

REPORT TO THE CEDAR GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michael J. Fetherman, Superintendent

May 22, 2018

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Grade	June 2017	April 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	28	+ 8
Preschool (Tuition)	4	14	+ 10
GRAND TOTAL	1613	1590	- 23
Students in other Public and Private Schools & Shared Time Students			41
Home Instruction			6

BOE Goal #1: Student Achievement - 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.

- Our final Coffee Talk of the school year took place on Wednesday, April 25 at South End School. This informal discussion was well attended and topics touched upon included the role played by media specialists in our schools, the potential need for full-time counselors at each elementary school, intramural sports at MMS, the use of learning tools to help struggling learners in the classroom and the logistics of high school ice hockey.
- 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 –May 14, 2018; Evacuation Drill – TBD
- MMS: Fire Drill – May 4, 2018; Evacuation Drill – May 9, 2018
- NE: Fire Drill – TBD; Evacuation Drill TBD
- SE: Fire Drill – TBD; Evacuation 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:

- Congratulations to Resham Jerawal for her selection as the CGHS Student of the Month of May on behalf of the Business/Technology Department. Resham has been a top performing student in Mr. Cardinale's, Mrs. Galambos' and Mr. Cardiello's classes. She has approached all her work with an acute attention to detail, always looking to find ways to apply the lesson in class to the real world. Her critical thinking and problem solving skills are top flight; she uses a detailed analytical thought process to achieve exceptional marks throughout her four years in the business/technology program. Over that time she has developed a strong passion for business and economics and will continue that passion at Boston College next fall.
- Congratulations to Ava Fernandez for collecting her 100th hit in her softball career against Mount Saint Dominic On May, 2nd.
- Congratulations to the CGHS Art Club and its Advisor Ms. Sweeney for a fantastic Art Show on Wednesday, May 16th. This was Cedar Grove High School's first Art Show and the Art Club students did an amazing job!
- The CGHS Film Club held their 2nd Annual *Best of the Fest* on Friday, May 11th. Students created four short films, while 7 were brought in from the Garden State Film Festival. Kudos to Mr. DeStefano and Ms. Sweeney for a great night!
- Congratulations to Zion Oh and Christopher Handel for being recognized at the Essex County Superintendent Awards Dinner - Zion will be attending **Georgia Tech** and Chris will be attending **George Washington University**.
- Students in AP US History, AP Economics and Government and Politics took their annual trip to Washington, DC on Friday May, 18th - Tuesday, May 22nd. As usual Mr. Konopka, Mr. Gallagher and Mrs. Schomaker had a potpourri of events and sites for our students to see over the course of 5 days!

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

- **Guidance (Mrs. Denman and Ms. Rubino)**
 - AP exams started on 5/7 and will continue through 5/18.
 - Ms. Rubino and Mrs. Denman have been out of the office proctoring each exam.
 - Mrs. Denman and Ms. Rubino are working with Mrs. Bieber to finalize the details for the Local Scholarship Ceremony which will be held on June 5th. Invitations will be handed out prior to 5/25.
 - Seniors have been asked to complete a Graduation Survey in their Naviance account. This survey is very brief and asks about post-high school plans for ALL seniors, whether they are pursuing a post-high school education, going to work, military, etc.
 - The 4th marking period progress reports were processed and posted in the parent portal for the 4th marking period. Counselors continue to meet with students who are in danger of failing a course.
 - Mrs. Denman is working with Mrs. DeFabiis, Student Assistance Counselor, on hosting a workshop next year to inspire and empower ALL of the young women of CGHS. The goal is then to create and

facilitate an ongoing club to boost self-esteem and create a sense of sister-hood and support in an effort to build confident, strong, and kind future leaders.

➤ **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.
- Sent out invitations to students who have met their goal for X2VOL
 - ✓ Luncheon is scheduled for May 24, 2018
- Attended SAC meeting on May 11, 2018
- Assisted staff in Art Show set up
- PARCC Proctoring
- Assisted with AP exams
- Attended NJPN Addiction Conference on May 18, 2018.

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

- **Meetings Attended:**
 - ✓ Tuesday, May 8th, 3:30 PM - District Technology Committee Meeting
 - ✓ Thursday, May 10th, 6:00 PM - Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
 - ✓ Friday, May 11th, 11:00 AM - HS Future Ready Meeting
 - ✓ Monday, May 14th, 2:50 PM - Faculty Meeting
 - ✓ Thursday, May 24th, 9:00 AM - HS Future Ready Meeting
 - ✓ Wednesday, May 30th, 6:30 PM - Academic Awards
- **Activities since Last Report:**
 - ✓ Testing was the story of the month. I either administered or helped with MAP, PARCC and AP exams. As I write this on the 17th we have one more day of PARCC Algebra I testing and I hope to finish any students who missed a PARCC Algebra I session on Monday, May 21st. The spring MAP testing cycle is done and reports will be printed and sent to parents as soon as the testing window for the district closes.
 - ✓ The new state Science test which is on the same testing platform as PARCC will be administered to Juniors on May 31st and June 1st.
 - ✓ A survey was developed to determine how the high school teachers utilize technology in their lessons to provide evidence for the high school's application for certification of being "Future Ready". Work will continue during the month to complete the application.
 - ✓ Only about a half dozen classes were able to come to the media center this month due to the testing schedule.
 - ✓ I assisted some teachers who were having problems with their Performance Matters assessments

➤ **Athletics (Mr. Gogerty)**

- The boys' lacrosse team finished their second varsity season with a record of 12-7. Then 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 girls 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 has a current record of 14-11 on the season and has qualified for the NJSIAA North 1 Group 1 state playoffs as the #7 seed which will begin on Monday, May 21st

at home against Hasbrouck Heights HS. The baseball team lost in the quarterfinal round of the GNT, falling to Seton Hall Prep 10-0.

- The softball team now has a record of 20-5 on the season. The softball team won the 2018 Essex County Tournament by defeating MSDA 1-0 in the finals. This was the school's fifth Essex County Tournament Softball Title. The Cedar Grove softball team has qualified for the NJSIAA North 1 Group 1 State playoffs as the #1 seed and will play the first round game on Monday, May 21st against Boonton HS.
- The boys' varsity tennis team finished their 2018 season with an outstanding 14-3 record. The Panther tennis squad went 12-0 in the SEC Colonial Division to win the Super Essex Conference Colonial Division Title. The tennis team dropped a very close first round NJSIAA Group 1 State match 3-2 to Leonia High School.
- The boys' Track and Field team finished the SEC dual meet season with an undefeated record of 9-0 in the SEC Independence Division. The team backed their dual meet record up with a nice showing at the SEC Championships finishing in second place. The boys will finish the season with the championship meets: The Essex County Championships will be May 18-19 at Woodman Field in Montclair and the Sectional Championships will be May 25-26 at Clifton High School.
- The girls' Track and Field team finished the SEC dual meet season with a record of 6-3. The team backed their dual meet record up with a nice showing at the SEC Championships finishing third. The girls will finish the season with the championship meets: The Essex County Championships will be May 18-19 at Woodman Field in Montclair and the Sectional Championships will be May 25-26 at Clifton High School.

College & Career Readiness:

- CGHS has completed PARCC testing in the area of ELA and Math. Make-ups are also complete. CGHS will now prepare our 11th graders for the NJSL Science Assessment beginning Thursday, May 31st and Friday, June 1st. Overall, 98% of our students sat for the PARCC assessment this year.
- CGHS, with continued support from the superintendent and Board of Education, will be offering a Robotics Class to our upperclassmen next year. The class will focus on building robots (Legos) as well as STEM activities integrated into the course.

Communication:

- CGHS continues to make the home/school connection vital to our success: numerous e-blasts have been sent relating to Science PARCC testing and the 13 reasons Why (Netflix movie) Additionally, I have been tweeting various activities which had taken place at school such as; the Cedar Grove High School Show, Chemistry Class, Spring Concert, Ava Fernandez's 100th Hit and the Best of the Fest (Film Fest).

APT and Parent Outreach:

- APT Meeting Monday, April 9th, 2018 at 7:00PM

MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Student Activities/School Special Events:

- We would like to congratulate the seventh grade students (Ryan Kreismer, Robert Lombardi, Tyler Pekar and Robyn Ulrich) who participated in the History Bee on April 17th. We are proud of their hard work and dedication in Social Studies that got them into the bee. They had an opportunity to represent MMS and compete against different schools all throughout New Jersey and New York.
- On April 27th and 28th The Middle School Theater Department presented "The Wizard of OZ". Both shows sold out. Our students did a wonderful job!

- On May 5th, seven of our 6th grade band students were selected to participate in the Region I Elementary Honor Band Festival. Students spent the day with other 6th grade band members from Northern New Jersey preparing a wonderful concert for their families. AJ Bicksler, Nancy Gwan, Kavi Gupta, Max Newman, Julia Pineda, Matthew Qassis, and Hannah Rosenberg put in a great deal of work and we are extremely proud of their dedication.
- On May 5th, six students from MMS participated in the Elementary and Junior High All-State Honors Choir Festival. Kailyn Luizzi, Gianna Albanese, Siena Giordano, Peter Ulrich, Victoria Cutalo and Kimlani Tanella rehearsed to learn challenging music surrounded by other great young musicians. Students were led by talented conductors from the tri-state area that guided them to give an expressive and emotional performance. Congratulations to our MMS students on a job well done!
- On May 14th and 15th the incoming 5th grade students visited from the elementary schools. The students were able to visit each 5th grade teacher as well as hear from current 5th grade students on what to expect in September. The students also received a brief introduction to our band program and the available instruments that can be played.

College and Career Readiness:

- Our current 6th grade S.T.E.M. class is learning about sustainability by managing Panther Square. Students are responsible for taking care of the pond, butterfly garden, bird garden, compost, and the MMS Greenhouse.
- Our students have also just created a raised garden to transplant the crops that they have been growing in the greenhouse. Crops include Cherry and Rutgers tomatoes, green beans, broccoli, lettuce, cucumbers, and several different herbs. In the process, our students were responsible for drilling and using an impact driver to put the 2"x6"x8' pieces of lumber together as the perimeter of the garden. Students also learned the concept of the 3, 4, 5 right triangle in order to make sure that the finished garden was installed square and a bubble level to make sure that the material was installed level. Students then discussed the volume formula to understand the amount of 1.5 cubic feet bags of soil necessary to fill the garden after they turned over the existing soil.
- A water filtration system is also being created to clean the water captured in collection area. Our students are also responsible for taking pictures and videos which they have then been adding to the MMS Greenhouse website. Below are some of the pictures that they have taken.





Grade Level Updates:

5th Grade - In social studies the students are designing Canadian totem poles based off their research of a First Nations group in Northwest Canada. Students have learned about the First Nations as part of their Canada unit, and are creating the totem poles based on their culture, beliefs, legends, and what they hunted for food and survival. Those symbols will be added to their posters along with their research explaining why they chose the symbols. They can also choose a First Nation symbol of their choice that they feel represents themselves or their family. Science, math, and language arts all worked together on a STEM lesson on seed dispersal by wind. Students designed an apparatus to make their seed “a centimeter cube” to transport the seed via the wind. They used a variety of supplies around the room including paper bags, cups, plastic bags, etc. Teams then tested their design outside with 3 tries. Students then calculated the mean of their trials to analyze the success of their designs. Lastly, the students reflected on their STEM projects, the students wrote an ode to our design poem using poetic devices like rhyme scheme and figurative language as taught in their language arts classes.

6th Grade - In math class, we will be beginning to collect our own data sets and analyze mean median, mode, range, & Interquartile Range. Students will be learning how to construct box and whisker plots and histograms to display their results. On May 23, the sixth grade Wax Museum will take place. Students will be dressed in costume as the influential people they researched and will present a brief statement introducing themselves and the accomplishments they have made based on prior research. Students will also interview their classmates to learn about the accomplishments of the other influential people researched. Finally, each student will complete a written assignment based upon their findings from their interviews.

7th Grade - The 7th Grade Team introduced Greek mythology through a project presentation done by the students. Each individual student chose a mythological god, goddess, or creature to research for their characterization. Within the classroom, research sessions were conducted in order to teach the students proper research techniques. Books, documentaries, and the internet were used by the students to effectively cite credible information and create a works cited page in addition to writing an essay that conveyed their research. The purpose of this project was to show the students how to properly research and retrieve information while having the opportunity to create an optional costume to represent the individual they conducted their research on. Finally, students will verbally introduce their mythological individual to their peers through a fifteen line speech as they are dressed in costume. The 7th grade teachers will also dress in costume to partake in this project, which will take place on May 25th.

8th Grade - In Social Studies students are working on Greek cultural achievement project in which an aspect of Greece’s legacy is represented on a hand-drawn vase. Although accidental, Greek pottery is a testament to its legacy both in the beauty of the work and the expression it provides of its culture. For this reason, we are using pottery as the backdrop for the presentation of major achievements from the Archaic and Classical Ages. Achievements include pottery, philosophy, medicine, theatre, the Olympics, and literature. On the reverse side of the vase, students present their topic in writing. In Mr. Brady’s pre-algebra class, students enhanced their understanding of surface area by completing a 3D project. In completing their work, students used a net to create a 3D object by finding the sum of all the surfaces.

SOUTH END SCHOOL:

Student Activities/School Special Events:

- Our grade 3 and 4 students worked so hard during PARCC testing. To celebrate their effort, they were treated to an assembly entitled, “The Healthy Hat Trick” sponsored by the NJ Devils and Get Focused. Only 70 schools in NJ were privy to this fun filled presentation highlighting the NJ Devil’s Mascot “NJ”. Students were encouraged to fulfill 3 goals (a hat trick): be educated, be active, be healthy.
- Once again our students amazed us with their musical talents at our Spring Concert on May 18th. From Preschool to grade 4, students sang songs from Around and Out of this World. Our String Orchestra performed and dazzled the audience. We are so proud of all our students.
- Fourth graders love South End School but are looking forward to moving on to MMS. They took time to visit their future school on May 15th and learn all they could about middle school.
- Take Your Child to Work Day was celebrated at South End School on April 26th as our staff brought some very special visitors to our school...their children. It was a great day!

Specialist Update

Music - All students performed in the Spring Concert and did a wonderful job! Kindergarten and first graders have been securing their rhythm writing and reading in “Rap it Clap it,” “Closet Key,” and “Spring Rhythms”; three activities that focus on reading standard musical notation, a skill carried through fourth grade and on. Students also started working on dynamics in first grade, words that tell if music is loud or soft... or how we say it, forte and piano. Pieces like the “William Tell Overture” by Rossini and “Spring” from the Four Seasons by Vivaldi, help students to experience these differences in music. Second grade is ready to end the year in note reading, playing, and composing. They had a month of studying the composers Mozart and Beethoven, and their impact on history. Students also listened to visual representations of their music on YouTube, and were able to pick out the patterns in melody. They learned that Beethoven finished the classical period with his famous Symphony No. 9, or “Ode to Joy”. Third grade learned a new circle game for steady beat and teamwork, “Stella Ella Ola”. The students studied and completed a final quiz to sum up everything learned about the recorder. The children also completed review sheets on the treble clef, music notation, and time signature. Fourth grade is preparing songs for their promotion at this time of the year. They are also finishing learning about new musical symbols: legato/slur, tie, repeat, allegro, largo, staccato, flat, sharp. Students take these symbols and highlight them in excerpts of music, and practice the new vocabulary in our songs. They are also reviewing our instruments of the band and orchestra, as Mrs. Imperatore will be coming down to the elementary schools to introduce the instrument choices for any student who wants to join band next year.

Art - While the academic year is coming to fruition, the students in the art room are learning more than ever and creativity is abounding!! Students have greatly enjoyed hearing and discussing “Mrs. Martin’s Message” in the beginning of class; my version of Nurturing Hearts. Kindergarten students are in the process of discovering the concepts of warm and cool colors and contrast in painting. This is accomplished through a shark painting. First graders have completed a very complex process of creating their own template, stenciling, watercolor and spraying a background to create gorgeous compositions. Second graders discovered the works of Picasso and designed guitar collages, which were used as the decorations for the Spring Concert! Third grade classes explored the work of Sandra Silberzweig and designed magnificent pastel and oil crayon compositions in warm and cool colors. Fourth grade students completed collage techniques with overglazing and painting through the design of a bird’s nest, complete with speckled eggs!!

Physical Education - All Physical Education classes are participating in the President’s Challenge. The challenges are designed to help improve their activity and fitness levels. The five challenges consist of push-ups, v-sit, shuttle run, sit-ups, and the pacer.

Media - In the media center, fourth graders are finishing up their autobiography projects which will be hanging up on the bulletin board very soon. Next, they will be working on a 'Fourth Grade Brochure' to hopefully give to the incoming third graders in September. In Kindergarten, the children are completing various 'All About Me' projects in Comp/Tech, which is exposing them to many aspects of technology and are working on an author study of Mo Willems. To accompany one of the books, they will be creating and donating cards for hospitalized children.

Nurse - South End School will be celebrating "Don't Fry Day" on Friday, May 25th. This day is a National Observance to focus attention on sun protection as we enter the official start of the summer season. There will be fun activities throughout the day along with hand-outs for the faculty/staff and parents and work sheets for the students. We will observe by wearing a Sun Hat to school that day.

World Language - This month Kindergarteners learned about Cinco de Mayo! They completed a Cinco de Mayo packet that involved a Spanish color by number (using colors in Spanish), matching Spanish vocabulary words to pictures and practicing writing Cinco de Mayo vocabulary words! First graders have started to review the parts of the body, numbers, colors and greetings that they have learned as of yet (concentrating on reading and writing in Spanish). Second graders have successfully mastered naming twenty one Spanish speaking countries! Not an easy task...they can even find them on the globe! They are also starting to review animals and family vocabulary that they learned this year. Third grade completed a reading and follow-up question sheet about Cinco de Mayo. They have also started to learn about food vocabulary in Spanish (they were able to find out how to say their favorite food). Fourth grade also had a class discussion on the significance of Cinco de Mayo (how much did they remember from previous lessons?) and finished up their unit on subject pronouns and telling 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 beginning module 5 which talks about dealing with change and loss. The lessons include are how change and loss is part of life, coping with death, and learning from change and loss.

FSA and Parent Outreach:

- Sincerest thanks to our FSA for their generosity during Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers/Staff were treated in a special way starting with an amazing breakfast and ending with a Hawaiian Luau luncheon. Our teachers/staff were spoiled and truly made to feel special and appreciated.
- South End celebrated the work of our School Nurse, Mrs. Lohmann and our office Administrative Professionals, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Infante during the month of May. Thank you to all for all they do for our children.
- The FSA sponsored their annual Plant Sale for Mother's Day. From Preschool to grade 4, students chose the most special plant to honor their mom on this special day.

Grade Level Updates:

Preschool – This month the preschool students are enjoying the springtime weather as we discuss the four seasons, weather and weather changes. In science, the students are learning the importance of taking good care of our planet, Earth, as well as learning about some of the different landforms found on Earth. The book, "We Are Growing!" by Laurie Keller and Mo Willems inspired them as they planted lima bean seeds and talked about what plants need to grow and survive. In keeping with the springtime theme, in Language Arts the students are learning to use descriptive words to describe things like the spring season and rain. In Math, the students are busy working on their number sequencing skills for two digit numbers

from 10-20. Lastly, the students shared why they are special for the school literary magazine. We looked into mirrors to help notice the unique features of ourselves and drew self-portraits to go along with it.

Kindergarten – The Kindergarten classes are beginning a unit called “Seeds.” The children learned how to sequence the events in the life cycle of a tree and plant using pictures and words. The children practiced the letters X. They identified the “x” sound at the end of words, such as fox, box, etc. Kindergarteners also celebrated the wedding of Q and U to help children to learn the sound and spelling of words with q in the word. The children have been introduced to all of their high frequency words. The word wall has about 45 words!!!! They are so smart! The Kindergarten students have also been given a new writer’s notebook. In this new journal, the teacher gives the children a topic to write about and the children are responsible for organizing their thoughts and writing it down. The children have progressed in the writing process and are writing two and three sentences on a topic. We are so proud of them! In Math, the kindergarten children have learned how to compose and decompose numbers to ten. Students are completing our addition and beginning our subtraction units and will be moving on to a review of all of our concepts in math soon. The children will plant some seeds next week and they will chart the growth! So exciting!

Grade 1 – In writing the students used the writing process to write an opinion piece about their favorite holiday. The students were excited to go to Turtleback Zoo on our field trip. They had fun seeing and learning about all the animals. In math we are in the middle of Chapter 8 – two digit addition and subtraction. The students are working hard to understand using models to add and subtract, making ten to add and using place value to add. In reading the students are reading *Frog and Toad Together* by Arnold Lobel. The students are enjoying reading this book in school and at home. Each chapter we have been focusing on reading skills taught throughout the school year, such as cause and effect, character and setting, and problem/solution.

Grade 2 – In reading, the second grade has completed Unit 6 in our reading program *Good Habits, Great Readers*. The students have learned the sixth habit of a great reader: Monitor and Organize Ideas and Information. The Second Grade is currently on Unit 7 in *Good Habits, Great Readers* and the children are learning the seventh habit of a good 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 synonyms, antonyms, prefixes, and suffixes. Students have also learned how to use text evidence to find the answer to a question in a short story or article. We are continuing to use Words Their Way to work on specific word study skills with each student. Students are working on sorting their words and recognizing words that follow the same pattern in a story or poem. The Second Grade is continuing to work on their Animal research reports. Students are researching their animals and have begun writing their animal reports. The Second Grade is continuing to work on their Animal research reports. Students are researching their animals and have begun writing their animal reports. In Social Studies, the second grade is continuing to learn how American symbols and important figures in history. In Science, the second grade is learning how to put matter together and how to create different mixtures using various types of matter. In Math, the second grade has learned how to interpret data in a picture graph and bar graph. Students have also learned how to answer questions based on bar graphs and picture graphs. 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 have continued their novel study on *Charlotte’s Web*, and they have been enjoying it. They are participating in extension activities related to the book, and they are demonstrating what they are learning throughout the story. They are practicing their reading comprehension, and they are doing research projects with nonfiction text. The students are starting an opinion writing piece that is connected to *Hey, Little Ant*, and this will be their last composition of the

year. In math the students have been finishing their chapter on analyzing data through pictographs, bar graphs, and line plots. They are moving on to geometry which they have been exposed to previously. They are identifying polygons especially quadrilaterals and triangles. They are recognizing angles and additional characteristics of polygons. In social studies they have begun their unit on government, and they are discussing the three branches. They are also learning about leaders and other aspects of local, state, and national government.

Grade 4 – The fourth graders are relieved! We are finally finished with PARCC testing!!! Fourth graders continue to read the novel *Holes*. The students are focusing on providing constructed responses with evidence to support our answers. During Comp Tech, the fourth graders are researching a state to gather facts and write a report about each state. In Science, students completed the Unit on the Structures and Functions of Plants and Animals. The students just finished our unit on the Southwest in Social Studies. They discussed the geography, early history and resources of this region. Area, perimeter and finding the missing side! The fourth graders are focused on using formulas and drawings to help solve word problems!

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.

NORTH END SCHOOL:

Student Activities/School Special Events:

- The NE & SE FSA held the 4th grade Social at MMS on April 20, 2018. This activity is a way for the two schools to spend some time getting acquainted before moving on to middle school.
- Several NE Staff members brought his/her children to school for Take Your Child to Work Day on April 26.
- Several activities were held to celebrate the annual Teacher (and Staff) Appreciation Week. The FSA really made our NE Family feel appreciated during this very special week.
- The FSA held the annual Mother's Day Plant Sale on May 11, 2018. The FSA also gave each staff member one plant!
- Fourth Grade students visited MMS on May 14, 2018. This activity is held to assist the children with transitioning to middle school.
- Our annual Spring Concert was held on May 15, 2018. The children didn't disappoint! Thank you to Ms. Stroh, Mr. Savino and Ms. McCarter for his/her efforts!
- Our FSA Meeting was held on May 17, 2018. At this final meeting for the 2017-18 school year, the current Executive Board (Mrs. Sabrina Zunic, President; Mr. Anthony Freitas, Vice President; Nicole DiChiara, Treasurer; Angie Shropshire, Recording Secretary; and Lisa Cassilli, Corresponding Secretary) conducted a lot of business including the swearing in of the new Executive Board. This new Board will serve from July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020. The new NE FSA Executive Board is: Alyssa Tzavlakis, President; Irene Cadillo, Vice President; Fatoula Anastasopoulous, Treasurer; Janelle Nunes, Recording Secretary; and Tiffany Willis, Corresponding Secretary.

Grade/Department Level Updates:

- **PK-** May was a busy month for the preschool students. They continued the "Building Study" with investigations such as: What are buildings made of? What makes them strong? What happens inside of buildings? They explored North End School and made predictions and drawings of their findings. We compared different versions of The Three Little Pigs and the children built their own houses to

see who could make the strongest one. The students learned about patterns and used different objects, pictures, and even their bodies to show a variety of ways to make them. For Mother's Day, the children created paintings with a poem and a picture to surprise his/her mom's. We welcomed a new student to class this month and the preschool students also enjoyed performing in the Spring Concert this month!

- **Grade K** – The kindergarteners had wonderful month that included so many exciting events! We have been working diligently on expanding our vocabulary through “Word Study” and the “Daily Five” learning centers. Journal writing each week has been a task that the kindergarteners are successfully tackling and writing up to three and four sentences using invented spelling and their knowledge of phonics gained thus far. It's exciting for the students to be able to read journal entries during our “Morning Meeting” with such enthusiasm! In Mathematics, the students are working on unwrapping the language used in word problems to detect whether they need to add or subtract to find the answer. This is a difficult task that takes practice! We are also reviewing all skills learned thus far to prepare for the MAP testing. How lucky these students were to get to experience all of the stages of the butterfly first hand with the delivery of the “caterpillars” purchased through the “Caring for Classrooms” program that our class parents so generously donated. The kindergarten students have also been learning about the different types of weather with the new Science program. The hands-on non-fiction trade books included in this program have been read and reread to our third grade book buddies each week. It's so important for these children to have such relevant non-fiction literature to read that they are completely enamored with! We are beginning to gear up for our end of the year program titled “Growing Up!” Each student gets to choose a career that they would like to pursue perhaps later in life! The parents will be invited to this program during the last week of school.
- **Grade 1** – The first grade has been working on many things this month. Our children have been writing narratives using their personal experiences to answer a question. The students are using Daily 5 and “Words Their Way” as part of our language arts program. In Reading, we are continuing to work on fiction and non-fiction stories discussing story elements such as describing the setting, characters and major events using key details with support from illustrations. We are also working on retelling key details identifying the central message in literature. During guided reading groups, the children have been reading first grade fiction and identifying the problem and solution. In phonics, we continue to review long and short vowel sounds/spellings as well as continuing to review and learn blends and digraphs to help the children to identify and read unknown words. In math, we are organizing, representing, and interpreting data with up to three categories. Science lessons have centered on how plants and animals use their external parts to help them survive. We are starting our end of the year project: learning about animals in different habitats and writing reports, in addition to opinion and fantasy stories. The children also completed MAP tests in both Reading and Math. We continue to communicate with our parents through Homework Now, email, and one-to-one conferencing.
- **Grade 2** – Second graders are busy preparing for their class trip to the Meadowlands Environmental Center. While there, the students will become marsh explorers as they get immersed in the salt marsh habitat. Students will act as field biologists as they collect and identify live species from the marsh. They will be further challenged to observe their catch and predict the role each animal plays in the salt marsh food chain. Pre-trip science lessons have the students studying various habitats and the diversity of life that lives within each one. Food chains have been created to show how plants and animals depend on one another. ELA classes have been enthusiastically involved in a novel study of Judy Bloom's Freckle Juice. Students have been using text evidence to create characterization webs and to make inferences. Dictionary skills are being used to support vocabulary knowledge, chrome books were used to research biography information on the author, daily journal reflections are written in response to story prompts, and focus areas include understanding of plot and setting. Math classes

have been measuring length in inches and feet using rulers, yardsticks, and measuring tapes. Students have compared the length of objects and explored the relationship between size and the number of units. Presently, the focus is building and identifying 2D and 3D shapes and identifying the attributes such as the number of sides, vertices, faces, and angles.

- **Grade 3** – The third grade students were rock stars during the PARCC and proudly completed that important task! With that in our rear view mirror. We resumed researching and writing reports on famous people in history. From baseball players, to scientists, to acrobats, the third graders really enjoyed learning about some famous historic figures. Speaking of history, we also learned about immigration, and how our ancestors came to America. Specifically, they did a web quest to learn what happened in each room of Ellis Island upon arrival. Students also inquired where his/her families came from, and to find out if any of our families came through Ellis Island. In math, we finished exploring geometric shapes, and created our own geometric picture of our names, and we tied in area and perimeter during this task.
- **Grade 4** – The fourth grade is proud to have persevered through, and completed, PARCC. With the test behind us we begin to set our sights on some long term projects and adding to our fifth grade readiness. In ELA, we are reading the novel Holes and are enjoying spending time with the colorful characters at Camp Green Lake. In writing, we are working through a piece entitled The Next Time You See Me. Students are being asked to project their thinking to some period in the future and imagine what their life would be like at that time. In math, students are reviewing the concepts they have learned this year by authoring a book called The ABCs of Math. Their task includes identifying a mathematical concept, writing about it in rhyming verse and illustrating it. We hope to share those with our book buddies and donate them to the North End Media Center. In science, we are investigating living things. Students have been interacting with plants and investigating animal adaptations and while using his/her senses. In social studies, we are going to be introducing a research project on the final two regions of the United States which will allow students to present their research in a variety of ways depending on preference and learning style. Finally, stop by and see our fourth grade bulletin board that was inspired by the movie, “Wonder.” “Choose Kind” shares the fourth grader’s thoughts on kindness and what it means to be kind. It’s a wonderful way to brighten your day.
- **Art** – While the academic year is coming to fruition, the students in the art room are learning more than ever and creativity is abounding!! Students have greatly enjoyed hearing and discussing “Mrs. Martin’s Message” in the beginning of class; my version of Nurturing Hearts. Kindergarten students are in the process of discovering the concepts of warm and cool colors and contrast in painting. This is accomplished through a shark painting. First graders have completed a very complex process of creating their own template, stenciling, watercolor and spraying a background to create gorgeous compositions. Second graders discovered the works of Picasso and designed guitar collages, which were used as the decorations for the Spring Concert! Third grade classes explored the work of Sandra Silberzweig and designed magnificent pastel and oil crayon compositions in warm and cool colors. Fourth grade students completed collage techniques with over glazing and painting through the design of a bird’s nest, complete with speckled eggs!!
- **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 beginning module 5 which talks about dealing with change and loss. The lessons include are how change and loss is part of life, coping with death, and learning from change and loss.

- **Media Center** – Preschool students have been listening to and discussing books about colors, sizes, shapes, opposites, spring time, in addition to books by Kevin Henkes. Kindergartners have been listening to and discussing books by Jan Brett, and in some cases, comparing them to books by other authors. First graders continued to read independently and take AR quizzes to check for comprehension. They also listened to and discussed the book Irving the Theater Nut by Gregory Allen. Then they wrote letters to Irving about their career dreams for the future. Mr. Allen visited the students at the culmination of the project and they presented him with a book of their letters. They also drew pictures of what their dream to someday become using Microsoft Paint. Second graders also continued to read and take Accelerated Reader quizzes. In addition they added the text, background colors, and pictures to their Google Slides project about African Americans. Some second graders listened to Mossy by Jan Brett, and used her online video tutorial to draw the main character of the book, either on paper or on Microsoft Paint. Third graders finished their Google Slides projects about the Dewey Decimal System and presented them to their classes. Fourth graders finished creating their web sites about the national park that they had researched.

- **Music** – All students performed this week in the Spring Concert and did a wonderful job! Kindergarten and first graders have been securing their rhythm writing and reading in “Rap it Clap it,” “Closet Key,” and “Spring Rhythms.” We’ve also started working on dynamics in first grade, words that tell us if music is loud or soft... or how we say it, forte and piano. Second grade is finishing up learning new symbols, and is ready to finish the year in note reading, playing, and composing. Third grade learned a new circle game for steady beat and teamwork, “Stella Ella Ola.” Fourth grade is preparing songs for their promotion, and finishing symbol review and executing their new knowledge in their songs.

- **Physical Education** – Grades 2-4 have been very busy trying their best during our physical fitness testing over the last month. They did an amazing job showing great sportsmanship and effort in all of our physical fitness tests including curl-ups, shuttle run, flexed arm hang, sit and reach and the pacer test. All students are getting excited and prepared for our Field Day on June 1st! Students in first grade are about to begin practicing station warm ups that the second, third and fourth grade do each time they come into the gym. They will be ready for second grade in no time! Students in kindergarten and first grade also are being introduced to student led activities by having a teacher’s helper at the front of the class for the warm-ups so the students have a demonstrator leading the warm ups.

- **World Language** – Kindergarten learned about Cinco de Mayo! They completed a Cinco de Mayo packet that involved a Spanish color by number (using colors in Spanish), matching Spanish vocabulary words to pictures and practicing writing Cinco de Mayo vocabulary words. First graders have started to review the parts of the body, numbers, colors and greetings that they have learned as of yet (concentrating on reading and writing in Spanish). Second graders have successfully mastered naming twenty-one Spanish speaking countries! Not an easy task...they can even find them on the globe! They are also starting to review animals and family vocabulary that they learned this year. Third grade completed a reading and follow-up question sheet about Cinco de Mayo. They have also started to learn about food vocabulary in Spanish (they were able to find out how to say their favorite food). Fourth grade also had a class discussion on the significance of Cinco de Mayo (how much did they remember from previous lessons?) and they finished up their unit on subject pronouns and telling time in Spanish.

Professional Development Staff has attended:

- Kevin Skowronek, Cheryl Johansson, and Linda Leddy attended The Great Kindness Challenge Extended: Creating Leadership Skills for Students. Participants are all members of the school climate committee.
- Our Faculty Meeting was held on May 9, 2018. The following topic was discussed:

- ✓ Future Ready Certification (<https://futureready.org>)
 - SE & MMS were certified during 2016-17 school year
 - The District has made a commitment to all CG schools achieving this designation
 - Committee: Mrs. Carr, Ms. Dyer, Mrs. Leddy, Miss McLaughlin
 - GEARS, THEMES, & INDICATORS
 - THE 7 GEARS OF THE FUTURE READY FRAMEWORK ARE:
 - [Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment](#)
 - 21st Century Skills/Deeper Learning
 - Personalized Learning
 - Collaborative, Relevant, and Applied Learning,
 - Leveraging Technology
 - Assessment – Analytics Inform Instruction
 - [Personalized Professional Learning](#)
 - [Robust Infrastructure](#)
 - [Budget and Resources](#)
 - [Community Partnerships](#)
 - [Data and Privacy](#)
 - [Use of Space and Time](#)
 - [Collaborative Leadership](#)
 - Security
 - Our next Future Ready Committee meeting will be held on May 29, 2018.