



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent's Message

Dear Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Community,

This time of year is always one of my favorites, as it gives us the opportunity to celebrate the many milestones and accomplishments of MARSD's students, teachers, staff, and their families. From award ceremonies and graduations to field days and spring concerts, the final weeks of school highlight the remarkable work and connections formed this year.

Matawan-Aberdeen students have grown in countless ways and none of that would be possible without the dedication of our outstanding teachers, principals, and administrators. This month, we proudly recognized our principals and administrators on School Principal's Day on May 1 and are celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week this week.

- **To our teachers:** *Thank you for your passion and dedication to helping students reach their potential. Your impact extends far beyond the classroom.*
- **To our principals and administrators:** *Your leadership shapes the culture of our schools and district. Thank you for creating environments where students and staff are empowered.*
- **And to our families:** *Thank you for being partners in education. Your support makes all the difference.*

As we wrap up the school year, I hope you reflect and celebrate on all we've accomplished together. Let's finish the school year strong!

Sincerely,
Nelyda Perez
Superintendent of Schools



Meet the Board: Chris McGovern

What inspired you to serve on the Board of Education?

I have two kids, and one of them, my son, is special needs and had been in district. My family has gone through it all from IEP's to working with the district for what's best for my son. That was my initial inspiration in wanting to represent that part of the community on the board. When I take something on, I always research it, so I started attending Board of Education meetings before running to see more of the total picture of what being a board member means. It interested me even further in being a voice for the community and doing what is best for the kids.



Please tell me about your background and connections to the community and schools. Do you have children or family members in the district?

I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and moved to New Jersey 14 years ago. I work as a manager for a utility company called National Grid and work in emergency response. I have been with them for 32 years. Through my job's community efforts, I get the opportunity to work with Junior Achievement through various programs, such as Teacher for a Day and mentoring programs for young adults. I have two kids: my son Christopher is 16 and has autism and my daughter Sabrina is 12.

My son was in district and currently attends New Roads Schools, but he may be coming back to the district next year. My daughter was in the district and is currently in Saint Benedict's. I am also a big supporter and volunteer for Parents of Special Needs and have coached various sports programs for that organization.

Which committees or initiatives are you most passionate about?

I am currently on two committees that I am passionate about. The first one is my role as a liaison to the Town Council for the Board of Education. I feel this is a very important role because I believe that the Board of Education and Town Council need to have a strong relationship since we both affect the kids and our community. Through this relationship, we are discovering there are a lot of efforts we can work together on that would benefit the community. I am also on the Policy Committee, and I feel passionate about that because our society is constantly changing, and our policies need to grow with those changes, while also keeping our kids and communities at the forefront.

What do you see as the biggest opportunity for MARSD?

One of the big opportunities I see is working with our community and Town Council. If you look around other districts/communities, it sometimes seems siloed. We have made it one of our goals to show transparency in what we do every day. From what I've seen in my time on the board, it has been a positive journey with engaging conversation with the community.

Spotlight on Student Services

Disability Awareness Week spreads positivity and raises donations

Lloyd Road Elementary School marked Disability Awareness Week during the week of April 7 with a variety of activities, themes and fundraising.

To kick start the week, the students placed a ribbon template in each teacher's mailbox for students to design in honor of Disability Awareness Week. Teachers then hung the decorated ribbons outside their classrooms.

The students also tie-dyed t-shirts – using two different shades of blue in a unique spray-dying method that allowed all students to participate. Staff were able to purchase the shirts as part of a fundraiser for the Lloyd Road Cafe and POAC Autism Services. The \$300 donation to POAC Autism Services was very impressive – thanks to all who donated! It was also amazing to see everyone wearing the shirts on Friday.



Each day of the week was also celebrated with spirit days, including Physical Disability Awareness Day in which everyone wore team jerseys or spirit wear and Communication Disorder Awareness Day in which everyone dressed like a superhero to show that we all have superpowers.



CALENDAR REMINDERS

- **May 15, 6 – 7:30 p.m.** - [Healing Together: Supporting Your Child Through Grief](#)
- **May 22, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.** – BOE Special Meeting
- **May 22, 6:30 – 9 p.m.** - BOE Regular Action Meeting
- **May 23** - Early Dismissal
- **May 26** – District Closed for Memorial Day

Check the full calendar [here](#). You can view the calendars on the new website by selecting All Calendars, or narrow your search to a specific school(s), and/or athletics.

News From our Schools

Matawan Regional High School

To celebrate Earth Day, MRHS Environmental Science students rolled up their sleeves and cleaned up the school campus. It was more than just picking up trash: it was a chance to show their love for the environment and take ownership of the place they call home every day. Their efforts were a powerful reminder that environmental stewardship starts with each of us doing our part.



Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School

Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School Student Council and teachers toured the state's capitol building in Trenton. Students spent the day inside the State House and the Governor's Office learning firsthand how our state's legislature operates and how a bill becomes a law.



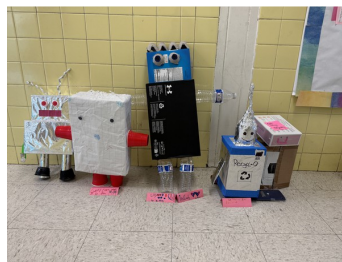
Lloyd Road Elementary School

Lloyd Road recently held its second annual PTO STEM Night. Students and families joined together to rotate through various hands-on science experiment stations and engineering design challenges. Students learned about DNA Chromosomes, competed to build the tallest and strongest tower using only paper and tape, and got their hands wet creating floating tin foil boats that could hold the most coins without sinking. It was a great night of hands-on family fun and learning!



Strathmore Elementary School

Second-grade students at Strathmore made robots out of 100% recycled materials, such as plastic water bottles, tinfoil and soda cans. Each student presented their robot to their classmates and described the materials they used. The students' creativity really shined!



Ravine Drive Elementary School

The PTO sponsored a Dinosaurs Rock Assembly on April 7 and the Garden State Percussion Trip on April 24 at Ravine Drive. Students and staff loved both of these engaging events. We are very grateful to the PTO for sponsoring them.



Cliffwood Elementary School

Cliffwood Elementary School students celebrated Earth Day by learning, planting, cleaning, and dreaming of a greener tomorrow. The Cliffwood garden looks beautiful thanks to their cleanup efforts!



Cambridge Park Elementary School

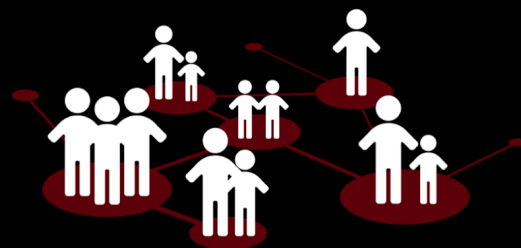
Cambridge Park celebrated the Week of the Young Child from April 7-11. This annual event celebrates the importance of early learning and highlights the work of the teachers and families who support young children.



Submit an Idea for a Story

Do you have good news to share about a student, staff member, team or club? We're always looking for opportunities to share school-community connections! Use [this Google Form](#) to tell us about it. We may feature it in some way on the district's newsletter or social media!

MATAWAN-
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Matawan-Aberdeen Connections - Story Submission

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CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional
School District

