

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

MARCH 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This school year sure is flying by with spring fast approaching. We had a blast celebrating our 100th day of school last month and look forward to even more fun and engaging activities coming. The students are continuing to do an amazing job! I am so proud of all that they have accomplished so far this year.

As a follow-up to our winter conferences, I would like to **thank our parents** for engaging with our teachers as willing partners in their child's educational journey. We will continue to keep you informed of all our upcoming events using Blackboard Connect.

Our students and staff have been active in helping the community this year! Please take a minute to check out some of these endeavors in this newsletter.

In May, students in Grades 3 through 5 will take the NJSLA. The testing schedule for each grade level consists of two days of language arts and two days of math. Fifth grade students will also have an additional two days of science. The testing schedule for Brookside is as follows:

Grade 3-5 ELA	May 5 and 6
Grade 3-5 Math	May 7 and 8
Grade 5 Science	May 12 and 13
Make-Ups	May 14 through May 23

To assist our students during their week of testing, it is important that they get a good night's sleep and eat a regular breakfast. While you should encourage your child to do their best work possible, some students experience testing anxiety. A certain degree of anxiety is normal and may even help students to focus better on the tests. However, too much anxiety can negatively impact performance. The following strategies may assist parents and students in reducing test anxiety:

- Discuss the test openly and in a positive manner.
- Have realistic expectations of your child's performance while encouraging his/her best efforts.
- Emphasize that the test is only one measure of academic performance.
- Emphasize that test scores do not determine a person's worth.

Good luck to all of our students! **THANK YOU** for sending us your children, and for all that you are doing to support them at home!

Respectfully,



Mr. Scott Sidler
Principal

Read Across America

Brookside is celebrating Read Across America Week beginning on Monday, March 3 through Friday, March 7. Guest readers will be visiting Brookside and reading to our classes during the week. We will have a fun week of themed dress up days. Attached to the end of this newsletter is the flyer with the dress theme for each day.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Please join Brookside School to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness month and Autism Acceptance month. One activity we will be participating in is the **Brookside Inclusion Tree**, an interactive bulletin board where students will have the opportunity to reflect and think of ways they have been, or can be, inclusive to others. The students are encouraged to cut and color an infinity symbol (the symbol of neurodiversity) and include one example of inclusivity. Brookside will be participating in a Neurodiversity Spirit Week from March 21- March 31 to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day, Neurodiversity, and Autism Acceptance Month. Attached to the end of this newsletter is the spirit week flyer.

Student Council

Student Council held a coin contest fundraiser to support those affected by the California fires. Their hard work and dedication led to an incredible effort. They raised over \$2,300 to support the American Red Cross and Pasadena Humane Society. In addition, Student Council will be participating in the Middlesex County REPLENISH food drive in March. The food drive will start on March 3 and go through March 14. Please see the attached flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Fifth Grade Empty Bowls Community Service Project

Once again, Brookside School has started the **2025 Brookside School Empty Bowls Project**. Fifth-grade students are in the process of glazing their individual bowls. Once it is completed, it will be sent to the middle school for firing in the kiln. As this is the collective effort of all involved, your support is what will make our **Empty Bowls** event become a huge success!

This **extraordinary event** raises money to support food pantries, soup kitchens, and other hunger-fighting organizations in our own community and the neighboring communities.

Please save the date and join us at Brookside School

Friday, May 30th, 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria

Donate to the hungry; bid on a beautiful Brookside staff created bowl.

Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Mrs. Julie Freeman, Brookside School's Teacher of the Year for 2025. Mrs. Freeman is a fourth-grade teacher who goes above and beyond for her students. She is a caring and dedicated teacher who works effectively with her students to meet their needs. She is always striving for her students to be successful. She has a love for learning and is a positive teacher that encourages her students each day. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

Educational Services Professional of the Year

Congratulations to Mrs. Maria DeBellis, Brookside School's Educational Services Professional of the Year for 2025. Mrs. DeBellis is our school nurse that works each day to keep our students and staff well. She takes pride in making sure our students are safe and healthy. She provides care for our students' needs no matter how big or small. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

Educational Support Staff of the Year

We would like to congratulate Mr. Chris Gross, Brookside School's Educational Support Staff of the Year for 2025. Mr. Gross is our Network Operations Manager at Brookside School. He is hard-working, caring, and dedicated to meeting the technological needs of all our students and staff. He is attentive and makes sure all our equipment is always in working order. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

Scripps Spelling Bee:

Brookside School participated in the Scripps Spelling Bee this year. We started with homeroom spelling bees in all grades. From that bee, we had the classroom winners from fourth and fifth grade compete in the schoolwide spelling bee where our school champion was determined. Our classroom winners were:

Grade 3:

Sonya Boos from Mrs. Gallelo/Mrs. Goebel's class; Manvith Lohith from Mrs. Bertini/Mrs. Dempsey's class; Natasha Godson from Mrs. Tolnes/Ms. Wall's class; Agaas Bindra from Ms. Schnier/Ms. Hoppock's class; Sanvi Paudel from Mrs. Jacoutot's class; Aarav Shah from Mrs. Lally/Ms. Delicato's class; and Harshini Komatipally from Ms. Morrison's class. Congratulations to our third-grade winners!

Grade 4:

Aryan Vaidya from Mrs. Scarpa's class; Aaradhya Cherukuri from Ms. Herbstman's class; Rion Paragati from Mrs. Corvinus/Mrs. Pavese's class; Isha Rangaswamy from Mrs. Manfredi/Mrs. Ratcliffe's class; Svayansh Vannala from Ms. Ludmer/Ms. Cruz's class; and Liam Kpeli from Mrs. Freeman's class. Congratulations to our fourth-grade winners!

Grade 5

Haniya Chaudhry from Mrs. Goyal/Mrs. Cuzzo's class; Nithya Cherukuri from Mrs. Fennell/Ms. Anthony's class; Darshi Sivakumar from Mrs. Robinson/Mrs. Ours' class; John Rens from Mr. Tortoriello's class; Itzayana Garcia from Ms. Bakerman/Ms. Forrest's class; and Yash Anand from Ms. DeCarlo's class. Congratulations to our fifth-grade winners!

The school champion is Yash Anand.
Congratulations to all our top spellers!

Students of the Month

As part of our character education program, each month a student from each grade level is selected that exemplifies a monthly character trait. The students of the month for December who represented the character trait of *fairness* are: Yaseen Khalil from Ms. Schnier/Ms. Hoppock's class, Navit Basana from Mrs. Corvinus/Mrs. Pavese's class; Kashvi Bansal from Ms. Bakerman/Ms. Forrest's class; and Ritesh Rayavarapu from Mrs. Grazier's class. The students of the month for January who represented the character trait of *caring* are: Ishi Vijayvargiya from Ms. Jacoutot's class; Hannah Kuehns from Ms. Ludmer/Ms. Cruz's class; Korie Reinhart from Mrs. Robinson/Mrs. Ours' class; and Joshua Pineda from Ms. Otero's class. The students of the month for February who represented the character trait of *trustworthiness* are: Noria Ahmed from Mrs. Fennell/Ms. Anthony's class; Aryan Vaidya from Mrs. Scarpa's class; Harry Dawkins from Ms. Morrison's class; and Jayden Pineda from Ms. Metroke's class. Congratulations to our students!

PTA NEWS

The Barclay Brook/Brookside PTA sponsored an assembly for our students called "Wacky Science" by Mad Science. This assembly brought fun into learning science for our students. In addition, the PTA is sponsoring an author's visit, **Michael Rex**, for our students on April 1st. Thank you to the PTA for all that they do for the

students. The PTA is hosting several upcoming events, such as, Girls Choice Dance, the Boys Choice Bowling Night, and Blue and White Ice Skating.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE, MRS. DEBELLIS

For the safety and health of all our students:

- Please do not send your child to school if they are sick and have any of the following symptoms: fever, nausea/vomiting, or productive cough. If unsure, please contact me via email or phone at 732-521-1101 ext. 7505.
- Always put a note in your parent portal regarding the reason for your child's tardiness or absence; if not, you will receive an automatic call/email/text from Brookside confirming your child's absence.
- Monitor the changes in weather/temperature and dress your children in layers according to the weather forecast.
- Have your children wear appropriate shoes for outdoor recess (preferably sneakers) to avoid any injuries.
- Encourage your children to eat a good breakfast every day. Do not forget their water bottles! Water and snacks are available for purchase through the cafeteria during lunches if your child has money on their lunch account.

TO ALL GRADE 5 PARENTS:

All current Grade 5 students are required to get immunized against meningitis and pertussis on or after their 11th birthday before entering Grade 6 in September. Grade 5 parents are encouraged to call their pediatrician to schedule these important immunizations—Tdap and meningococcal vaccines. Your doctor must give you a note indicating the date these immunizations were given, and you need to submit this note to the school nurse. Between now and June, you can submit immunization documentation to the Brookside Health office or email it to me at maria.debellis@monroe.k12.nj.us.

If your child's physical/immunization appointment is over the summer, please submit the documentation to the Middle School nurses as soon as you receive it.

If you have any difficulty complying with these requirements, please contact the Middle School Nurses at (732) 521-6402 extension 2004: Alicia Realmuto, Cristina Demone, or Lauren Sumanski.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- March**
- 3-7 - Read Across America Week
 - 3-14 - REPLENISH FOOD DRIVE
 - 3 - Hats off to Reading! - wear a silly hat!
 - 4 - Reading takes us on a journey – wear clothing from a vacation destination!
 - 5 - Wild for reading – wear clothes with animal print or an animal on it!
 - 6 - Reading around the world! - wear a shirt with lots of words on it!
 - 7 - Reading builds character! – come to school dressed as your favorite storybook character!
 - 10-11 - CoGat Testing for Grade 5 and New Students to the District
 - 11 - Progress Reports for Grades 4/5 Available on Parent Access
 - 14 - 4-Hour Session Day / Dismissal is at 1:05 p.m. / Staff In-Service
 - 17 - Board of Education Meeting /Budget Presentation/Public Session at 7:15 p.m.
 - 18 - Trimester 2 Ends for Grade 3
 - 21-28 - School Spirit Week for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Week
 - 21 - World Down Syndrome Day – wear mismatched socks!
 - 24 - Neurodiversity Monday – wear your favorite colors or tie-dyed clothes to school!
 - 25 - We are ALL Monroe! – wear your school spirit wear or purple/gold shirt!
 - 26 - Celebrate Acceptance of Autism and Developmental Disabilities – wear blue or red!
 - 27 - Team Up for Disabilities Acceptance – wear your favorite team apparel! / Book Fair
 - 28 - Book Fair / Trimester 2 Report Cards for Grade 3 on Parent Access
 - 31 - Two Hour Delayed Opening / School Begins at 11:05 a.m.
- April**
- 1 - PTA Sponsored Author's Visit
 - 9 - End of Marking Period 3 for Grades 4/5
 - 14-21 - School's Closed for Spring Recess
 - 24 - Take Your Child to Work Day
 - 29 - MP3 Report Cards Available on Parent Access
 - 30 - Enviro-mobile for Grade 3
- May**
- 1 - "Class of 2025" Photo for Fifth Grade
 - 5-8 - NJSLA Testing Grades 3 through 5
 - 12-13 - NJSLA Science Testing Grade 5
 - 14-23 - NJSLA Makeup Testing
 - 16 - 4-Hour Session Day / Dismissal is at 1:05 p.m. / Staff In-service
 - 19-20 - Grade 3 Field Trip to Six Flags Safari
 - 21 - MP4 Progress Reports Available on Parent Access
 - 26 - School's Closed
 - 28-30 - Fourth Grade Field Trip to Cornelius Low House
 - 30 - Brookside's Empty Bowls Evening Event

Read Across America!!

Brookside Elementary School

March 3rd - March 7th

Join us as we celebrate Dr. Seuss and our love of reading with these fun spirit days!

3/3 **Monday**
Hats off to reading!

Wear a silly hat!



3/4 **Tuesday**
Reading takes us on a journey!

Wear clothing from a vacation destination!



3/5 **Wednesday**
WILD for reading!

Wear clothes with an animal on it or animal print.



3/6 **Thursday**
Reading is all around!

Wear a shirt with a lot of words!



3/7 **Friday**
Reading builds character!

Come to school dressed as your favorite storybook character!

**schoolwide DEAR at 3:00!*



Monroe Township Schools Are DisABILITIES Inclusive!

*All of our students are invited to show their school spirit during
Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.*

Friday, March 21st- World Down Syndrome Day!

Wear mis-matched socks today.

Monday, March 24th- Neurodiversity Monday

To celebrate the beauty of our diverse world, wear rainbow
and/or tie-dyed clothes to school!

Tuesday, March 25th- Be Kind Tuesday

Be kind to somebody today.

Wednesday, March 26th- Show your Passion Wednesday

What are you passionate about? (i.e. favorite character)
Wear something to show your passion.

Thursday, March 27th- Team Up for Disabilities Acceptance

Wear your favorite team apparel today.

Friday, March 28th- Sensory Friendly Friday

Dress up today in your most comfy clothes (including school
appropriate PJs), use as much natural light in
your classroom instead of fluorescents.

Monday, March 31st- We are ALL Monroe!

Wear your school spirit wear or purple/gold shirts today.



MIDDLESEX
COUNTY • NJ

Drop-off donations at schools March 3 – March 14

Canned and packaged goods only, low sodium and low sugar options preferred, NO glass items.

- Canned Meats
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Vegetables
- Dry Beans
(Red, Black & Pinto)
- Fruits
- Stew
- Cereal
- Rice
- Pasta
- Granola Bars
- Diapers & Wipes
- Paper Products
- Soap & Shampoo
- Toothpaste

FEEDING MIDDLESEX COUNTY
PARTNERING TO END HUNGER



 **732.729.0880**



REPLENISH

NUTRIENDO A LOS VECINOS

REPLENISH es el programa de erradicación del hambre del condado de Middlesex, que satisface las necesidades básicas del condado al apoyar a más de 150 agencias asociadas.

MIDDLESEX
COUNTY • NJ

Campaña de Recolección de Alimentos de la Primavera de 2025 del Condado de Middlesex

Entrega de donaciones en las escuelas del 3 de Marzo al 14 de Marzo

Ayúdenos a mantener nuestras estanterías abastecidas. Esto es lo que necesitamos:

Solo productos enlatados y envasados, preferiblemente opciones bajas en sodio y azúcar. NINGÚN artículo de vidrio.

- Carnes enlatadas
- Macarrones con queso
- Verduras
- Frijoles secos
- Crema de maní y mermelada
- Frutas
- Estofado y Sopa
- Cereal
- Arroz
- Pasta y Salsa
- Barras de granola y galletas
- Pañales y toallitas
- Productos de papel
- Jabón y champú
- Crema de dientes

También se aceptan donaciones de dinero en línea en feedingmiddlesexcounty.org o mediante cheques a nombre de Feeding Middlesex County y enviados por correo a PO Box 781, Edison, NJ 08818.

**FEEDING
MIDDLESEX COUNTY**
PARTNERING TO END HUNGER

¡Gracias por su apoyo y generosidad!



Para aprender más y localizar despensas de alimentos, escanea el código QR.



REPLENISHMiddlesexCounty



replenish@co.middlesex.nj.us



middlesexcountynj.gov/replenish



@we_Replenish



@we_replenish



732.729.0880