



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION JANUARY 29, 2020

Good evening, everyone and xīn nián kuài lè- Happy Chinese New Year!

Before I share some highlights from across the district, I want to take a moment to recognize the individuals seated here on the deus. January is School Board Recognition Month in New Jersey, a time to raise public awareness of the roles and responsibilities of local boards of education and to thank school board members for their efforts. School board members devote countless hours to their communities and public education, on behalf of children and they do this without receiving any compensation!

Please join me in a show of gratitude to the members of the Holmdel Township Board of Education for their work on behalf of the children of our community.

January has been a busy month across the district - and this week in particular as the school year comes to the official half-way mark. While the school year is now old, we are still witnessing the introduction of new initiatives, like the “Check In/Check Out” program at Village. In alignment with our district’s Social Emotional Learning goal, like all of our schools, Village has moved forward with deepening staff’s understanding of Social and Emotional Learning core competencies and beliefs. At the most recent faculty meeting administration and guidance led staff through a review of Village School’s goals for increasing connectivity between faculty and staff members and the importance of self-care. As our SEL consultant has shared with us since our first training, “connection before content” is an important part of effective SEL.

The Village Check-In Check-Out program is designed to support students who need a little extra help with managing behavior, staying focused or proactively handling social situations with peers. Students check in with an adult at the beginning of each day to be sure they are prepared for class and ready to learn. Throughout the day, students check in with teachers and receive points on a card related to how closely they meet their goals. Then at the end of the day, students check out with an adult who totals up the points, and discusses the day with the student.

Also new and in partnership with the Holmdel Police Department, IH is introducing the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) program exclusively for our 6th grade classes. This program is beginning this week and will be facilitated by our School Resource Officer, the newly- minted Sergeant Jon Martin, and Indian Hill's counselor, Stephanie Jennings. We are excited to provide our students with this opportunity.

Sometimes new initiatives come from our very own students like Mikayla Klotsman, a student in Mrs. Reichwein's 4th grade class who came up with the idea to write and perform a play based on the fables and fairy tales the class was reading in their Literacy unit. Mikayla was able to get her entire class involved in the production which ended up being performed for another group of 4th grade students and teachers. We are so proud of the students' initiative and efforts and we love when students exhibit the qualities of innovate to elevate.

Speaking of outstanding performances, congratulations to the staff and crew of Satz's production of "Annie, Jr." - the show was outstanding and the large crowd each evening roared its approval! Special thanks to our directors - Mrs. Connolly, Mr. Hurst and Dr. Tetreault - for their hard work in showcasing our students. Bravo!

A special congratulations to the 2020 Holmdel High School Inductees of our National Honor Society Chapter. Our Chapter will proudly represent the Holmdel Community on February 8th at Camp Sunshine's Annual Polar Plunge Fundraiser. Proceeds will help provide for families with children suffering from life-threatening illnesses.

Kudos to the HHS PEER Leadership Program for collaborating with 7th, 8th & 9th graders on the importance of Digital Citizenship. PEER Leaders will be hosting the 2nd "Hello Hornets" event in February to continue their collaboration with new and transfer students at HHS.

Speaking of new, this month our TV Studio classes moved into their new home and they are loving all of the new equipment and space. Tomorrow our new Graphic Arts room will open to all of the new Semester 2 students. Thank you to all of our staff who have worked so hard in transforming an old space into a state of the art Engineering and Communications Wing!

Thanks to our administrative and professional staff for your leadership and participation in the January 24th in-service day. There were over 30 sessions offered to support our staff's professional development aligned with our district goals of data driven, differentiated instruction as well as social and emotional learning and wellness for students and staff. It was a tremendous day of learning and self care for all!

Village staff asked that I thank Mr. Welter and the students in the STRIVE program for their efforts in helping to organize the Lost & Found. Thanks to their diligence, our staff have been able to cycle their classes through the area to retrieve misplaced books, clothing and supplies. Without their patience in collecting, organizing and communicating with staff members - many of our students would have never been able to so effectively reclaim their lost items.

Congratulations to Akarsh Kollu, the winner of Indian Hill's Geography Bee for the third year in a row. We are so proud of Akarsh and all the students who participated. Good luck to him with the online qualifying test!!

Congratulations to the following students in Mrs. Gish's class who were the winners from the Young Writers Spooky Saga's contest of 2019: Cheryl Nolan, Emma Jackstadt, Maya Burrage-Nasr, Amy Adachie, and Aider Rukin.

Congratulations to our 6th grade students who attended the YMCA Model UN Conference in Hershey Park and won the following awards:

- Sydney Sun- Premier Press Member
- Sophia Barwicz- Premier First Year Delegate
- Jayden Francis- Outstanding Country Research Paper

Congratulations to Sophia Gao who successfully auditioned for the Central Jersey Music Educators Association Region Orchestra on Saturday, and won a spot in the String Orchestra. This is a huge accomplishment, and we are super proud of her hard work and dedication to her instrument. The concert is set for February 29

A big congratulations to our January Hornets of the Month:

- 4th grade: Payton Zarraga; Vincenzo Amodio
- 5th grade: Rita Fan; Adam Brown
- 6th grade: Shivali Sethi; Remy Mander

Congratulations to the following Satz students for earning recognition in the CJMEA Regional Symphonic Band for Flute: Jodie Chung, Olivia Kim, Lina Wang and Rebecca Wang

Congratulations to the following students who won awards at YMCA Model UN program earlier this month: Devon Roth was chosen to speak at closing ceremony;

Jack Powers was awarded “Premier Diplomat” recognition while Alexia Zambito earned “Premier Diplomat” and “Outstanding Country Research Paper honors”, and Lauren Laudi, Sophia Laudi, and Sirina Ganne were also each awarded “Outstanding Country Research Paper honors”

Congratulations to the following students who earned medals at the Science Olympiad tournament earlier this month: Sahil Chaudhri for Circuit Lab and Mousetrap Vehicle; Alexander Rokkos for Circuit Lab; Andrey Potylitsin for Mousetrap Vehicle; Jenna Yiu for Write-it Do it and Allison Hu for Write-it Do it

Congratulations to our Satz “Students of the Season (Winter)” Ghalia Ghazal, Tyler Reddy, Julia Saporito and Zephan Alam

Congratulations to Satz student Nidhi Nair, who is a semifinalist in NASA’s national contest to name its upcoming Mars 2020 Space Rover. Nidhi suggested the name “RIDE” after the famous female astronaut Sally Ride.

Holmdel High School’s Poetry Out Loud Competition took place on January 14, 2020. After two grueling rounds of recitations, Emily Baylock took 1st place and will represent Holmdel at the regional competition on February 4th at the Count Basie Theater, while Tierney Maurer and Evelyn Salvia took 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

HHS’s Mock Trial Team took second place in the county on January 23, 2020. Congrats to all participants for a great season!

Thank you to the Village School’s PSA for their support in raising funds for our school, be it through Box Top collection, collection of items or for encouraging parents to register through Amazon Smile, your ongoing support and commitment to our students is appreciated.

A continued thanks to Indian Hill's parent group for tirelessly always trying ways to support our staff and students. A special thank you to Meagan Rogers-Solomon for organizing the student partnership with Arbor Terrace that has allowed our students the opportunity to communicate with residents at the senior community.

A hearty thanks to the Satz PSG, on behalf of the students, for your weekly Snack Shack offerings, especially the pretzels!!

Thank you to the HHS PTSO for their support in raising funds for our school through the course of the year. The monthly PTSO Bake Sales are not only a great fundraiser, but also a big hit with students looking for a much needed snack at the end of the day, before heading to various afterschool activities. Your support and commitment to the school community is always appreciated.

And thank you to the HYAA for all of the donations on the agenda tonight.

Lastly, parents should check their email tomorrow for the Winter MAP Assessment Report. MAP Growth assessments determine each child's instructional level and measure academic progress from September to January in the areas of reading and mathematics. As always, the results will be used to continue to guide instructional practices, to provide targeted academic support, and to determine student eligibility for district programs and services.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday as we celebrate the Year of the Rat.

Respectfully Submitted,

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