



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

May 18, 2025

Important Links

[District School Calendar](#), [School Hours](#), [Cliffwood Morning Music Requests](#)

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Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

A big thank you to our amazing PTO for organizing the Mother's Day Flower Sale, it was a beautiful success and brought lots of smiles!

And a heartfelt thank you to the PTO for all their hard work in organizing and managing the unforgettable Harlem Wizards fundraiser, your efforts made the event a huge success! We also want to give a huge shoutout to our incredible Cliffwood staff, who faced off against the Harlem Wizards in a fun-filled basketball game! It was an unforgettable night filled with laughter, high energy, and lots of school spirit. Best of all, the event helped us raise funds toward our goal of installing a sponge surface for our playground, making it safer and more enjoyable for all of our students. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported this important cause!

Here are a few upcoming reminders:

- PTO Meeting: This Wednesday at 5:30 PM in the Cafeteria. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!
- Early Dismissal: This Friday, May 23rd.
- Fun Day: Also on Friday! Families are invited to come cheer on your little ones during this joyful and active day.
- School Closed: Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day. In memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of the Cliffwood community!

Message from Mrs. LaPlaga, Speech Language Therapist

May is National Speech-Language-Hearing Month and a time to raise awareness about communication disorders and the important role of speech-language pathologists play in various settings.

Speech-Language Pathology SERVICES IN SCHOOLS

Speech and language services in public schools are available to eligible students at no cost to families as part of special education, under U.S. federal law (through the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA). Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) help students in many different areas.



DID YOU KNOW ?

Speech and language disorders are among the **most common disabilities** for which students receive treatment services in schools—**more than 1 million schoolchildren** nationwide do so each year.



LEARN MORE AT WWW.ASHA.ORG/PUBLIC

Speech-Language Pathology SERVICES IN SCHOOLS

WHO:

School-based SLPs work with students in grades K–12 as well as children ages 3–5 years.

WHAT:

SLPs help students effectively use their speech and language skills to be successful within the educational environment. SLPs tailor evaluations and treatment as needed to a student's national origin, ethnicity, race, gender identity, and other individual factors. These all may play a role in a child's communication. Here are some areas where SLPs help students:



- **Speech sounds**—Children may substitute one sound for another, leave sounds out, add sounds, or change a sound. It may be hard for others to understand them.
- **Spoken and written language**—A student may have trouble understanding what others are communicating to them and may have problems explaining what they are thinking or feeling. They may also have difficulty with reading and writing.
- **Stuttering (fluency)**—A child may get stuck on certain sounds or words. They also may have tension or negative feelings about talking. This can get in the way of how they talk to others.
- **Cognition**—A child may have problems with long- or short-term memory, attention, problem solving, or staying organized.
- **Social communication**—A student may have difficulty understanding how others feel or following the rules of conversation, such as knowing how to take turns.
- **Voice**—A child might lose their voice frequently or use a hoarse or breathy voice. They could also speak with strain or effort.
- **Augmentative and alternative communication**—Children may need or choose to use other ways to communicate besides talking. Options include pointing or gesturing, picture boards, and speech-generating devices.
- **Feeding and swallowing**—A student may need help to eat and swallow safely. Feeding and swallowing problems can lead to other health issues and interfere with a child's ability to learn.

WHERE:

SLPs work with students inside or outside the classroom, one-on-one or in groups. They also work in preschools and Head Start programs—and with children who are home-schooled. In some cases, SLPs provide services to students via an online platform (remotely).

HOW:

Children must qualify for speech and language services in schools. This involves the following steps:

1. Parents/caregivers can **ask the principal or teacher for an evaluation** of their child's skills. Sometimes, the school initiates this process if a teacher or other staff has concerns, but a parent or guardian *must* agree to an evaluation first.
2. Results are discussed with the family at a meeting with school staff. Interpreters are required if a family does not speak English. **If a child is found *ineligible*** for services because they are determined not to have a disorder/disability—or if they do, but it is not interfering with their academic or social success—families can appeal this decision. SLPs can also provide recommendations/strategies based on parental concern.
3. **If a child is found *eligible***, treatment will follow an individualized education program, or IEP, that defines the student's goals for speech, language, cognition, or feeding/swallowing—as well as the type(s) of services that the student will receive (and how often they will receive them).

WHY:

SLPs can help children meet their full academic and social potential—and help them be confident communicators. **This sets them on a course to success in school and in the future.**

Harlem Wizards Game

Thank you so much to our incredible Cliffwood staff and community members who came out to support and participate in the **Harlem Wizards game!** Whether you played in the game, cheered from the sidelines, volunteered behind the scenes, or simply showed up to support our school, your energy and enthusiasm made the night truly unforgettable.

A special shoutout to **Mrs. Acosta and her family** for providing the fantastic jerseys and shirts, they were such a great addition to the event! A heartfelt thank-you as well to our amazing **PTO** for organizing everything so beautifully, and to **Viva Margarita** for generously donating the delicious food for the evening.

We are incredibly fortunate to be part of such a **supportive, spirited, and connected school community**. Thank you all for everything you do to make **Cliffwood School** such a special place!







Cliffwood PAWS Winners!



Information about Excused/Unexcused Absences



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

The New Jersey Department of Education recognizes only six allowable reasons for an "excused" absence; these reasons are listed below.


1. Religious holidays (Each year, the State Board of Education votes on a list of approved religious holidays for observance upon the written request signed by the parent.).
2. Participation in observance of Veterans Day.
3. Participation in district board of election membership activities.
4. Take Our Children to Work Day.
5. College visit(s), up to three days per school year for students in grades 11 and 12.
6. Closure of a busing school district that prevents a student from having transportation to the receiving school.

Being present and on-time to school each day is extremely important for students' success and well-being. School attendance is a powerful predictor of student outcomes; data shows that, when students are present daily, they learn better and are generally healthier. **Attendance matters and every school day counts!**

May Breakfast & Lunch Menu

May 2025

Cliffwood ES
Breakfast

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sausage, Egg & Cheese on a Bagel	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mini Cinnis
5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mini Cornbread Loaf	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bacon, Egg and Cheese on a Bun	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none">French Toast Bites	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sausage, Egg & Cheese on a Bagel	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Whole Grain Donut Bites
12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mini Maple Pancakes	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bacon, Egg and Cheese on a Bun	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fluffy French Toast Sticks	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sausage, Egg & Cheese on a Bagel	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mini Maple Chip Waffles
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mini Cinnamon Crumb Loaf	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bacon, Egg and Cheese on a Bun	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Apple Frudel	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sausage, Egg & Cheese on a Bagel	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Confetti Pancakes
26 <div><p>Memorial Day</p></div>	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bacon, Egg and Cheese on a Bun	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assorted BeneFIT Bar	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sausage, Egg & Cheese on a Bagel	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mini Cinnis

*Menu is Subject to Change



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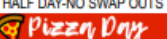




QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
Please call us at (973) 598-0005 to speak to one of Maschio's Registered Dietitian Nutritionists.

FOLLOW US:
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Healthy meals grow
healthy kids!

Swap Outs-Elementary Breakfast: Assorted Cereal Bar with Graham Crackers , Assorted Cereal with Graham Crackers , Assorted Pop Tarts with Graham Crackers , Bagel with Cream Cheese

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1	2
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken Tenders with Waffles Crunchy Hash Browns 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NY Style Bella's Pizza Freshly Prepared Maschio's House Salad French Bread Cheese Pizza Stuffed Crust Pizza NY Style Bella's Pizza Freshly Prepared Maschio's House Salad
5	6	7	8	9
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasoned Beef Scoop-A-Bowl with Rice, Cheddar Cheese, Lettuce, Diced Tomatoes, Salsa, Tortilla Chips Cilantro-Lime Corn Roasted Sweet Plantains 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sausage, Egg, and Cheese on English Muffin Crunchy Tater Tots 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juicy Cheeseburger on a Bun or Juicy Hamburger on a Bun All Natural Beef Hot Dog on a Bun BBQ Baked Beans Watermelon Slice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini Mozzarella Cheese Calzones Panko Crusted Green Beans 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bella's Cheese Pizza Freshly Prepared Cucumber and Tomato Salad
12	13	14	15	16
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mozzarella Sticks with Marinara Sauce Italian Green Beans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grilled Cheese Sandwich Sliced Cucumber Coins  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asparagus Tomato Salad Blueberry Smoothie 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheesy Baked Ziti Garlic Bread Roasted Parmesan Carrots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasoned Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla Fiesta Corn 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NY Style Bella's Pizza Freshly Prepared Spring Mix Salad
19	20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden Crisp Waffles Juicy Breakfast Sausages Crunchy Hash Browns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orange Glaze Popcorn Chicken Vegetable Fried Rice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich Seasoned Crinkle Cut French Fries 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three Cheese Cavatappi Herbed Breadstick Roasted Parmesan Broccoli 	HALF DAY-NO SWAP OUTS  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bella's Cheese Pizza Freshly Prepared Garden Salad OR Chicken Nuggets OR Muffin Bag Meal
26	27	28	29	30
 <p>Memorial Day</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BBQ Chicken Breast Fresh Dinner Roll BBQ Baked Beans Orange Pineapple Sorbet 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluffy French Toast Slices with Mixed Berry Compote Juicy Breakfast Sausage Crunchy Hash Browns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beef Nacho Platter Confetti Rice Black Bean and Corn Salad 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NY Style Bella's Pizza Freshly Prepared Caesar Salad

*Menu is Subject to Change



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Healthy meals grow
healthy kids!

Swap Outs-Elementary Breakfast: Assorted Cereal Bar Graham Crackers , with Assorted Cereal Graham Crackers ,

Cliffwood PTO NEWS

Join Us for Our May PTO Meeting



Who?:

Parents/grandparents, teachers,
administrators, support staff

When?:

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 @ 5:30pm
(before star student)

Where?:

Cliffwood Elementary School
Cafeteria

*This month we will be voting on next
year's PTO Board, as well as end-of-
year events*



Email questions to cliffwoodpto422@gmail.com



JANUARY 2025 EDITION

BOX TOPS

Easy ways to make a difference for your school.



BONUS OFFER BONANZA



Buy 3, Earn 6
on Gushers, Fruit
by the Foot and
Fruit Roll-Ups*†



Buy 2, Earn 6
on Pillsbury
Cinnamon Rolls*†



Buy 2, Earn 6
on Annie's
snacks*†



Buy 2, Earn 5
on Cheerios*†



Buy 2, Earn 5
on Fiber One
+ Protein One*†



Buy 2, Earn 5
on Cascadian
Farms*†



Buy 2, Earn 5
on Muir Glen*†



Buy 2, Earn 5
on Nature Valley*†



Buy 1, Earn 5
on ratio*†
(excludes dairy
products)



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on ALL participating
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products**†



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to help fund classroom
art supplies

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in the app



SUBMIT

Qualifying digital
receipts in the app



CONNECT

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*Offers are valid in a single transaction between 1/1/2025-1/31/2025.

**Offers are valid in a single transaction between 1/1/2025-2/14/2025.

†Must submit your receipt within 14 days of purchase. Limit 5 claims per receipt.

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PRESENTS



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INCLUDES A SHEET OF TIER 1 TICKETS COFFEE TEA AND DESSERTS PROVIDED

BRING YOUR OWN FOOD - CASH BAR NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL

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TICKET ADM CAN BE PAID BY CASH,

CHECK (MADE OUT TO HUSKY TOUCHDOWNCLUB) OR VENMO [@husky-touchdown-club](https://www.venmo.com/husky-touchdown-club)

Dates to Keep in Mind

5/21- PTO Meeting 5:30 PM Cliffwood Cafeteria

5/23-Early Dismissal

5/23- Fun Day

5/26- School Closed- Memorial Day

6/6- Third Grade Spray Park Trip

6/9- Rain date for Third Grade Spray Park Trip

6/13- PreK Promotion

6/16- Kindergarten Celebration

6/20- School Closed

6/23- Last day of School

6/23- 3rd Grade Clap Out 1:10 PM



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional
School District

