

Brookside School

A MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Monroe Public Schools in collaboration with the members of the community shall ensure that all children receive an exemplary education by well-trained committed staff in a safe and orderly environment.

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are in December! We hope you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving and we wish you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday season.

I wanted to thank all our parents that participated in the fall parent-teacher conferences. Thank you for taking the time to meet with your child's teacher as we value our partnership to support your child. We encourage you to continue this communication with your child's teacher throughout the school year. It truly "takes a village!"

I wanted to share some information with you about our schoolwide character reward incentive program. Our character program rewards students for displaying good character, following the school rules, and being good citizens. Each month we focus on one of the following character pillars: Perseverance, Responsibility, Respect, Caring, Trustworthiness, Fairness, Cooperation, Honesty, and Citizenship.

All students can earn purple or gold tickets for displaying positive character traits. These tickets are then put into a container in their classroom. At the end of each month, three student names from each class are picked to choose from several rewards. The rewards change/rotate each month and may include soccer with Mrs. Sassine, lunch with Mrs. Fidura, games with Mr. Sidler, audiobooks/podcasts with Mrs. Lin, and lunch with a friend – just to name a few. In addition, each homeroom can earn feathers for their falcon posted outside their classroom. I am proud of all our students for working on displaying positive character traits each day!

Fostering positive character traits such as empathy and citizenship are of great importance for our school. Fifth grade students can become involved in our school and help the community by participating in student council. Our Student Council will be holding food drives and fundraisers throughout the year. Thank you to our 5th grade Student Council members and to our advisors, Mrs. Spielholz and Mrs. Nagle!

I wanted to share a few reminders as we move into these colder winter months. We always make every effort to send students outdoors for recess, as the weather permits. To that end, please pay careful attention to your child's attire to ensure it is appropriate and sufficiently comfortable for outdoor play. On that note, our lost and found tends to grow this time of year. Please be sure to label any hats, gloves, jackets, and any other personal items with your child's name.

We will continue to provide information weekly through email. If you need to update your email, please contact the Brookside main office.

On behalf of our staff, I would like to **thank you for sending us your children** each day! They make Brookside such a great place to be. We would like to wish you and your family all the best as we move closer to 2025!

Respectfully,

Mr. Scott Sidler
Principal

VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT: <http://monroenj.schoolwires.com/Domain/570>

MAKEUP PICTURE DAY

The makeup day for pictures is December 3, 2024. Order forms were emailed to new students to Brookside and students that were absent on the original picture day in September. If you would like to have your child's picture retaken on December 3, please send the picture package from the original picture day with your child on December 3. In addition to makeup pictures and retakes, group pictures will be taken on that day. If your child participates in Fourth or Fifth Grade Chorus, Advanced Band or Beginning Band, Student Council, Art Enrichment or Code Zero, their group photo will be taken on December 3. Please plan accordingly.

WINTER CONCERT

The winter concert performance will take place on December 10 at 7 p.m. at the MTMS Performing Arts Center. Our band and chorus students have been working very hard preparing for their performance and they look forward to performing for you. Our band director, Ms. Burrell, and our choral director, Mr. Acampado, will communicate information regarding rehearsal, arrival time, and dress code for the concert via email. Please look for their communication.

WINTER RECESS

We have a 4-hour session on Friday, December 20, 2024; dismissal is at 1:05 p.m. School is closed from December 23 through January 1, 2025. School re-opens on January 2, 2025. Have a happy and healthy winter recess!

CHORUS – NEW STUDENTS

Any fourth or fifth grade students interested in joining chorus can do so through January 10, 2025. Zero period for fourth grade chorus is Monday and Friday mornings and zero period for fifth grade chorus is Thursday and Friday mornings. Students may arrive via parent drop off at the front circle between 8:00-8:15 a.m. If your child is interested in joining chorus, please have them stop by the music room and see Mr. Acampado or email him at joshua.acampado@monroe.k12.nj.us.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

As part of our character education program, each grade level selects a student that best represents the month's character trait. The students of the month for October who represented the character trait of "respect" were: Anastasia Habib from Mrs. Bertini and Mrs. Dempsey's class; Leah Tran from Mrs. Freeman's class; and Yash Anand from Mrs. DeCarlo's class. The students of the month for November who represented the character trait of "Responsibility" were: Cameron Dziubeck from Mrs. Tolnes/Ms. Wall's class; Reya Patel from Mrs. Manfredi/Mrs. Ratcliffe's class; Kashvi Bansal from Ms. Bakerman/Ms. Forrest's class; and Riaan Jupudi from Mrs. Grazier's class.

REQUESTS FOR HOMEWORK

Homework for your child when they are absent from school due to illness can be requested. Please contact the main office or email your child's teacher before 10 a.m. Teachers will gather the homework; however, it does take time to collect materials and assignments. Once the teacher gathers the work, it will be ready in the afternoon to pick up at security.

PTA

Our PTA was very busy this fall with activities for our students including an ice cream social, book fair, trunk or treat, and Gertrude Hawk candy fundraiser just to name a few. They would not be able to provide these student activities without the support of our families. Thank you to all that participated in the fall activities this year. As always, thank you for your continued support!

In December, the PTA is holding a holiday shop on December 5 and 6; forms and envelopes were sent home with your child so you can make a shopping list.

REMINDER - INCLEMENT WEATHER

Notification of school closings and delayed openings due to inclement weather are done through the district's global message system. The information will also be available on:

TV station	News 12 New Jersey Morning Edition
Radio Station	NJ 101.5 FM
Website	Eyewitness News ABC7 (abc7ny.com)

It is also available on local radio stations listed on the district website under "**emergency information.**" This can be found on the left side in the purple section; then select "emergency closing and delayed opening information."

The district website will also have it posted once the decision is made.

DELAYED OPENING SCHEDULE

During the winter months due to inclement weather, it may be necessary to have a delayed opening. If there is a scheduled delayed opening, school will start two hours later at 11:05 a.m. Students should report to their bus stop two hours later than their usual time. The students will have lunch on delayed opening days.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Occasionally, conditions exist which necessitate an early dismissal from school. It is always a good idea to have a plan in place with your child in the event of an unexpected early dismissal. Please update the Brookside main office with any changes to your phone numbers so we can always reach you in case of an emergency.

Parents of students participating in the Monroe Falcon Care Program should receive a handout with information regarding closings. If you have any questions about the Falcon Care Program, please call 732-251-0266.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE, MRS. DEBELLIS

Happy winter Brookside families! Just a few friendly reminders:

- Watch the changing weather and dress your children in layers.
- Cold/Flu season is here; practice good handwashing & covering mouth/nose when sneezing and coughing.
- Always pack extra water and snacks.
- Keep your child home if they have a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, if they are coughing with excessive phlegm, or if they have diarrhea, nausea or vomiting.
- Keep your child home if they have symptoms of strep throat, red eyes, rashes, lice, or any other contagious illnesses.
- If your child has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, they cannot return to school until they are fever-free with no Tylenol or Advil for 24 hours.
- Always put your child's absence in Genesis or you will get the robocall/email/text automatically.
- Always reach out to me at 732-521-1101 extension 7505, or email me at maria.debellis@monroe.k12.nj.us if you are not sure if you should keep your child home, or with any questions or concerns.

Let's keep everyone healthy before the holidays!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

December	3	Makeup Picture Day
	5-6	PTA Holiday Shop
	5	Family Math Game Night at 6:00-7:30 p.m.
	10	Brookside Winter Concert at 7 p.m. – MTMS PAC/ Trimester 1 Ends – Grade 3
	18	Board of Education Meeting at MTMS/Public Session Begins at 7:15 a.m.
	20	4-Hour Session Day/Dismissal is at 1:05 pm/Trimester 1 Report Cards
	23-31	Winter Recess Begins / School's Closed
January	1	Winter Recess Continues / School's Closed
	2	School Re-opens
	3	MP2 Progress Reports Available on Parent Access
	15	Board of Education Meeting at MTMS/Public Session Begins at 7:15 p.m.
	17	4-Hour Session Day/Dismissal @ 1:05 pm/Staff In-service
	20	School's Closed
February	3	MP 2 Ends for Grades 4/5
	13	MP2 Report Cards Available on Parent Portal
	14	4-Hour Session Day / Dismissal is at 1:05 p.m. / Staff In-Service
	17	School's Closed
	19	Board of Education Meeting at MTMS/Public Session Begins at 7:15 p.m.
	19-20	Parent/Teacher Conferences/4-Hour Session Days/Dismissal is 1:05 p.m.
	20	Brookside Evening Conferences
	21	4-Hour Session Day / Dismissal is at 1:05 p.m.