



Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-2

October 17, 2025





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Principal's Corner

We're off to a fantastic start to the school year, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone in our school community for your hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication in making it all possible!

A special thank you goes out to our incredible PTO for everything they've already accomplished—especially the hugely successful Movie Night at Fireman's Field (see photos above as well). This memorable event was made possible through the teamwork between our PTO and the brave men and women of the Mt. Arlington Fire Department. I'm thrilled to see a strong partnership forming and look forward to the great events they'll collaborate on in the future for both our District and Borough.

The school year is already full of exciting activities and meaningful learning, and our students and staff have been giving their all in the classroom. I hope you enjoy this edition of Laker Insider as it offers a glimpse into the many wonderful things happening across the District.





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Kindergarten

The kindergartners have been busy learning about community helpers in Social Studies. The students were very excited to meet some community helpers when members of the Mt. Arlington Fire Department visited Decker School. They learned about what firefighters do, how to be safe, and went inside a fire engine.

Once again, a HUGE thank you to our amazing Mt. Arlington Fire Department!





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Pre-K

Pre-K learned about the people who work at Decker School! Ms. Marie taught us how to make copies and Nurse Jennie and Mr. Coladarci read books to us!





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Mrs. D'Arco's Class

Mrs. D'Arco's Science class - students completed a lab on the Scientific Method and Variables. Her students also worked together to complete a puzzle.





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3rd Grade

Our fabulous 3rd grade had a great start to the school year! They've been learning so many new things already, especially in science where they've completed a few interesting experiments about force and patterns of motion!





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6th Grade Camp Bernie

Our amazing 6th graders had an unforgettable day at Camp Bernie! It was the perfect opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, challenge themselves, and build teamwork skills. Students soared through the air on the giant swing, tested their courage on the zipline, and learned about ecosystems through the Predator and Prey game. It was a day full of adventure, laughter, and connection... a great way to bring classroom learning to life and strengthen our sense of community!





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MAPS Athletics

As the fall sports season comes to an end, our MAPS student athletes have much to be proud of. Both the Lakers and Lady Lakers soccer teams and the cross country team showed tremendous effort, teamwork, and school spirit throughout the season.

While the scoreboards may not have reflected many wins, each team made noticeable progress from start to finish. Players learned new skills, improved their endurance, and built strong bonds with their teammates. The soccer teams grew more confident with every game, and the cross country runners pushed themselves to set new personal bests on challenging courses. Most importantly, lots of fun was had—celebrating every small victory, cheering each other on, and representing MAPS with pride and sportsmanship.

Next up in MAPS Athletics is our middle school boys' and girls' basketball season, which will get underway on November 10th. If your child is interested in trying out please make sure to turn in the necessary paperwork by October 31st. Contact Megan Hahn, Athletic Coordinator, at athletics@mtarlingtonk8.org with any questions. GO LAKERS!





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MAPS Athletics.....continued





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MAPS Athletics.....continued





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A Few Reminders

8th Grade Class Trip

We can include a reminder that the 8th Grade trip to Gettysburg/Hershey Park is scheduled for June 3-5th. A letter was sent home last month with RSVP and initial payment information. I've attached the letter if you're able to include it with the reminder.

Students Arriving Tardy (After 8:30am)

This is a reminder that any student who arrives at school after 8:30 must be signed into the building by a parent or guardian.

Early Dismissal Days for Conferences

Our Parent/Teacher Conferences are now scheduled for November 17-20. These four days will be early dismissal days. Students will be dismissed 2 hours earlier than normal and lunches will not be served. Students are encouraged to bring a snack.

Choir and Band Rehearsals Have Resumed!

Students are already hard at work preparing music for the upcoming Winter Concert on December 10. It's not too late to join—new members are still welcome!

- Band is open to students in grades 4–8
- Choir is open to students in grades 5–8

If your child is interested in joining, please contact Dr. Aberback or Mrs. Van Dongen for more information.



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Halloween 2025 at Decker



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our annual Halloween costume parade will be held on **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31st** for all students in grades K-2. The parade will form on the playground at **1:30 P.M.** and conclude at approximately **1:45 P.M.** Parties for K-2 will take place immediately after the parade. All *assigned* PTO parent volunteers please plan to arrive at 1:15 P.M.

If the weather is inclement, the parade will be held in the All-Purpose Room.

Students will be allowed to wear costumes throughout the day; however, for the safety of the students, please do not permit your child to bring plastic weapons, and/or wear masks to and from school. As many of our students ride the bus, please make sure they can move freely in their costumes along with appropriate footwear. Students should also be able to get in and out of costume independently for bathroom use.

If you want to send in any party bags to be distributed to your child's class, please remember **NO FOOD ITEMS WHATSOEVER. (This means no snacks and/or candy of any kind.)** Pencils, stickers, fidget toys are all excellent alternatives.

We are happy to share in the excitement of Halloween and look forward to a highly spirited day.



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MAPS GRADES 3-5 FAMILIES
ARE INVITED TO A

HALLOWEEN PARADE

OCTOBER
31
2:15 PM



📍 SHORT LOOP AROUND MAPS FRONT FIELD

Students may wear their costumes during the school day, as long as they can move freely and have appropriate footwear. For safety purposes please do not allow your child to bring in any plastic weapons or wear masks to/from school.



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THE MT. ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PTO NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

IMPORTANT DATES

10/8 - PTO Meeting at 6:30
10/14 - BOE Meeting
10/18 - PTO at MTA's
Halloween Bash
10/20-24 - Theater Week
10/23 - Halloween Dance
for PreK - 5th Grade
10/31 - Fall/Halloween
Parties & Parades

BOARD MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who attended our Outdoor Community Movie Night on September 26th. We had a wonderful time and hope you did too! We have a lot of wonderful things in store for October including the long-anticipated return of Theater Week! As always, thank you for your support and we hope to see you at our next meeting on Oct. 8th.

-Brooke, Randi, Laura & Joelle

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

- Mums Sale ends 10/5
- Gertrude Hawk
- Minted Gifts & Holiday Cards

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- Theatre Week returns October 20th - 24th! Permission slips will be given to each child at school and need to be returned **no later** than 10/10.
- No school on Oct. 2nd in observation of Yom Kippur.

HELP MAKE OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY STRONG!

TEACHERS, STAFF, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN JOIN THE PTO!

Visit MTA.PTBOARD.COM and use code 93KANX to sign up. All PTO-sponsored events, activities, volunteer opportunities and more are all communicated through PT Board.

CONNECT WITH US

[instagram.com/mountarlingtonpto](https://www.instagram.com/mountarlingtonpto)
[facebook.com/mapsptonj](https://www.facebook.com/mapsptonj)
mtarlingtonpto@gmail.com



REMINDERS

- Room Parents and Party Helpers will be notified via email the week of 10/5 or sooner. The first party is on 10/31 for Fall/Halloween!



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Mount Arlington Schools PTO

Please join us for a

HALLOWEEN DANCE

Thurs. October 23

7-8:30pm

MAPS Gym - Grades Pre-K - 5th

Glow Wands & Snacks
for purchase

Candy Corn
Guessing Game

Music and Dancing
Games- Facepaint- Tattoos

\$10 Admission per family-
cash or Venmo

Parent MUST accompany
child for duration of the dance



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- 10/28-30 - NJSLA Adaptive Assessments Grades 4-8
- 10/31 - Halloween Parades @ Decker & MAPS
- 11/2 - Daylight Savings Time Ends - one more hour of sleep!!
- 11/19 - Board of Education Meeting @ MAPS - 7:00pm
- 11/4 - Election Day
- 11/6&7 - NJEA Convention - Schools Closed
- 11/11 - Veteran's Day
- 11/14 - MAPS Veteran's Day Celebration (tentative date)
- 11/17-20 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - Early Dismissal for Students

