

# *Moonachie Public Schools*

ROBERT L. CRAIG SCHOOL  
20 WEST PARK STREET  
MOONACHIE, NEW JERSEY 07074

JAMES KNIPPER  
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December 10, 2021

## Moonachie Families & Friends –

We want to start by hoping everyone is having a blessed and magical holiday season! Your wonderful children are such a joy each day with their Excitement and Positive Spirit! As we progress towards the end of 2021, we want to keep everyone updated on some items.

### School Safety & Security

In the wake of the tragic event last week in Oxford, Michigan, and the report of an armed student at Lawrence High School in NJ this week, we want to make sure everyone knows that Student and Staff Safety is a top priority. We have school safety trainings, run security drills on a monthly basis, and work with our community first responders. However, just like many other things associated with our children, school safety and security involve all of us.

First, we ask you to talk to your children about their safety and school safety and security. Let them know that you are a resource for them to discuss concerns.

Second, please have your child tell any staff member if they see or hear something that is of a concern to them about their own safety or the safety of others. If this is an issue after school hours, our local police department is the resource you should contact. One of the best safety slogans came from New York City. The **“See Something, Say Something”** slogan is easy to remember and easy to do.

Third, discuss with your child information that is shared on social media. Inaccurate information and rumors are often spread that cause children, families, and schools stress and anxiety. Please do not feed into inaccurate information and rumors.

Finally, the district works daily to address school safety issues. We collaborate with our local and county law enforcement officers. When there is a credible safety issue, the school will address it and communicate to our families.

Working together we can help to lower the stress and anxiety of our students, faculty, staff, administrators, and parents when it comes to school safety and security.

### Morning Entrance

You may have noticed this week we began putting cones to create one lane for morning drop off. We needed to initiate this process to ensure safety during our morning entrance. We have observed unsafe maneuvers, especially when students are exiting their vehicles on the road side.

We ask that everyone please be mindful during drop off. **Do Not Abandon your vehicle in the line.** If you wish to walk your child to the door, please wait until you get to the front of the line to exit your car so others who are just dropping off may proceed without delay. Please Be Courteous to Others.

Remember: You can drop off as early as 8:10. The Safe Entrance of our students, just like School Safety, involves all of us.

### Afternoon Bussing

Over the past Two Weeks, Bus Number 1 is consistently late. We are now observing Bus number 3 also being late. The bus driver shortage in NJ is directly attributed to this. We are in daily communication with the Managers and Dispatch,

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continuing to work towards solutions. If your student takes bus number 1 or 3, we appreciate your continued understanding of this delay.

## COVID Update @ RLC – Continued Partnership

As a direct result of our Community Partnership in keeping our Students & Staff safe, we remain with two (2) COVID-19 cases that have impacted our building this year (both reported in early September). Our success & good health is a community effort, anchored in the monitoring of symptoms, honesty when reporting illness, and continuing to make smart decisions. As the Omicron Variant makes itself present in NJ and we learn more of its potential impact, we ask for your continued vigilance and partnership in protecting each other. We wish nothing more than for your and our continued good health.

## COVID Risk Level

The New Jersey Risk Level has increased this week from Yellow (Moderate) to Orange (High). COVID-19 spread is on the rise. We encourage you to remain vigilant and thoughtful.

## Holiday Travel & Post Quarantine Expectations

If you are traveling out of NJ for the Holiday Season, we are not requiring quarantine for any Domestic Travel.

International Travel remains strongly discouraged. International Travel does require your student to quarantine from school upon their return. Please inform Nurse Gallo of your travel intentions so she can advise you on quarantine timelines.

## Winter Concert

Reminder that our Winter Concert will be celebrated on Wednesday December 22.

- Grades PK-3 will begin at 9:30am.
- Grades 4-8 will begin at 1:00pm.
- Everyone must wear a mask.
- Two (2) guests per family. Social Distancing will be observed. By attending you are certifying you are symptom free, have not been exposed to COVID, and have not traveled internationally within the last 14-days.
- There will be a Live Stream available to view for any family members not able to attend.

## PTO

Our PTO is continuing to create engaging and fun activities for our students & families! The Turkey Contest, Winter Wonderland Door Decorating Contest, Holiday Shop, Polar Express Night, Hot Chocolate Bombs, & Spirit Week are just some of the fun and recent activities they have hosted or planned. Thank You to the PTO & all of our Parent Volunteers for your continued support and engagement!

## Family Connection Survey

We are creating a survey, which will be published shortly, that is designed to collect information on how we can better serve each family. We will be asking for information on communication trends from our staff, what information are you looking for in our communications, and what struggles you are experiencing at home. We are going to use this information to design family outreach events and better our communication efforts with families.

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## STAR Assessments

Last week we administered our STAR Benchmark Assessments in Math & ELA to students who are in need of support. We administer the STAR assessment multiple times a year. The data received helps us determine skills students need support in, identify independent performance levels, and let us design purposeful interventions. We are excited to see student growth with the interventions and tutoring we have implemented this year. If your student was assessed, your teacher will be reaching out to you to share the results, what they mean, and how you can partner with your teacher to help your student grow.

## After School Academy

We successfully launched our After School Academy in grades 3-8 last week. This extended day program is designed to build upon and expand skills students learn during the day. Thanks to our partnership with the YMCA, we are able to offer this program through small group instructional methods. Students were selected based on NJ Start Strong Performance, STAR Assessment Performance, and teacher input. If your child was not selected but you wish to attend for extra practice, please contact Mrs. Genatt to learn more about the program.

## Saturday Programming

YMCA Saturday tutoring has begun! Saturday tutoring is weekly from 9am – 11am and is FREE to all families. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Facendola at [pfacendola@meadowlandsymca.org](mailto:pfacendola@meadowlandsymca.org) or Ms. Gilma Mejia at [gmejia@moonachieschool.org](mailto:gmejia@moonachieschool.org).

## Important Dates to Remember

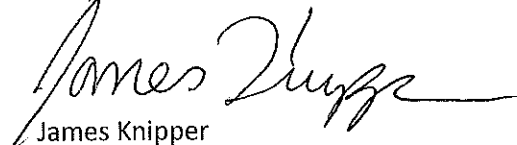
Wednesday December 15 – Picture Retake Day  
Friday December 17 – Hot Chocolate Bomb PTO Sale Order Forms Due  
Wednesday December 22 – Winter Concert  
Thursday December 23 – 1 Session Day (1:00pm Dismissal) – NO YMCA or After School Activities  
Friday December 24 – Friday December 31 – School Closed (Winter Recess)

## Winter Spirit Week

Monday December 20 – Festive Monday (Dress in your Favorite Holiday outfit and/or accessory)  
Tuesday December 21 – Long Winters Nap (Pajama Day)  
Wednesday December 22 – Dress Your Best (Concert Day – Wear your “Sunday Best”)  
Thursday December 23 – Ridiculous Apparel Day (Create/Wear Your Most Crazy Outfit)

We Thank You for your continued partnership and grace. We wish your family a wonderful Holiday Season. May good health and happiness continue to bless our Moonachie Family.

Best,



James Knipper  
Superintendent/Principal



Dana Genatt  
Director of Curriculum & Instruction