



Monroe Township School District News & Updates

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[Click here to view the 2022-2023 school calendar as a PDF \(revised
8/17/2022\)](#)



SCHOOL WEBSITE LINKS

**Please visit your individual school website link for more detailed information regarding school start times*

Applegarth

Mill Lake

Oak Tree

Barclay Brook

MTHS

Woodland

Brookside

MTMS

Falcon Care

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As February comes to a close, we want to take a moment to commemorate Black History Month and celebrate the rich history and achievements of Black Americans.

This month provides an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the significant contributions made by Black individuals throughout history, from leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks to the groundbreaking achievements of contemporary figures like Kamala Harris and Barack Obama.

As a school district, we remain committed to creating an inclusive and equitable environment for all of our students and staff, where diversity is valued and celebrated.

Throughout the month, our students have engaged in activities, lessons, and discussions that highlighted the contributions of Black individuals to our society, as well as the ongoing work towards justice and equality.

As we move forward from Black History Month, let us continue to honor and celebrate the diversity of our community and the contributions of all individuals, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or background. We remain committed to providing a safe and welcoming space for all of our students and staff, and to fostering an environment where every individual is valued and respected.



Black History Month



REFERENDUM 2023

**MARCH
14TH**

**2023
✓ VOTE
REFERENDUM**



RESPONSIVE, RESPONSIBLE, & READY FOR THE FUTURE

REFERENDUM.MONROE.K12.NJ.US

The Referendum 2023 vote is less than one month away! Please review the information below about the Referendum 2023 project. See you at the polls on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Referendum 2023 Website & Official Documents | <https://referendum.monroe.k12.nj.us>

Referendum 2023 Questions | referendum@monroe.k12.nj.us

Referendum 2023 Informational Video | [Link to Video](#)

Referendum 2023 Informational Brochure | [Link to Brochure](#)

Referendum 2023 Project Plans | [Applegarth Plans](#), [MTMS Plans](#), [MTHS Plans](#)

Upcoming Public Events

Public Referendum 2023 Information Session

Thursday, March 2, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM | Mill Lake School

Public Referendum 2023 Information Session

Thursday, March 9, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM | Applegarth Elementary School

Applegarth Elementary School

Colonial Day in Farkas and Quinby's Fourth Grade

Students in Ms. Farkas and Ms. Quinby's class were transported back in time to the 1600-1700's during Colonial America! Students got to learn about and experience first hand different activities that those in Colonial America took part in. When learning about the history of quilt making, how it began in Colonial Times, and the role that women played in it, students decorated their own "quilt square" to represent themselves, then learned the art of sewing and sewed their square to another to make one, large Room 23 Family quilt! Students read about the history of quill pens, and practiced writing using a feather quill pen and ink using calligraphy letters. (It's a lot harder than it looks!) Students learned about the life of a child in Colonial times and about the games and toys that children played with. They played two games that originated in Colonial times: Jacks and Jacksticks (pick up sticks). Students also got to experience first hand the strenuous task of making butter by making their own!



Random Acts of Kindness!

On National Random Acts of Kindness Week, Ms. Farkas and Ms. Quinby's Class came up with many different ways to show kindness around the school! From leaving positive messages around the school, writing virtual Valentine's to St. Jude's patients, and taking over for our hardworking paraprofessionals to clean the cafeteria after each lunch, to writing uplifting messages outside in chalk for students and staff to see when leaving and entering the building, writing thank you cards for Applegarth staff, and leaving hidden positive message bookmarks in books in the library, the acts of kindness kept coming with the hope that others "pay it forward" to do the same.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." - Aesop



Black History Month Celebration

In addition to widespread classroom activities, the students at Applegarth celebrated Black History Month with the principal. With our paraprofessional staff assisting, students listened to a read aloud of *The ABCs of Black History*. Following the story, students rotated through five stations. At one station, they listened to the audio of *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson. At another, they read about a famous scientist who built boats for the U.S. government. Students constructed their own vessels with the most efficient boat holding 168 pennies! Students listened to *Follow the Drinking Gourd* and analyzed how coded language was used to help escaped slaves make it to freedom. At another station, students listened to Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech and identified their own dreams for the world. Finally, students read about black American contributions to the arts. They designed a stamp for the US Post Office to honor the artist of their choice.



Read Across America

Applegarth is busily preparing for our Read Across America activities. Our PTA is arranging for guest readers to come into our school. Teachers each have a Dr. Seuss book that they are reading to their class and are in the process of decorating their doors for a contest. Our PTA donated a book for every child, which will be given away during this week. We are also holding a spirit week revolving around reading. Tune in next month to see some pictures of our fantastic doors!



STEM Activities

Fourth and fifth graders at Applegarth have been provided a wonderful opportunity to participate in a STEM club for several weeks. The students are using coding skills to build "robots". The media center is looking lively during this early morning STEM opportunity!



Spelling Bee Winner

Applegarth would like to shout out our school-wide spelling bee winner, Rishita Pradhan. Congratulations, Rishita!



Barclay Brook Elementary School

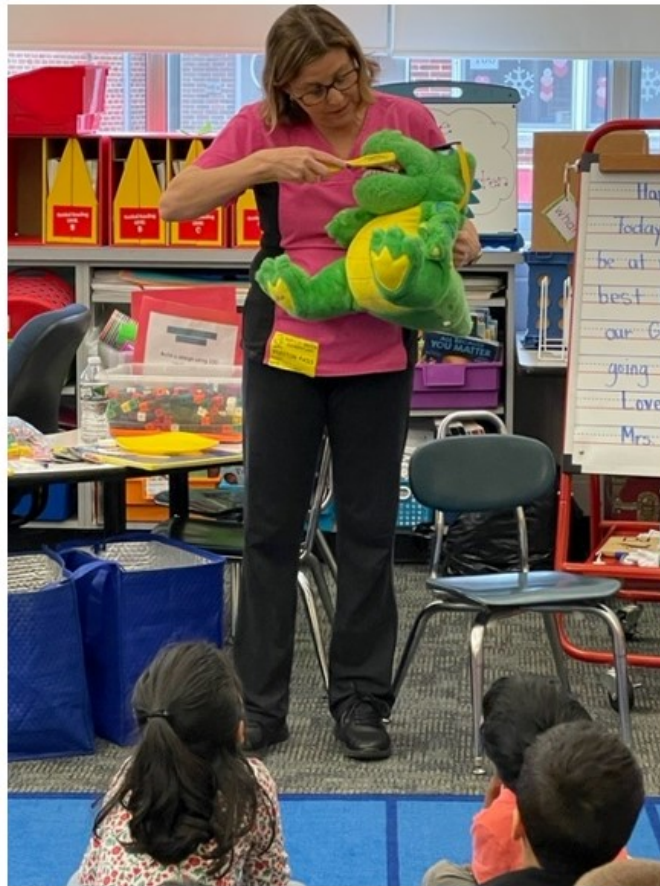
Barclay Brook – Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month, Barclay Brook second grade students completed research projects about famous African Americans. After researching and learning about a specific person, the students wrote up their facts in the form of a "Guess Who." Their work was displayed on the bulletin boards for all to read and see.



Barclay Brook – Pediatric Dentist Visit

February is National Children's Dental Health Month, and we were happy to have a local pediatric dental hygienist visit our kindergarten classrooms. Thank you to Ms. Toby from Monroe Pediatric Dentistry for visiting Barclay Brook and teaching our Kindergarten students about oral health and hygiene!



This month, in the library, our 1st graders experienced “Lights Out Library”. Just as it sounds, we turned off all of the main lights in the library and shared our space lit only by table lamps. Even Storytime was done by lamplight! Students were invited to wear their pajamas on their library day. They could even bring a “lovey” to story time. When it was time for Book Shopping, each student was given a flashlight to more easily view the bookshelves and to find their library bags. They went in small groups to make the experience safe for all!

We read different nighttime themed stories and completed exciting “In the Dark” themed activities:

- We used shadow art to jumpstart our artwork
- We created Glow in the Dark artwork using dark colored construction paper and Glow in the Dark Glue and Gel
- We explored the night sky with the Skyview app and recreated a constellation on black construction paper using white construction paper crayons and silver glitter
- We learned about circuits and built our own working flashlights!



Barclay Brook School – 100th Day of School

The 100th Day of School is a milestone in elementary schools. Barclay Brook School hosted a themed spirit week which culminated on the 100th day of school, which was Friday, February 17th. Students were invited to dress in 100th day apparel or dress as if they were 100 years old!



Barclay Brook School Valentine's Day

Barclay Brook students created and colored more than 600 valentines that were shared with residents at our local assisted living facilities. We hope that this small act of kindness brought love and joy to many members of our community!



Second Grade Lego WeDo - Floodgates

Barclay Brook second grade students learned the impact that flooding and erosion have on our Earth. They also learned how people have created different solutions to prevent flooding in flood-prone areas. After learning how floodgates work to allow water flow downstream and moderate the water levels in reservoirs, students worked collaboratively to create their own floodgates! The floodgates were built with Lego WeDo kits, and after building their floodgates, students wrote a code through the Lego WeDo | app to make the floodgate motor operational.



Brookside Elementary School

Brookside School participated in the Scripps Spelling Bee this year. We began with all homeroom classes holding a class spelling bee. We have listed the names of the classroom winners below. We then had a school wide spelling bee with the class winners from the fourth and fifth grade classes where we named our school bee champion.

Third Grade Winners:

Savni Hiraskar from Mrs. Gallelo/Ms. Porzl's class; Klarisse Ureta from Mrs. Bertini/Mrs. Dempsey's class; Bhavisha Mehta from Mrs. Tolnes' class; Avani Kantamaneni from Ms. Schnier's class; Maneeth Komuravelli from Mrs. Jinks' class; and Ayan Karthekeyan from Mrs. Francese's class. Congratulations to our third grade winners!

Fourth Grade Winners:

Aakash Panchumarthy from Mrs. Corvinus/Mrs. Pavese's class; Shrivardhan Naragoni from Mrs. Manfredi/Mrs. Ratcliffe's class; Aadhna Prasanth from Ms. Ludmer/Ms. Cruz's class; Tashvi Prasanth from Ms. Herbstman's class; Gurdeep Kalsi from Mrs. Nagle/Ms. Hoppock's class; and Anushka Pradhan from Mrs. Freeman's class. Congratulations to our fourth grade winners!

Fifth Grade Winners:

Saiajay Rajesh from Ms. Bakerman/Ms. Forrest's class; Samarth Hiraskar from Ms. DeCarlo's class; Sreevatssa Damodharan from Mrs. Fennell/Ms. Anthony's class; Anika Patel from Mrs. Kipila/Mrs. McArdle's class; Shiv Dave from Mrs. Robinson/Mrs. Ours' class; and Anirudh Prayaga from Mr. Tortoriello/Ms. Cuzzo's class. Congratulations to our fifth grade winners!

School bee winners:

A tie for second place: Sreevatssa Damodharan and Shrivardhan Naragoni

School champion: Samarth Hiraskar

The winner of the school bee will go on to the next step toward the regional spelling bee.

Congratulations to all our spelling bee winners!

YEARBOOK COVER SELECTION

Each year the fifth grade students design a cover for the Barclay Brook/Brookside yearbook during art class for a chance for their cover to be selected to be used for the yearbook. This year our winners for the yearbook front and back covers are: Akshainie Akula and Ava Mioduszezski. Congratulations to our winners!

BROOKSIDE STUDENT COUNCIL

Brookside Student Council spring representatives have started their term with a Soup-er Bowl food drive. Signs for each team were set up in the cafeteria for the student body to donate their cans in support of the team they wanted to win the big game. The Eagles won by surpassing the Chiefs in can collections. Thank you to the student council students for sorting the food and thank you to everyone who donated to the drive.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Francese's third grade class studied quotes from inspirational Black leaders. Each student picked a quote then analyzed the meaning behind it. After that, they reflected on what each quote means to them.



Ms. Hoppock's students had a biography sampling where they previewed different biographies of African American leaders who have made a difference in society. After "sampling" each biography, students chose the individual they would like to research. They created pennants and hung them in the hall to display all the facts they learned about their chosen individual.



Mrs. Manfredi/Mrs. Ratcliffe's class read about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. They talked about how words have energy and power and can help and heal the world. Together, they generated a list of words that come to mind daily. They created a bulletin board to share our thinking of others.





Mrs. Tolnes' class read the story "I am Martin Luther King Jr." by Brad Meltzer. As a class they questioned how one man was able to make such a powerful change. We discussed the idea of civil disobedience and worked to define the phrase. Students used context clues to determine that it meant calmly or peacefully breaking an unfair rule or law. When asked, "Why did this approach work?" The class determined that it was many people working together toward one goal that made Dr. King's efforts successful. To symbolize this cooperative work, they completed a portrait of Dr. King. Each student had to color one piece of the portrait and only when they came together could they see the true picture. Students also wrote about their dreams of the future which they shared with the school on their class bulletin board.



Mrs. Bertini/Mrs. Dempsey's class learned about a famous Black History Leader and completed an activity which highlights their importance such as: why we celebrate them, major events, life and legacy and important quotes. They completed pendants and they are displayed in the classroom.

Mrs. Nagle/Ms. Hoppocks' Class:

It was a time of turmoil in the British Colonies and it showed in Brookside School. Students in Mrs. Nagle and Ms. Hoppock's fourth grade class were involved in a debate taking the role of loyalists or patriots. Students researched famous people from the time period and prepared questions and responses to topics involved in the unrest and ultimate decision to break free from Great Britain. Students acted as though they were Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Hutchinson, and many others and shared why the Quartering Act, Stamp Act, and the Proclamation of 1763 were unfair or fair based on their perspective. By the end of the debate, just like in real life, it was decided that the country could not continue the way it was and the Patriots had decided to meet and declare their independence! The project really gave students the perspective of life during the mid to late 1700s. It was a joy to see them eager to participate!



Mill Lake Elementary School



February 22nd, & 23rd Mill Lake's Parent Teacher Conferences were an amazing success!
Thank you, Mill Lake Parents!



Mill Lake's Social Emotional Learning Parent opportunities during Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Monroe Township Middle School

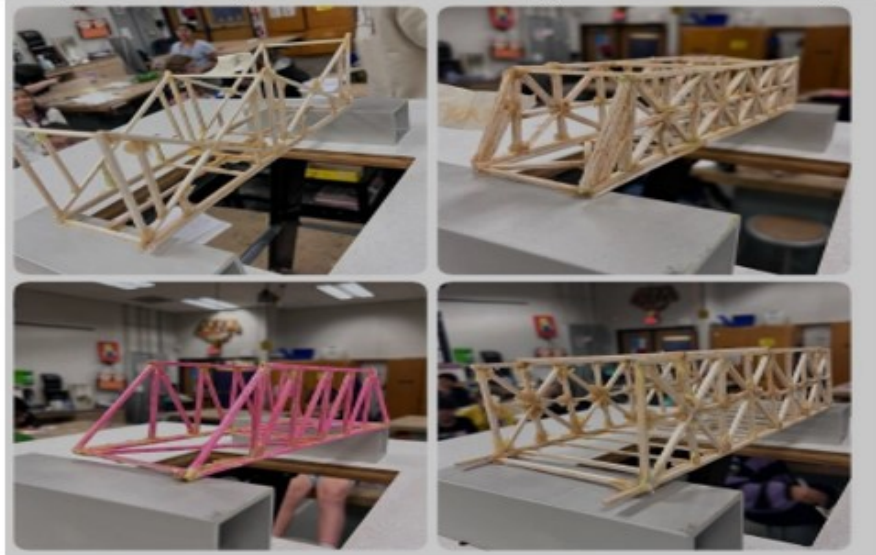


MTMS chorus students auditioned to get into the CJMEA Intermediate Region Choir. 25 of our students made the ensemble. We had one student place first, and two students place second in their voice category. We are very proud of our singers!!

Manya Aerroju
Siri Bachu
Karman Chhatwal
Akshaj Dharmaraju
Ishita Gandhi
Jolie Garcia
Emily Gellella
Aditi Handa
Janvi Irvichetty
Sahana Kadhiravan
Trinity Keise
Aleeza Khan
Lishika Khanna

Kiki Lana
Davinya Lohith
Kushal Potluri
Aishani Sahoo
Ashlan Sellitti
Sidak Setia
Gabrielle Siochi
Divya Sreekumar
Sanjana Subramanian
Aakanksha Talapaneni
Rahee Trivedi
Kaitlyn Wong

MTMS 7th grade Transportation Technology balsa wood bridge designs!



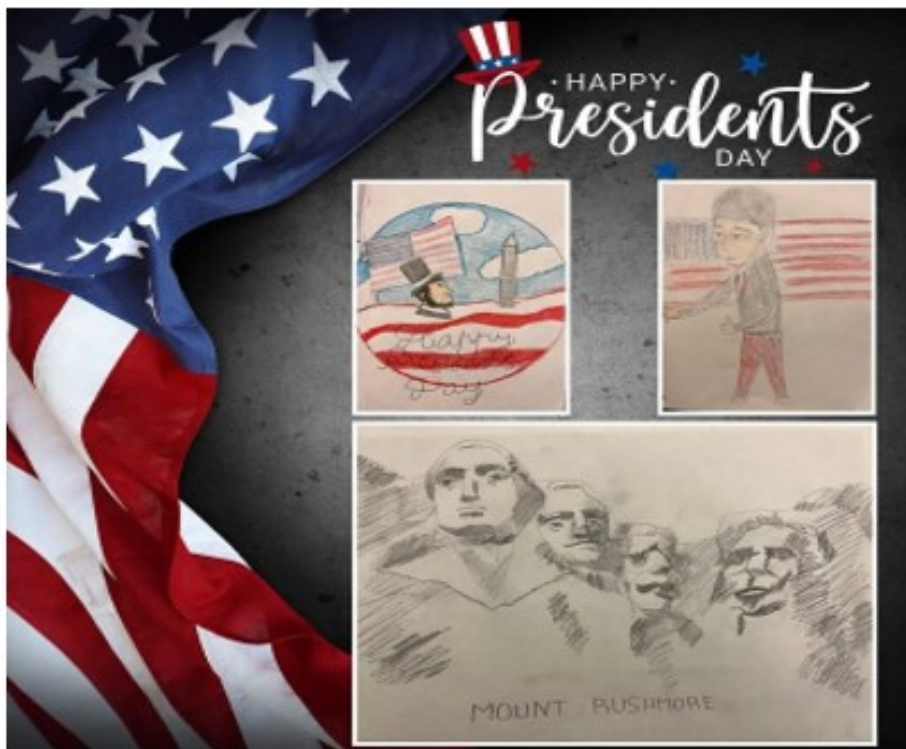
MTMS Students in Mrs. Hawxhurst's Digital Photography Class utilizing reflectors, studio light and Canon Rebel DSLR Cameras to capture images for their magazine cover designs. Fun was had by all!!!!



Happy Valentine's Day from Mrs. O'Grady's Art Students



Happy President's Day from Mrs. O'Grady's Art classes at MTMS!



The advisors of Builders Club as well as current and former student members recently attended the Kiwanis Family Prom and shared the information about all the activities that the MTMS chapter does to positively impact their community!

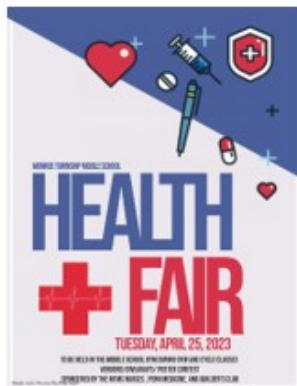


MTMS Team Spectrum partnered with the Blessing Bag Brigade to give back to the community. The Blessing Bag Brigade is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization that distributes high impact items in conjunction with food pantries, soup kitchens and schools to those in need across New Jersey. Throughout February, students, and families from the MTMS community made generous contributions of supplies. On February 17th, Team Spectrum students packed the supplies into 300 blessing bags to be distributed to the less fortunate.



Congratulations to our MTMS Students that successfully auditioned and got accepted into the Teen Arts NJ "Arts High" program for grades 6-8. They will be bussed to Middlesex County College each week to study with industry professionals in their selected artforms for several weeks culminating in a festival in early May.

- Ashiya Aggarwal
- Tanvi Bajaj
- Carina Demone
- Eve Gorny
- Lara Hakim
- Dhanya Jeyaraman
- Juliet Lung
- Davinya Lohith
- Syona Manchanda
- Gracelyn O'Realo-Koomson
- Anya Prasanna
- Varsha Ramesh
- Samantha Rattner
- Madison Rose Renda
- Ashish Samuel
- Chloe Suryadi
- VedaSahasra Yayavarapu



MTMS Nurses are planning to hold a health fair on April 25th with help of Penn Medicine and the Builders Club.

MTMS will be running a Hoops Fundraiser on March 9th & 10th!



Congratulations to Christopher Muce for being named District 24 Assistant Coach of the Year!



Congratulations to the 100 students of MTMS who represented Monroe in a Broadway workshop on Wednesday, February 22nd. These students learned the music and choreography for a few selections from the musical *Hadestown* before seeing the show later that afternoon.



Oak Tree Elementary School

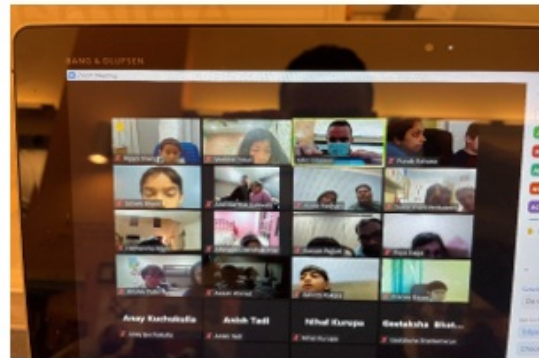
Dental Health Month at Oak Tree

Mrs. Corona's second grade class has been learning about "Caring For Your Body" during health lessons in February. They had a special visit from Oak Tree's nurse, Ms. McNutt, to discuss dental health. The students were very lucky to also have Raunak and Viraj Aurora's mom and Doctor of Dentistry, Dr. Nanda, distribute dental hygiene bags to each of our students to bring home to help make their smiles even brighter!



Hour of Code Night at Oak Tree

The Hour of Code, an introduction to computer science, is a worldwide movement that takes place each year during Computer Science Education Week. Led and organized by teachers Mrs. Dowe, Ms. Quidor, Ms. O'Larte, Ms. Guerrero, and Mrs. Anastasio, Oak Tree held an Hour of Code Night on February 2 both in-person and virtually. Third grade students and their parents worked side by side, in our media center and at home, coding through a Star Wars challenge. It was an incredible evening in which participants could learn the basics in a fun and interactive way.



Oak Tree's Comic Cart

The Oak Tree Comic Cart is a mobile cart that contains grade appropriate graphic novels. Graphic novels have been shown to spark the interest of reluctant readers and writers. They have become widely popular over the last few years. Many famous children's authors are now turning popular series into graphic novels as well! They help build confidence in readers, increase vocabulary, support comprehension, and encourage students to use dialogue in their own writing. The Oak Tree Comic Cart is a great resource for the third-grade teachers to bring into their classrooms to allow students to explore graphic novels and to use in their reading lessons.



Oak Tree Olympics

A schoolwide Olympics Day was held at Oak Tree on February 10 in which students in every class and grade participated in an array of fun activities including Speed Skating, Hungry Hippos, Yoga, and many other team building events. The day began with a parade of nations around the school with the Olympic theme song playing over the intercom. Mrs. Dinsmore led the parade, holding the torch high above her head. Accompanying her was the beloved Monroe Falcon. The hallways were filled with cheers! The afternoon ended with every student receiving a gold medal for their efforts and sportsmanship.



Students in both Ms. Longo's and Ms. Patti's second grade classes at Oak Tree Day Boxes participated in a Valentine's Day box decorating competition. Here are some of the highlights.

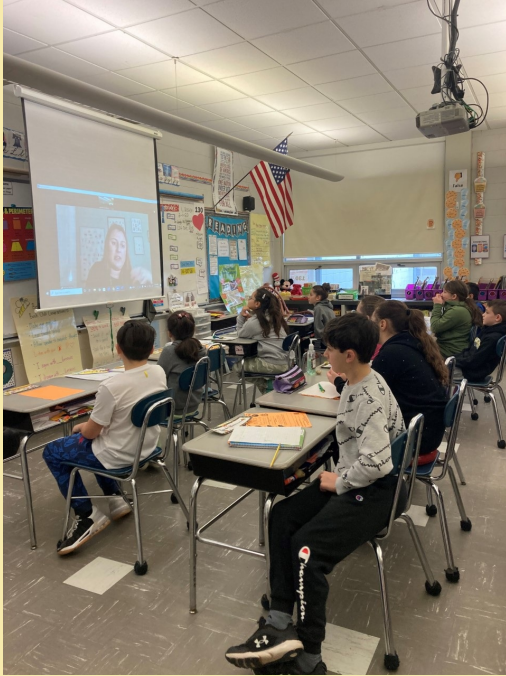


Woodland Elementary School

Woodland School News

Ms. Fleming's 5th grade class worked collaboratively with the students in Ms. Herman's class to learn about the Holocaust and Holocaust awareness. *The Butterfly* by Patricia Polacco was read aloud to both classes simultaneously. The butterfly in the story was representative of the children that were lost to the Holocaust. The lesson continued with a focus on how acts of kindness, like those that helped others during the Holocaust, can spread. After brainstorming acts of kindness, students created their own butterfly with acts of kindness noted on them."

Students celebrated World Read Aloud Day on February 1st with virtual author visits! Ms. Ciccarella's & Mrs. Rutherford / Mrs. Levitt's class listened to several authors. Students learned about the writing process and how so many authors get creative ideas from their own lives.



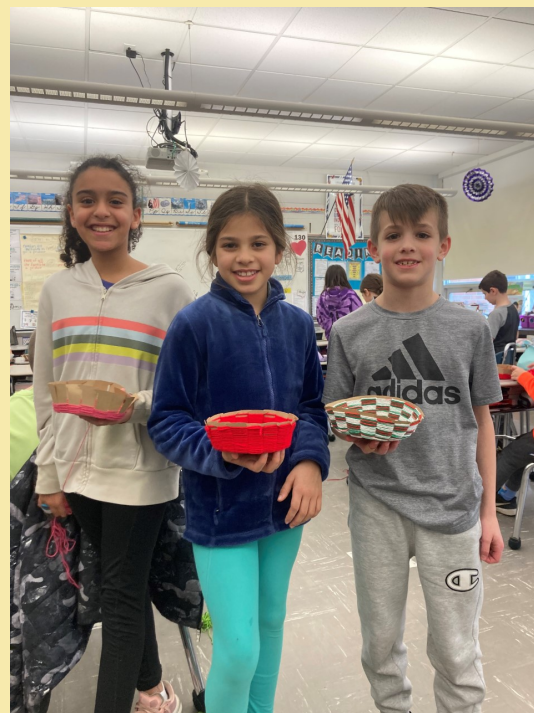
Student Council organized SOUPer Bowl -collecting cans/boxes of SOUP to help fight hunger in our town. All donations go directly to the Monroe Township Senior Center Food Pantry.

Students celebrated a fun spirit day: “Dress like a Teacher/Student” day!





Ms. Ciccarella's grade 4 class ended their unit on the American Revolution by playing with colonial toys , writing with a quill pen and weaving baskets.



Woodland School celebrated the 100th day of school on February 17th!



IN THE COMMUNITY

MONROE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT **MTMS & MTHS CLASS OF 2023** **GRADUATION LAWN SIGNS**

PERSONALIZED with your child's name

A perfect way to celebrate your child's achievement!
\$25 each *price includes tax and personalization



GRADUATION BANNERS

PERSONALIZED with your child's name

For your porch or graduation celebration!
\$50 each *price includes tax and personalization



Completed signs/banners will be available for pick-up at MTHS on the following dates:

MTHS Signs/Banners Pick Up: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 - 2:30pm-6:00pm

MTMS Signs/Banners Pick Up: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 - 2:30pm-6:00pm

Proceeds to benefit MTHS Economics & Finance Team and Senior Options Program.
Both programs operate under the Department for the Applied Arts and Careers Technology.
Questions? Please contact Mr. Mark Pearce, mark.pearce@monroe.k12.nj.us or Ms. Deanna Dale, deanna.dale@monroe.k12.nj.us



Om Foundation Accomplishments

Support Pediatric Cancer Research

- Pledged \$150,000 to support Pediatric Cancer Research at Rutgers RWH Cancer Institute Of New Jersey (CINJ).
- Donated \$120,000 over installments in November 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022
- Rutgers Foundation Press Release: <https://tinyurl.com/omfdnpledge>

Promote Pediatric Cancer Education & Awareness

- Conducted Oncology Poster Contest at MTHS Green/Science Fair
- Donated Oncology Posters to Pediatric Cancer Patients at RWJ Cancer Hospital
- Sponsored 25 MTHS students to participate in Rutgers Oncology Olympiad
- Sponsoring 40 students from MTHS to attend Rutgers CINJ's BOLD Camp
- Pediatric Cancer awareness banner at Municipal Plaza

Bring smiles, positive attitudes, and power of perseverance to children

- Annual 'Month of Optimism' events at MTMS in February involving 2000 students
- Sponsored 'Kindness Matters' event for 587 sixth grade students
- Annual Optimism awards at MTHS and MTMS totaling \$7000
- Donated Lego table and Optimistic Om Mural at Monroe Twp Library
- Annual Makerfest table at Monroe Twp Library in March

Strengthen our community by supporting those in need

- Provided \$15,000 in financial support to NJ families impacted by cancer

Contact Information:
Prakash Parab 732-610-5173, pparab@aol.com
Ketul Parikh 908-267-2275, ketul@smilesforom.org

Sm Foundation 6TH ANNUAL Om Memorial 5K RUN & WALK

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Thompson Park, Monroe, NJ
7:30 am onsite registration (walk only)
8:00 am event begins
8:15 am onsite parking closes
9:00 am 1 mile walk
9:30 am 5K run

REGISTER ONLINE! SMILESFORM.ORG



| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Run: | Walk: |
| ages 5-18 \$12 | ages 5-18 \$5 |
| ages 18+ \$25 | ages 18+ \$10 |
| prices increase \$5 on May 1 | |

Organized by
**Monroe Indians for Civic Action
(MICA)**

supported by Agraj Seva Kendra, Indian Cultural Association of Monroe, Rotary Interact Club of Monroe/Jamesburg, Guru Nanak Sikh Heritage, & Sewa International - Central NJ

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Om Foundation



@smilesforom

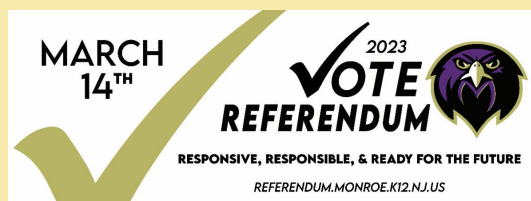


smilesforom.org

MARK THE DATES

March 14
Referendum Vote

March 17
Staff 1/2 Day In-Service
4 Hour Session



**Monroe Township School District
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES**

[Click here to view the full list of 2023 Board of Education meeting dates](#)

For more information about the Monroe Township Board of Education, click here: <https://www.monroe.k12.nj.us/domain/13>

2022 Board Members

Ms. Chrissy Skurbe, Board President
Ms. Karen Bierman, Board Vice President
Ms. Carmen Alvarez
Ms. Kathleen Belko
Ms. Gazala Bohra
Ms. Gail DiPane
Ms. Katie Fabiano
Ms. Kate Rattner
Mr. Peter Tufano

Jamesburg Representative

Ms. Michelle Scott

Student Board Members

Ms. Hetvi Thakker
Mr. Shivank Lattupally

Upcoming Board of Education Meeting :

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Board of Education Meeting 6:30 High School Media Center

Stream Live

Meetings are held in the High School Media Center and will be live-streamed. See district website for meeting links. <https://www.monroe.k12.nj.us/>

STAY CONNECTED WITH ATHLETICS

Get the latest information on the Monroe Township School District Sports Programs
Click below to follow us on Twitter



MTHS ATHLETICS

View the MTHS Athletics website <https://monroetownship.rschooteams.com/> to keep current with upcoming athletic events at Monroe Township High School!



FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ADVERTISING WITH MTSD
[\(CLICK HERE\)](#)

STUDENT REGISTRATION &
DOCUMENTS

Click here
for Information



MONROE TOWNSHIP PEG CHANNEL 

Stay up to date on township/district concerts, sports & special events!

Check out the Monroe Township PEG Channel with videos on demand!

<https://monroetv.viebit.com/>



Share This Email



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