



# HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

## **Superintendent's Report to the Board of Education May 29, 2019**

Good evening everyone. Eleven days to go!

Today was one of my favorite days of the year as our Honors Advanced Research students held their annual poster session. These presentations mimic that which you might see at a congress or conference with an academic or professional focus. The goal is a presentation of research information in the form of a poster that conference participants may view. A “poster session” is an event at which many such posters are presented. Poster sessions are particularly prominent at scientific conferences such as medical and engineering congresses. These sessions and our students’ preparation for and poise in participating in them is truly something to behold. It not only gives you a great sense of the innovative research program in which we engage them, but it also gives you a great appreciation for how their studies in all areas of the curriculum come together especially mathematics, science, writing, public speaking, visual communication and critical thinking. Congratulations to all of this year’s HAR students on a job well done!

I am pleased to announce we have made it through the QSAC Process. QSAC, or the Quality Single Accountability Continuum is the Department of Education’s monitoring and evaluation system for public school districts. The system focuses on monitoring and evaluating school districts in five key areas that, based on research, have been identified to be key factors in effective school districts. In other words, what QSAC measures is the extent to which each district is providing not only a thorough and efficient education but providing the conditions for all of its students to meet and exceed the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Districts that meet a certain standard are designated as “high performing.” Public school districts are evaluated in five key component areas: Instruction and Program, Personnel, Operations, Fiscal Management and Governance.

Our County Superintendent spent two full days in our district, inspecting our facilities and auditing mounds of paperwork including financials, curriculum personnel files, board meeting agendas and all sorts of state and federal reports to determine scores in each of these areas. It was a laborious process that, while we do not have our final scores yet, went exceedingly well. We received many compliments from the county office team.

I want to thank our QSAC Steering committee and our entire administrative team for all of their work this year in preparing for this evaluation with thanks to the board for their encouragement throughout the year.

In other news tonite, I want to thank Mrs. Jeanne Remuzzi, outgoing President of the Holmdel Township Education Association, for her partnership during the past two years. I have appreciated every monthly meeting we've had and am grateful to you for your leadership. At the same time, I want to congratulate Mrs. Denise King, who is returning to the Presidency of HTEA. I look forward to working with you and your members to continue to meet the needs of our students.

I am taking a break from words on our district goals for this meeting. I will bring that back in two weeks and provide a final summation of where these goals have led us this year. Instead, I am going to skip right to a few notes of congratulations.

Congratulations to Village School student Sayan Rao whose writing piece, submitted by his teacher Mrs. Andrews, to the New Jersey Literacy Association's writing contest was selected as a winner and will be published in an e-document that will be available on the NJLA website. Congratulations to Sayan, his family and of course his teacher Mrs. Andrews.

Congratulations to our first grade students and their music director, Ms. Haley Scott for their successful Spring show titled, Pajama Party. The students did an excellent job performing for the parents and staff. Great job to Ms. Scott, the first grade teachers who helped to assist and of course our talented students.

Congratulations to all our students who participated in the National Science League! Our 6th grade students placed first in NJ, second in US; 5th grade placed first in NJ, 8th in US; 4th grade placed second in NJ, 7th in US and Indian Hill student Derek Wang had the second highest score and is a "national winner." Such amazing accomplishments by all of our students who participated, We couldn't be prouder! We look to celebrating more Village and Indian Hill accomplishments in two weeks when we meet a Indian Hill.

Congratulations to Indian Hill's May/June Hornets of the Month: fourth graders Alexandra Hanchar, Kyle Silberman, and Brendan Dhanoolal; fifth graders Alessandra Lucarelli, Brandon Mueller, and Vianny Romero; and sixth graders Alexia Zambito, Sean McCarthy, Paige Dukess and Lucas Gerts.

A big congratulations to all our students who participated in the Indian Spring Musical “The Little Mermaid” as it was a huge success! Both nights saw packed houses and a great time was had by all! Thank you to Mrs. Watts and Ms. George for directing a fantastic show!!

Indian Hill would also like to recognize our Band and Chorus students who under the direction of Mrs. McCarthy and Dr. Riso did a phenomenal job at our Spring Concert.

Indian Hill and Village would also like to recognize and congratulate all our great artists! I hope everyone enjoyed our Art Show display tonight which highlighted works from both Village and IH School. Many thanks to all of our elementary art teachers for a great exhibit!

Speaking of art, there is a new addition to the High School Commons - The Honors Sculpture class designed their last project to become a permanent installation for all to enjoy in the Commons. The new sculpture can be seen above the entrance to the serving area. The sculpture was made out of recycled materials used in the serving, packaging and preparing of the food that can be purchased in the food court. Congratulations to Seniors Julia Susi, Rayna Ruggeri, Morgan Kosakowski, Sanjana Gupta, Madison Yuen, Olivia Brescia and Serena Abbondante for sharing their creative inspiration for all to enjoy.

And speaking of the art of Film-making, the HHS Lip Dub is back! Keep your eyes out for Lip Dub 2019. Kudos to Mr. DeNovellis, and his technical crew, for putting together a special event. We can't wait to check it out on youtube!

Congratulations to the Village School PSA for hosting another successful Carnival. The weather thankfully cooperated and set the stage for a wonderful afternoon of food, games and family fun. Great job to our PSA board, our parent, student and teacher volunteers - and to all those who donated prizes and items for our raffle.

And finally a few thank you's:

- The staff at Indian Hill wanted me to say thanks to the IH PLG for another amazing cookie appreciation staff day! The students and teachers all had a great time and the cookies were delicious.
- Thank you to a great group of parents for hosting a delicious Staff Appreciation Luncheon to celebrate the great work that takes place at HHS.

- Thanks to the HFEE for awarding more than \$20,000 in mini-grants to our faculty and students to put toward innovative projects during the 2019-2020 school year.

And finally, thank you to everyone who supports our students in countless different ways. Every act of support matters and for each we are grateful.

Respectfully,

Robert A. McGarry, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools