themselves. In grades 2-4, students have created classroom word clouds about themselves and they then created their own word cloud. All teachers who have had Comp/Tech thus far have been very forthcoming about what they would like to see happen in Comp/Tech to ensure that the period is meaningful for them and for the students. Next week students will be focusing on kindness and diversity, and reading a variety of books on this topic and completing interactive activities to accompany each book. The goal is to spark students’ thoughts and ideas about what it truly means to have kindness come first and accept others for who they are.

World Language – ¡Hola! This month our Kindergarteners are practicing their shapes and colors in Spanish and making a San Patricio “trébol” (shamrock) out of their handprints and construction paper! First graders are continuing to review the “meses del año” (months of the year) and writing their birthdays in Spanish! Second graders are practicing their Spanish speaking countries and talking about their “animales favoritos” (favorite animals). Third grade is continuing to practice “la casa” (the house)...learning how to say the rooms of the house and furniture in Spanish. Fourth grade is continuing to learn how to tell time in Spanish!

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 now in the third module which talks about friendship. All three grades are on the first lesson about being a good friend. The students described how to be a friend. Some qualities include being nice, kind, listening, and playing well with one another. The students practiced making a friend and then introducing them to the class. Each student explained why their friend is a good friend.

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:

- Casino Night was a great success! South End would like to thank Mrs. Turken, Mrs. Immersi and their committee, for all their hard work to benefit the children of South End. It was great to see so many parents/guardians support our school. Everyone in attendance had an amazing time!
- Thank you to Mrs. Goral and her committee for sponsoring another successful Scholastic Book Fair. Students were so thrilled with their purchases of new books. We appreciate your support of encouraging our children to read and love books.
- Thank you to the FSA’s Cultural Arts committee for another wonderful assembly, Traditions of Chinese Acrobatics. Our Kindergarten through grade 4 students were dazzled with the performer’s acrobatic abilities and learned so much about the Chinese culture.

Professional Development Staff has attended:

- South End teachers took part in a webinar focusing on RAZ Kids Plus. The program, used by our Kindergarten through grade 4 teachers, has added many new features that teachers can now incorporate in their classrooms.
- At a recent faculty meeting teachers were presented with information by Jennifer Niglos, a teacher of students with hearing disorders, on how to best service our students with Auditory Processing Disorder. She offered teachers a number of strategies that can be used in classrooms to help our students learn and achieve.

NORTH END SCHOOL:

Student Activities/School Special Events:

- Read Across America activities took place from January 10-March 2. Ms. Dyer challenged every class to read 50 books (Pre-K - K were challenged to read 25 books) between January 10 and February 28. Since the classes met the challenge (the total of books read by the whole school was over 1500) she had to dress up as a llama and visit every classroom on March 2. The following activities took place from February 26 - March 2: Early Morning Read-ins for grades 1 - 4, Book Bingo for the whole school, spirit wear to go along with our theme, and guest readers visited classes. In addition the community service portion of Read Across America was “Read to Feed.” In this initiative, students asked family members and friends to donate money based on the number of books they read from Jan. 10 - Feb 28. The money went to Heifer International which is a charity that provides livestock animals and the education to take care of them and become economically independent to families in small villages throughout the world. This program teaches students about people less fortunate than them and that each one of them has the power to help those people. Each

class had an online fundraising page so they could keep track of how much money they were earning. When the final off-line donations were added to the online donations, the total amount of money our school raised is \$4,000.00. Soon each class will get to choose the animal(s) they are going to donate. Some examples are: chickens, ducks, cows, goats, llamas, alpacas, and honey bees. As in past years, the North End FSA has sponsored these activities through a grant written by Mrs. Leddy. They provided the llama costume and prizes for the Early Morning Read-Ins and Book Bingo. Mrs. Leddy also created a video about all of these events to share with the North End Community. To view the video, go to the following link https://youtu.be/q_Z7e5axT1E.

- The FSA Cultural Arts Committee sponsored the play, Skippyjon Jones: Snow What! for all students on February 26, 2018.
- The Principal's Round Table Committee met on March 14, 2018. The following items were discussed:
 - ✓ Safety & Security at NE (Shared the Security Presentation from 2/27/18 BOE Meeting)
 - ✓ Technology Plan – Future Ready Certification for NE & CGHS
 - ✓ The District's 3-year Strategic Plan
- Students and staff showed his/her school spirit by wearing green on March 16, 2018.
- Some of Mrs. Johansson's and Ms. Caravella's (@ MMS) classes participated in a special activity at St. Vincent's Nursing Home on March 19, 2018. Participants spent time doing crafts with some of the patients. This type of 'Random Acts of Kindness' should be applauded. Thank you Mrs. Johansson and Ms. Caravella for your outreach into our community!

Grade/Department Level Updates:

- ***PK*** – Reading took on a new meaning in Preschool this month, as the students completed their 25 book challenge logs, welcomed parent guest readers, purchased some new and exciting books at the Book Fair and had a visit from a Llama! (Thank you Ms. Dyer) Our "Reuse, Reduce, Recycle" study is under way and the students have been busy learning ways to help the community and our environment. Along with this, the students and their reading buddies are creating a recycled robot! They spent time together selecting the various recycled materials they want to use and they can't wait to see their finished projects! In Math, we are continuing to discuss longer and shorter lengths and practice recognizing our numbers from 10 through 20. With February recognized as "National Children's Dental Health Month" and March as "National Nutrition Month," our class was fortunate to have a visit from a local dentist as well as a dietitian. The students learned the proper way to take care of their teeth and the important benefits of eating a healthy and well balanced diet. In Science, the students participated in an experiment, using eggs and soda, to determine what would happen to their teeth if exposed to amounts of unhealthy sweets. It didn't take long for the students to observe that their eggs turned brown and the shells cracked in numerous places! Finally, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a display of the students' "Lucky Family Shamrocks" and a fun, Irish jig!
- ***Grade K*** – We had an exciting start to the month with Read Across America. The students enjoyed the 25 book challenge, parent readers, assembly, book fair, and of course the visit from the llama. It was a great way to motivate kids to pick up a book and read! We also had our first book report during Read Across America. The students made a puppet of a main character from a book of their choice. They gave a report in front of the class sharing why that character was important in the story. They all did an amazing job! We have also been working on numerous word families in Reading. The children love the rhymes and are excited to when they are able to decode words on their own. Of course, we are also learning more sight words each week. It's wonderful to hear all these emergent readers. In Writing, we are continuing to work on writing a complete sentence. Capitalization, spacing, punctuation and basic sentence structure is being emphasized. In Math, we have worked hard on addition. The students have learned to use many different strategies to solve addition sentences and word problems. In Social Sciences, we have been learning about different types of weather. We've been graphing the different weather in March and reading many non-fiction

texts. We are looking forward to Spring weather and seeing the different signs of Spring that we have learned.

- **Grade 1** – There are so many things happening in first grade during March. Our students learned so much while celebrating Read Across America and learning about our theme, “Read to Feed.” We read books of all different genres and we were lucky to have so many parent volunteers come in to read to our classes. In math, we have been working on various strategies for addition and subtraction and identifying ones, tens and hundreds in place value. The students are working diligently with manipulatives, and during centers they strive to master these concepts. First graders read both fiction and non-fiction stories about families and life cycles and used some fact cards from Heifer International to learn about different animals and complete some writing activities. In Science, students learned about sound and light. They loved being scientists as they experimented with new things. Students are enjoying Moby Max and RazKids and continue to be proud of their own progress, growth, and strengths. We were very excited to learn that first graders surpassed the Read Across America challenge of reading 50 books by March 2nd. Students were also treated to a special visit by a very lovely llama that looked surprisingly like Ms. Dyer! It is a pleasure to watch their enthusiasm as they read more and more books

- **Grade 2** – What time is it? How much money is in your pocket? Ask a second grader! Second graders have been busy telling and writing time to the hour, half hour, and nearest 5 minutes. They also can recognize the values of quarters, nickels, dimes, pennies, as well as order coins by value and show a dollar in various ways. Students have developed their writing skills by crafting opinion pieces using at least three details to support their thoughts. Personification and alliteration were recognized through poetry and the use of context clues was emphasized to help develop vocabulary acquisition. Second graders continue to identify and utilize text features and evidence in non-fiction, while also defining character traits, setting, and plot in fictional work. They also described problem, solution, setting, and morals in fables. The use of guide words has been used to develop dictionary skills, and we continue to decode vowel teams as well as prefixes and suffixes. Social Studies classes have been focused on map skills and students have conducted investigations to describe the properties of matter. All students were challenged to build a boat that could float using only a few given materials. It was rewarding to see them working together, applying what they had been taught, and using higher order thinking skills to solve their challenge.

- **Grade 3** – Third graders wrote letters to a fashion designer expressing their opinions on a new updated outfit for the leprechauns using powerful leads, a topic sentence, main ideas, elaborative detail, and conclusions. Our reading genre this past month was biographies and the students distinguished facts from opinions and summarized important information about the individuals. Then the students selected someone they wanted to learn more about to research and write a biography. In science, we have completed various inquiry activities that show different types of forces and motions. Students worked in teams building different types of objects with motion from materials such as rubber bands, spools of thread, and empty toilet paper rolls. Another activity had the students measuring the distance traveled by comparing and contrasting forces using toy cars by changing the height of the ramp to see how the distance changed. In math, students identified two-dimensional shapes such as open and closed shapes, polygons and various types of quadrilaterals while determining their sides and how many angles were included.

- **Grade 4** – Fourth grade is hard at work and gearing up for PARCC. In math, we have begun working with measurement and data. As outlined by the standard, students are converting measurements of length, liquid volume and mass from a larger unit to a smaller unit. In ELA, we are working through a unit on Greek mythology which is allowing us to compare and contrast various myths and explore the meaning of words in conjunction with their Greek roots. In Social Studies, we have been visiting the Southeast region of the United States and learning about the geography, transportation and early

people of the region just a few aspects of our explorations. Finally, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day, students wrote limericks and generated an opinion piece on why they are so "lucky."

- **Art** – All students have been preparing to be “showcased” artists in the annual art show! Kindergarten students focused on investigating the whimsical style of artist, Wayne Thiebaud, and are in the process of creating “sweet treats” in a collage style. One class is creating cupcakes, one is designing donuts and one class is creating ice cream cones in a mixed media manner. First grade students have been engulfed in the creation of South African art, specifically, the Ndbele tribe. They are designing dolls and houses in the colorful and multi-patterned style of this tribe. Second graders created mixed media masks, using symmetry and engineering to design these colorful decorations. Third grade students have enjoyed the 5 week kachina sculpture project! We are in week five; the final task is decorating these magnificent spirit dolls. We are well represented by parent helpers. Grade four is creating a portrait in conjunction with the autism awareness curriculum, based on the novel, “Wonder” and inspired by the artist, Sandra Silberzweig. We understand that we’re all alike on the inside...the true spirit of our soul! The art shows will be held on April 17 at South End and April 19 at North End.
- **Media Center** – Pre-schoolers and Kindergartners listened to and discussed books about reading, books and St. Patrick's Day. First graders continued to practice their independent reading and showing evidence through Accelerated Reader quizzes. Second grade worked on research projects about African Americans and listened to biographical fiction books about many of the people they are researching. Third graders have been working cooperatively in groups to make Google Slide presentations about an area of the Dewey Decimal System. Fourth grade is continuing their research about a National Park/Memorial or Historic Site.
- **PE** – Students in grades 2-4 will be beginning the second leg of our physical fitness testing which includes curl-ups, shuttle run, pull-ups, flexed arm/hand, sit and reach and the shuttle run. Upon returning from spring break all students will begin our hockey unit! Students will learn the basics of the skills such as stick handling, passing, shooting and basic game play. Once the students have had time to practice these skills through various drills, these skills will be implemented into game like situations in order to improve the students' skills even further!
- **Guidance** – In kindergarten through second grade we are continuing to work through the lessons included in Zippy's Friends. The students are now in the third module which talks about friendship. All three grades are on the first lesson about being a good friend. The students are learning that you have to be nice, kind, listen, and play well with one another. Then the students made a friend and then introduced them to the class. Each student explained why his/her friend is a good friend.
- **World Language** – ¡Hola! This month our Kindergartners will be practicing their shapes and colors in Spanish and making a San Patricio “trébol” (shamrock) out of their handprints and construction paper! First graders are continuing to review the “meses del año” (months of the year) and writing their birthdays in Spanish! Second graders are practicing their Spanish speaking countries and talking about their “animales favoritos” (favorite animals). Third grade is continuing to practice “la casa” (the house)...learning how to say the rooms of the house and furniture in Spanish. Fourth grade is continuing to learn how to tell time in Spanish!
- **Music** – In music class, all students are preparing for the Spring Concert that will be held on May 15th. We have been practicing proper vocal and breathing technique in our songs, and highlighting melodic form. Students in Kindergarten have been learning properties of percussion instruments and identifying sounds without looking in our song/game, “Can You Guess the Instrument.” First grade students have also been reviewing instruments with this game. In first grade, we are learning how to read sheet music, learning what chorus means and how to repeat it in songs. We had a lot of fun

performing the Russian folk dance “Sasha” with partners, and learning some new Russian words as well! Second graders have been practicing instruments in songs and ostinatos like Old King Cole. We learned about the instruments and culture of Trinidad in the Growing Up song. We watched videos on the steel drums and how they are made and used in Caribbean style music. Third graders are practicing canons and reading iconic notation in songs BA Marching Monster, The Krebel Dance, and Sweet Water. We know all notes and rests appropriate for third grade, and continue practicing them in our concert songs. The fourth grade finished an assessment for our song/game Chicken on a Fencepost, highlighting sixteenth notes. We also practiced rhythms in most grades through Rhythm Bingo. Students clap and repeat the rhythm after a student reads it, and all students find the notes on his/her board. All students are also learning the “Free to Be...You and Me” theme song for the play that will be coming to North End next week. K-2 students also learned a song about growing up, comparing the characteristics and timbre to two other songs about growing up. We discussed the voices, the instruments, and the style that was performed.

Professional Development Staff has attended:

- Teachers continued to attend Year 3 Conquer Math training.
- The Special Education Department met on February 27, 2018 to discuss the following:
 - Related Services Communication Sheets
 - Communication with teachers/families regarding potential classified children
 - IEP annual reviews
 - SPED Shared Calendar to identify all upcoming meetings
 - PARCC testing/accommodations
- Ms. Dyer & Mrs. DiMatteo attended the NJPSA Leadership Conference on February 28, 2018.
- Our monthly Teacher Academy was held on February 28, 2018. Teachers participated in a webinar regarding:
 - Reading A to Z, Vocabulary A to Z, and Raz Kids
- Our Faculty Meeting was held on March 14, 2018. The following topics were discussed:
 - Safety & Security (Presentation from the 2/27/18 BOE Meeting)
 - Jen Nieglos, MAT, presented information regarding Central Auditory Processing Disorder