



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

November 16, 2025

Important Links

[District School Calendar](#), [School Hours](#), [Cliffwood Morning Music Requests](#), [Breakfast & Lunch Menu](#), [PreK, K & New Student Orientation](#), [Welcome Cliffwood Students & Families 25-26](#)

Cliffwood Family Connections [8/6](#), [8/31](#), [9/7](#), [9/14](#), [9/21](#), [9/28](#), [10/5](#), [10/12](#), [10/19](#), [10/26](#), [11/2](#), [11/9](#)

Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

Adventure Awaits! We are Curious. We are Kind. We are Cliffwood Proud!

Hello Cliffwood Families,

We wrapped up another wonderful week of learning and connection here at Cliffwood School! Our students were busy and engaged in a variety of meaningful experiences. They enjoyed an exciting assembly where they learned about different animals and their habitats, had the chance to shop at the Scholastic Book Fair, and took time to honor Veterans Day by learning about the importance and meaning behind this special day.

Families also gathered for a beautiful evening under the stars at our **Lanterns & Literature Night** in the Cliffwood Garden Courtyard. It was a magical night of stories, crafts, and community. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

As we look ahead, there are a few important updates to keep in mind:

- **Shaping Our District's Future Meeting – Monday, 11/24**

If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to read the letters below from Mrs. Perez, Superintendent of the Matawan Aberdeen Regional School District, for details about this important community session.

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences – First Week of December**

Conference registration opens **tomorrow at 9:00 AM** in Genesis. Please be sure to review the



CLIFFWOOD SCHOOL

information below so you're prepared to schedule your conference time.

We are looking forward to another great week ahead at Cliffwood School. And don't forget our **Cliffwood PTO Meeting** will be held this **Wednesday at 5:30 PM in the Cliffwood Cafeteria**. We hope to see you there!

Have a wonderful week, Cliffwood Lions!

MARSD Community Letter

We would like to invite all Cliffwood families to join the district's upcoming **Community Connection Session: "Shaping Our District's Future."**

This event will take place on **Monday, November 24, at 5:30 p.m.** Families may attend **in person at Ravine Drive School** or choose to **join virtually**. If you select the virtual option, a Zoom link will be emailed to you prior to the meeting.

If you haven't done so already, **please click the link below and read the latest newsletter from Mrs. Perez, Superintendent of the Matawan Aberdeen Regional School District**, which includes important updates and additional information about this session.

[MARSD Community Letter](#)



Parent Teacher Conferences

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, 12/2 from 2:05–3:50 PM**
- **Wednesday, 12/3 from 5:00–8:00 PM**

Conference sign-ups will open in **Genesis on Monday, 11/17 at 9:00 AM**, and the sign-up window will **close on Monday, 12/1 at 9:00 AM**.

Please reach out to your child's teacher with any questions about scheduling.

Please review the attached letters for detailed instructions on how to schedule your conference and to locate your child's teachers during conference days.

Conferences can be scheduled for homeroom teachers, ESL, Resource, and specials teachers at this time.

Classes with two teachers can be scheduled through the homerooms teacher.

3rd Grade- Ms. A. Pappas/ Ms. Coakley schedule through A. Pappas

2nd Grade- Ms. L. Pappas/ Ms. Coakley schedule through L. Pappas

1st Grade- Ms. Saviano/ Ms. Polakowski schedule through Ms. Saviano

Kindergarten- Ms. Maiello/Ms. Polakowski schedule through Ms. Maiello

At this time, conferences with the Related Service Providers, CST, Counselor, Interventionists and Nurse are not able to be scheduled through Parent Portal.

If you would like to meet with one or more of the following staff members please email them directly to arrange a conference day and time.

Nurse	Ms. Caldwell	scaldwell@marsd.org
Speech	Ms. LaPlaga	alaplaga@marsd.org
OT	Ms. Bauer	jbauer@marsd.org
Phys. Therapy	Ms. Racioppi	bracioppi@marsd.org
School Counselor	Ms. Giacchi	ggiacchi@marsd.org
LDTC	Ms. Miles	lmiles@marsd.org
Social Worker	Ms. Frye	cfrye@marsd.org
Behavior	Ms. Falciglia	mfalciglia@marsd.org



Cliffwood Elementary School

"We're Cliffwood Proud!"



422 Cliffwood Avenue, Cliffwood, NJ 07721
732-705-5600 | 732-705-5650 (Fax)
www.marsd.org

Nelyda Perez, Superintendent of Schools
Christine Cherence, Principal

November 14, 2025

Dear Cliffwood Families,

The 2025-2026 Fall "Parent-Teacher Conferences" are scheduled for the following dates and times. Please note that on conference days, students will follow the half-day schedule and will be dismissed at 1:20pm:

- **Tuesday, December 2, 2025 2:05 pm - 3:50 pm**
- **Wednesday, December 3, 2025 5:00pm - 8:00pm**

These ten minute conferences are an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress and performance as well as gain an understanding of what will be covered in the coming months. This is also a great opportunity for teachers and parents/guardians to share information that will foster opportunities for success.

The Parent Portal will be opened for conference scheduling on **Monday, November 17th at 9:00 am** and close on **Monday, December 1st at 9 am**. All conference slots are on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have trouble securing a designated time, please contact your child's teacher, as they may be able to assist.

This is also a good time to touch base with your child's school counselor and/or case manager. Please be sure to make an appointment through the portal when scheduling your conferences.

Detailed instructions on how to schedule your appointment via the parent portal can be found below.

Instructions for Scheduling Parent/Teacher Conferences with the Genesis Parent Portal

Step 1 - Log into the Parent Portal.

Step 2 - Click the Conference Tab on the top of the screen.

Step 3 - Click the schedule conference titled "Parent/Teacher Conferences"

Step 4 - Select the date and time for your desired conference time slot and Click Reserve.

Step 5 - Repeat steps 3 and 4 to select additional conferences with other staff.

Step 6 - Once finished, log out from the Parent Portal.

*Note: All scheduled conferences will appear in the conferences tab.

Best regards, Christine Cherence, Principal

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Classes in Blue are located on the second floor

Rm 1- Ms. Terry (K)	Room 16- Mr. Wyman (Aut.)
Rm 2- Ms. Maiello/Ms. Polakowski (K)	Room 17- Ms. Royland (Aut.)
Rm 3- Ms. DaSilva (PreK)	Room 18- Ms. Thorpe/Ms. Ulij (Aut.)
Rm 4- Ms. Walker (K)	Room 19- Ms. Santos (Aut.)
Rm 5- Ms. Jacobson/Ms. Petruccio (1)	Room 20- Ms. A. Pappas (3)
Rm 6- Ms. Werner (2/3)	Room 21- Ms. L Pappas (2)
Rm 7- Ms. Saginore (1)	Room 22- Ms. Royston (3)
Rm 8- Ms. Gilbert (PreK)	Room 23- Ms. Preiser (3)
Rm 9- Ms. Oczkowski (PreK)	Room 24- Ms. Saviano (1)
Rm 10- Ms. Acosta (PreK)	Room 25- Ms. Somohano (1)
Rm 11- Ms. Gomez (PreK)	Room 26- Ms. Colaneri (2)
Rm 12- Ms. Alli (ESL)	Room 27- Ms. Schultz (2)
Rm 13- Ms. Bauer (OT) Ms. LaPlaga (Speech) Ms. Miles (LDTC)	Room 28- Ms. Whelan (Aut.)
Room 14- Ms. Dittloff (Music)	Room 29- Ms. Lathrop (Spanish)
Rm 15- Ms. Miller (PreK Specials)	Room 30- Ms. Giacchi (School Counselor)
Room 36- Ms. Fallon (Art)	Room 38- Ms. Thiel (Media Specialist)
Room 37- Ms. B. Walker (PreK)	Room 39- Mr. McGowan (Phys Ed & Health)
Room 32- Ms. Caldwell (School Nurse)	Room 39- Mr. Saraiva (Phys Ed & Health)

PAWS Winners



Coastal Wilds Assembly

A huge thank-you to our Cliffwood PTO President, Kelsey, for organizing this wonderful assembly!

Our students had an amazing opportunity to meet and learn about a variety of animals, explore their habitats, and discover fun facts about how they live and survive. The presenters were engaging, the animals were fascinating, and our Cliffwood Lions were absolutely thrilled. They had a blast!

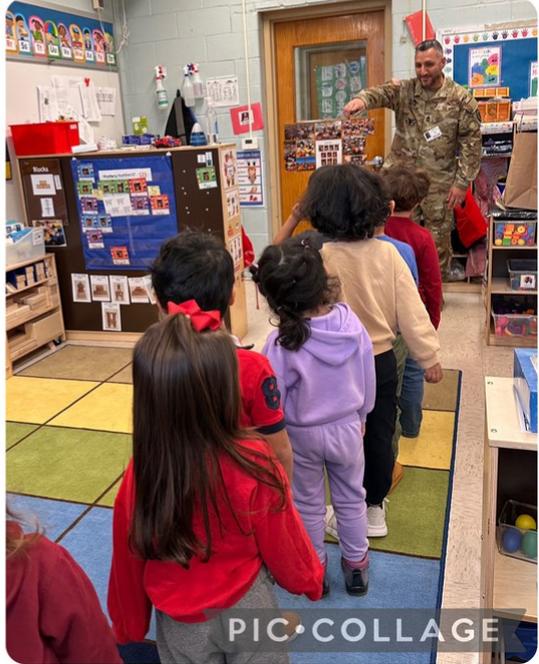


Veterans Day at Cliffwood

A special thank you to Mr. Askar, Adriana's dad! 🇺🇸

On Veterans Day, he visited Ms. DaSilva's class to share about his experience serving in the Army. He even brought munchkins for the students and taught them how soldiers march! During arrival, the children colored Veterans Day pages, which they turned into a beautiful poster to present to Mr. Askar as a thank you. During Morning Meeting, they also "shared the news" about Veterans Day, what it means, the important work soldiers do, and why expressing gratitude matters.

It was a meaningful and memorable way for our students to learn about honoring those who serve.



Lanterns & Literature

Thank you to all the families who joined us for Lanterns & Literature Night!

Our teachers created a truly magical experience in the Cliffwood Garden courtyard, where students enjoyed listening to stories under the glow of lanterns and participating in fun, creative crafts. It was a beautiful night of community, reading, and joy.







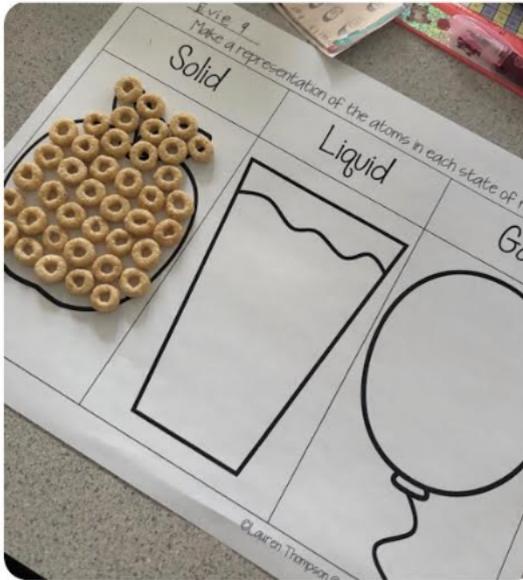






Cheerios & Science = The perfect 2nd grade combo!

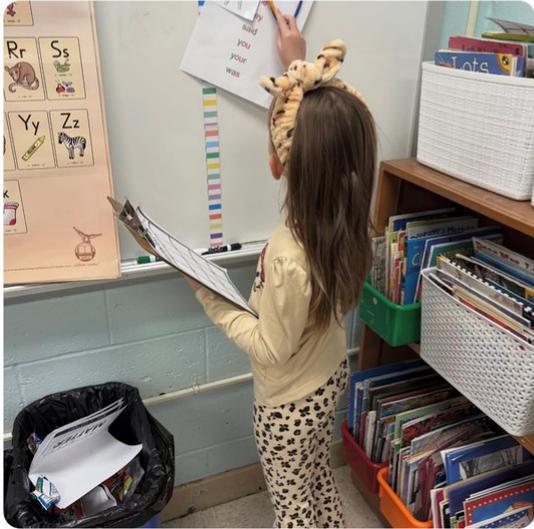
This past week students built atoms in the 3 states of matter, and these kiddos took their modeling very seriously...right before eating extras. From tightly packed solids to spaced-out gases, our Cliffwood 2nd graders modeled it all!



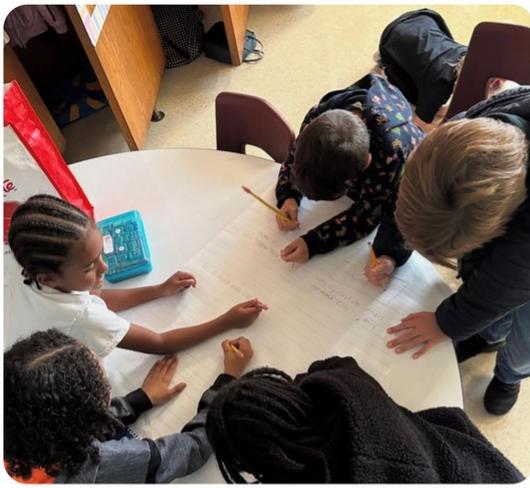
Learning is Fun at Cliffwood School!

Mrs. Colaneri's Class has been keeping busy practicing fact families, completing a spooky base 10 block skeleton scoot and taking the No Place for Hate Pledge!





PIC•COLLAGE



2nd Annual Holiday Giveaway

The [Synergies Family Foundation](#) will be holding their Annual Toy, Food and Clothing Giveaway on **Saturday, December 13, 2025** from 9-2 at the Matawan Regional High School Cafeteria. To help us better prepare for the event, please register by scanning the QR code in the attached flyer by November 22nd.

SYNERGIES
FAMILY FOUNDATION

INVITES YOU TO

**2ND ANNUAL
HOLIDAY GIVEAWAY**

**DECEMBER
13TH** MATAWAN REGIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL CAFETERIA
450 ATLANTIC AVENUE
ABERDEEN, NJ 07747 **9 AM-2 PM**

**TOYS -FOOD-CLOTHING
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!!!**

*** KIDS MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE GIFTS!!!**

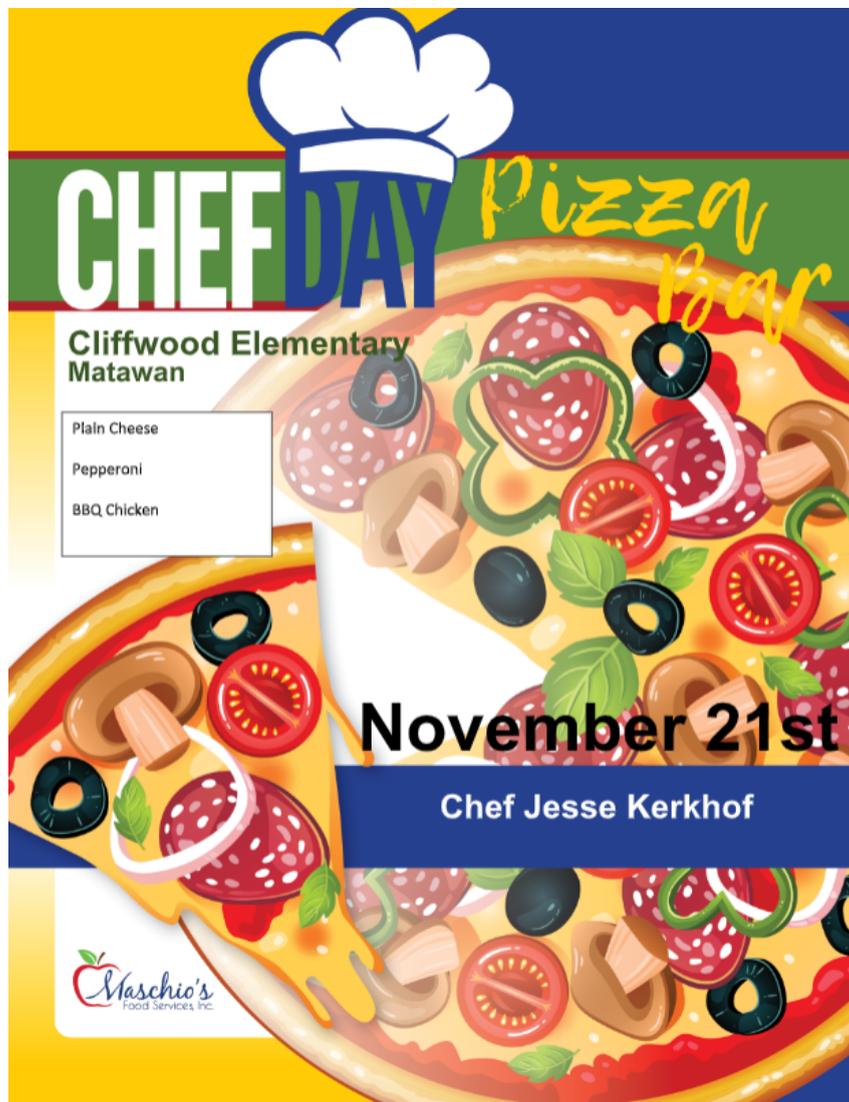
TO HELP US BETTER PREPARE FOR
THE EVENT, PLEASE REGISTER BY
SCANNING THE QR CODE AND
FILLING OUT THE FORM. QR CODE MUST
BE SCANNED AND FILLED OUT
BY 11/22/2025.

**SYNERGIES
COMPANIES**

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Pizza Bar Chef Day- Friday, 11/21

Maschio's is having a Pizza Bar Chef Day this Friday! The stuffed crust pizza that is on the menu will still be available for the preschool students who pre-order. Our chef will be there making pizza with a few different topping options.



FLU Vaccine

PRESCHOOL INFLUENZA VACCINATION REQUIREMENT FOR 2025 SCHOOL YEAR



According to N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 Immunization of Pupils in School, preschoolers **must** have proof of vaccinations to attend school.

Proof of the flu vaccination must be received by December 19th or your child will be excluded from our program and not permitted to return to class in January.

Join our Team!

We're excited to share that the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District currently has several openings, and we would love your help in spreading the word! These are wonderful opportunities to be part of our district and make a difference in the lives of our outstanding students.

We are looking for:

- Substitute School Bus/Van Drivers
- Substitute Transportation Assistants
- Substitute Classroom Teachers
- Substitute Instructional Assistants
- Substitute Nurses (Please email smoore@marsd.org)

If you, or someone you know, may be interested, please visit this website to apply: [Applitrack](#).

To apply for Substitute Classroom Teacher and/or Substitute Instructional Assistant positions, please use this link: [ESS](#)

Come join our wonderful district and be part of the team that supports our students each and every day!

Stay Cliffwood Connected

- [Cliffwood School Website](#)
- Instagram: [@cliffwood_elementary](#)
- Facebook: [Cliffwood School PTO Parent Page](#)

The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act requires that the week beginning with the first Monday in October of each year be recognized as the Week of Respect in the state of NJ. Students and staff are encouraged to participate in the Week of Respect!

Free & Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Form

The 2025-2026 Meal Applications are to be completed electronically this year. This will be done through Genesis link: [Parent Portal](#).

Families who wish to complete paper applications can request a copy of the application packet. They will also be available at Back To School Night.

Maschio's is our Food Service Company this school year. Below are POC's for your use as needed.

Lauren Dyer, On-Site Director, ldyer@maschiofood.com, 732-705-5326

Sarah Engst, Area Supervisor, sengst@maschiofood.com

Governor's Educator of the Year Program

The Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District is excited to continue our participation in the New Jersey Department of Education's Governor's Educator of the Year (GEOY) Program. This program celebrates outstanding Teachers of the Year and Educational Services Professionals who make a lasting impact on students, families, and our community.

At Cliffwood, we are fortunate to have so many amazing educators who go above and beyond every day. This is your opportunity to nominate and highlight a teacher or educational services professional who has made a difference in your child's life or supported your family.

Nominations are due by **November 28th**. [GEOY Nomination Form](#)

Thank you for helping us recognize the incredible work of our Cliffwood team!



Breakfast & Lunch Menus

Information about Excused/Unexcused Absences

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!**

Cliffwood PTO NEWS

Cliffwood PTO Thanksgiving Food Drive

School Store Shopping 11/19 & 11/20 during lunch

Volunteers Needed

The Cliffwood PTO is already planning some exciting events for the rest of the school year, and we'd love YOUR help! Whether you have just a little time to give or want to take on a bigger role, there's a place for you!

By joining a committee, you can:

- Help plan and organize fun events for our students and families
- Lend a hand during events (set up, run activities, or clean up!)
- Share ideas and talents to make our school community even stronger



You can choose your level of involvement-every bit of help makes a big difference!

We're looking to create committees for:

- Winter Festival
- 3rd Grade End of Year Events
- Fun Day

If you're interested in joining a committee or just want to learn more, please fill out our volunteer form or reach out to CliffwoodPTO422@gmail.com

Let's make this year amazing, together!

[Volunteer Interest Form](#)

Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Cookie Dough Fundraiser coming soon! More details to follow!



Yearbook Photos

The Cliffwood PTO created an email address for all yearbook photos that they want to share with all families and staff so that they can send all pictures from events this year or any photos they

take in their classrooms. The email is
CliffwoodYearbook2526@gmail.com.

SCHOOL YEARBOOK

Box Tops



CLIFFWOOD AVENUE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CLIFFWOOD, NJ



Referral Code: 16D42ILN

Be sure to sign up for Box Tops for Education and scan receipts to earn rewards for Cliffwood School!

Dates to Keep in Mind

11/17- Signing up for Parent Teacher Conferences will open on Genesis on Monday, 11/17 at 9:00 AM

11/19- PTO Meeting 5:30 PM in the Cafeteria

11/19 & 11/20- School Store Shopping During Lunch

11/24- Report Cards will be posted on Genesis at 5:00 PM

11/24- Redistrict meeting at Ravine Dr School 5:30 PM

11/26- Early Dismissal for all Students & Staff

11/27 & 11/28- Thanksgiving School Closed

12/1- Parent Teacher Conferences will close on Genesis on Monday, 12/1 at 9:00 AM

12/2- Afternoon Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal for all Students)

12/3- Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal for all Students)



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional
School District



