



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION JANUARY 30, 2019

Good evening, everyone! Thank you for braving the Polar Vortex to join us tonight

If the weather has you feeling a bit chilled, some of the work we are doing in the area of Social and Emotional learning might warm you up a bit - or at least warm your heart.

If you follow me on twitter or facebook, you will know that I've been posting daily this entire month about kindness using the hashtags #KindnessMatters and #KindessinAction and sharing some of the great things going on to help students learn about the importance of kindness and their efforts to put kindness into action.

At Village School, students and staff are kicking off the third marking period with a school-wide Random Acts of Kindness theme. In support of the theme, the school has been collecting for its first school-wide food drive! In an effort to encourage our students to spread kindness through giving, students were asked to bring in a can of soup or other non-perishable item. All items will benefit local families in need. To add a little competitive fun, students have been placing items in bins labeled with the names of the teams in this year's Super Bowl.

Over at Indian Hill students are in the middle of the Look for the Good Project. Through Look for the Good, students themselves take ownership of the school's climate using activities that build gratitude, resilience, and kindness. This is the second year the school has engaged in this worthwhile activity.

Satz School joined with thousands of schools across the nation last week by celebrating No Name-Calling Week. No Name-Calling Week was inspired by James Howe's novel *The Misfits* about students who, after experiencing name-calling, run for student council on a No Name-Calling platform. The week is rooted in the idea of #KindnessInAction — not merely recognizing the importance of kindness, but actively adding kindness into our every action. I was very impressed by the thoughtful comments of our students last week during an all-school assembly focused on the topic.

Satz students have also begun their Camp Fire NJ lessons in social studies classes. The topics covered include: recognizing unhealthy behaviors, peer pressure, cyber bullying and substance abuse.

Our 10th, 11th and 12th graders have been practicing kindness too by sharing lessons with our 7th, 8th and 9th grade students through our Peer Leaders program. These particular lessons included the topics of cyber-safety and transitioning to high school. Our “leaders” meet with the groups throughout the year. This year is our largest group of leaders yet!

In other SEL news, the Lifelines Suicide Prevention curriculum has begun, and is continuing for our 7th grade students during their Health classes. The curriculum is also continuing for our 9th grade students and due to success of our recent implementation in 7th and 9th grade, we have recently been invited to a training that will introduce us to the brand new curriculum for 11th and/or 12th grade students as well, something that the parents who attended the Parent Program earlier this year expressed an interest.

The last note related to SEL is that through the Traumatic Loss Coalition (TLC), our counselors have recently received training on the topic of coping with loss. A small group was developed in the past for our students who experienced such; this “talking group” has proven to be a very good resource for our students. And

speaking of the Traumatic Loss Coalition, our high school counselor liaison to the TLC, Ms. Wilson, reached out to “Minding your Mind,” an organization that focuses on preventing mental health crisis. We are hopeful we can bring in a guest speaker from that organization for our students this Spring.

I’m excited to report on activities taking place across the district designed to help us become more expert in the use data to inform decisions, especially at the classroom level. And what really gets me excited about this work is that I think it is leading us to not only embrace the use of data, but to also adopt more of a growth mindset for all learners.

Village School’s Data Team met recently to review surveys sent out to staff about assessments.. Data Team members received additional training on use of MAP reports in identifying grouping for center instruction, as well as identification of specific standards that data suggest to become the focus of both small group and/or whole group instruction.

Sixth grade literacy teachers are continuing to work with a writing consultant in order to gain greater expertise in conducting one-on-one conferences as one of the important aspects of a writing conference with individual students is recording anecdotal notes (a.k.a. data) to inform subsequent instruction.

Data Team members at Indian Hill continue to meet with their grade level peers to analyze winter MAP data and develop differentiated lessons to assist in small group instruction as well as in the design of station activities.

At Satz, 7th and 8th grade English teachers are continuing their work with the same writing consultant as their 6th grade literacy colleagues. Satz teachers are engaged in learning about the same data collection techniques for the same purposes as their Indian Hill colleagues.

As the high school, data review continues with our Algebra teachers, as they work to evaluate MAP scores/results for their students in year one of using this tool District-wide we are analyzing student attendance data to determine if there are areas for improvement and we are all reviewing data as we plan for staffing and budgeting for the 2019-2020 school year.

And finally, during the District-wide PD Day on February 5th, our faculty will be involved in data training to support their use of MAP and Student Growth Objectives of the students they are working with this year.

Our work around establishing a network of partnerships with businesses and organizations within our local community and globally is kicking into high gear. On January 16th we had our first District Level Community Partnership meeting. An overview of the district goal, goals for the committee, and brainstorming of ideas were discussed. A community survey is in progress and will be finalized at our next meeting in February. After that meeting representatives from the committee would like to meet with the Community Relations committee to get their input as well.

In the meantime, we are already receiving interest from local businesses who are eager to participate in our venture. The goal is that by 2020-21, our 12th grade students will have real-world internships be part of their HS schedule, coinciding with their Career Concentration pathway. The idea is to have our relationships with local businesses well-developed for easy transition into the internship.

And now for an amazing list of achievements

Congratulations to all of our Indian Hill School Hornets of the Month including 4th graders Jillian Petretti and Daniel Novojilov; 5th graders- Rachel Shay and Robert Mioduszewski and 6th graders Olivia Viole and John Drew.

Congratulations to the all of the 4th, 5th and 6th grade students in the Continental Math League who performed very well in the fourth meet. A special shout out to the fifth grade team for earning a perfect score.

Congratulations to the Satz December and January Students of the Month: Kiera Joyce, Elina Patel, Vincent Dene, Nihal Walia, Hayden Sealove, Andrew Goodman Jacqueline Shen Felicia Arena Tierney Maurer and Allison Cannon

Satz academic teams had some strong performances recently, especially our Math Club and Science Olympiad teams, which qualified for the state tournament in March. Congratulations also to the strong performances of our winter sports teams (Wrestling, Boys and Girls Basketball), especially our undefeated Girls team who stand at 9-0 as of this date (Jan. 25).

Finally, congratulations to cast and crew and a fantastic job with last weekend's production of "The Music Man!" A very special thanks also goes out to our directors: Ms. Connolly, Ms. Miller and Mr. Hurst. Bravo!

Congratulations to Alice Huang who was selected for Central Jersey Region Band and All-State Band

Congratulations to Antonios Tsompanidis, Sameer Erramilli, Alec Licato, Brian Chu, Ajay Movva and Sunny Chung for being selected for All-Shore Jazz Band

Congratulations to Rayan Jawa for being selected for All-Shore String Ensemble as the Principal Violist

Congratulations to Elizabeth Caplan, Ivy Chung, Emily Pinlac and Julie Wang for being accepted into the All-Shore Chorus, and will be performing in the concert this Saturday, 2/2, at Monmouth Regional High School at 7:30pm.

Congratulations to the Holmdel Cybersecurity Team took for taking 1st Place in New Jersey, surpassing 67 other very talented high schools and military academies. Equally impressive, the team finished the competition in the top 2.6% of 3205 teams competing from around the world! Congratulations to Michael Dasaro, Len Huang, Jerome Li, Jack Lowry, Cyrus Majd, and Jonathan Marty on their incredible accomplishment!

And finally some thanks:

A big Indian Hill thanks to our PLG for donating our new color poster printer with the funding earned from our Walkathon. The staff is very excited and appreciate your continued generosity. Also, thank you for hosting another successful Bingo Night, a great time was had by all!

A very special thanks goes out to our PSG for their continued support. We are looking forward to our game tomorrow night vs. the Harlem Wizards! All proceeds will be going towards the purchase of an electronic sign board to be placed in the front of Satz!

Thank you to the PTSO for their continued support in fundraising for HHS as a whole, as well as promoting fundraisers for individual grade levels. Their efforts go a long way in continuing to promote a positive culture at HHS!

Thanks to the HFEE for once again supporting the mini-grant program for faculty and students. These mini-grants provide a unique opportunity for teachers and students to discover and explore our curriculum in a whole new way! The projects and ideas span the disciplines, including initiatives in the arts, engineering, technology, athletics, humanities, mathematics and science. These grants make the visions of our students and faculty a reality. The generosity of our community through the Foundation is deeply appreciated. For any faculty or students that are

interested in applying, the forms may be found on the HFEE site and are due in late February.

And finally thank you to everyone who supports the children of Holmdel. I look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday as we celebrate the Year of the Pig.