



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

November 30, 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](#), [11/16](#), [11/23](#)

Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

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

Hello Cliffwood Families,

We hope your Thanksgiving was filled with rest, joy, and plenty of pie! At Cliffwood School, we are truly grateful for our amazing students, our dedicated staff, and the wonderful community that makes Cliffwood feel like one big, happy family.

Even though it was only a 2½-day week, the learning at Cliffwood did not slow down! You'll be amazed to see just how much our Lions accomplished in such a short time.

Our 3rd graders were busy in many ways, exploring ingredients from around the world to create their very own apple pies (thank you to our amazing Cliffwood dads for helping with the baking!) and stepping into the role of scientists as they investigated the germination process in their science lessons.

Across all grade levels, students learned about the history and true meaning of Thanksgiving and reflected on the many things they are thankful for. Classrooms were also buzzing with celebrations of reading and writing. Cliffwood students shared their published pieces, listened to stories written by Cliffwood authors, and enjoyed read-alouds from our wonderful mystery readers.

As we head into the new week, here are a few important reminders:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday, 12/2 and Wednesday, 12/3.



CLIFFWOOD SCHOOL

- We will operate on an early dismissal schedule for both days. All students will dismiss at 1:20 PM, please plan accordingly.
- If you have not yet scheduled your conference, please do so by 9:00 AM tomorrow, 12/1, so teachers have time to prepare.
- The Cliffwood PTO Holiday Shop will take place this week! The PTO is looking for volunteers to help students shop. Please sign up with the link if you are able to help out! [Holiday Shop](#)

Wishing all of our Cliffwood families a wonderful week ahead! We look forward to continuing this exciting season of learning together.

Apple Pie Making in 3rd Grade!

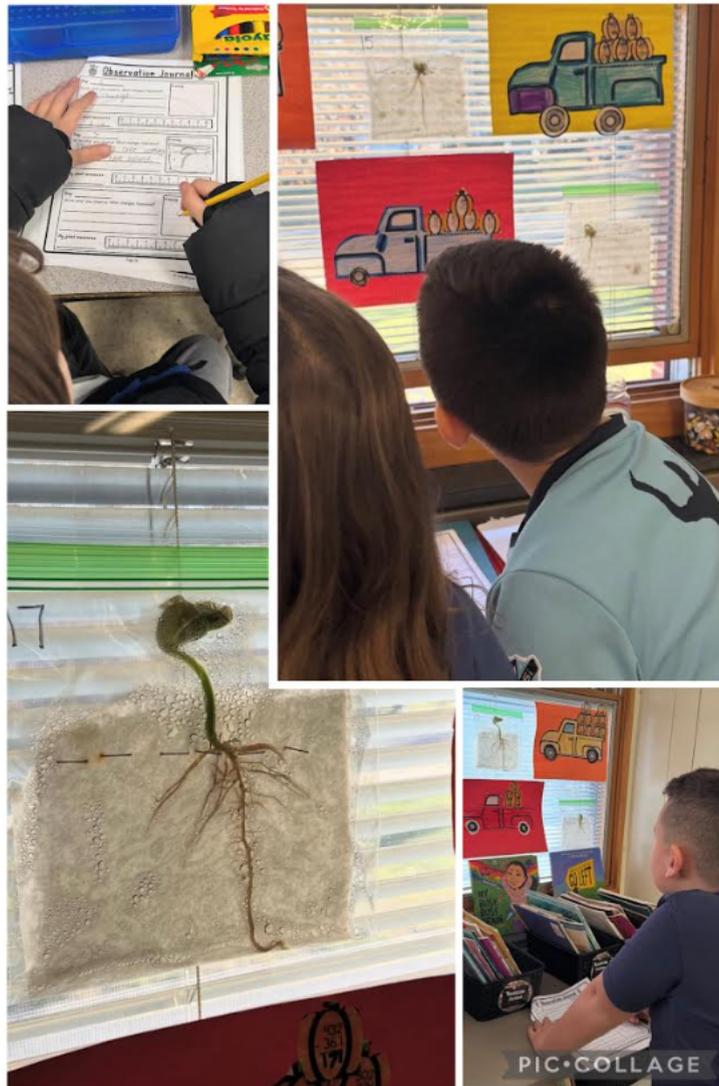
What do you do when you want to make an apple pie, but the market is closed? You set off around the world to gather the ingredients and make it yourself! Mrs. Royston's 3rd graders read *How to See the World and Make an Apple Pie* and then made delicious apple pies! Thank you to all the Cliffwood dads that came in to help too!





3rd Grade Scientists at work!

Mrs. Pappas' 3rd graders observed the germination process of their Lima beans. Students recorded observations made over a 13-day period. Many sprouted and broke out of their seed coat!



Learning about the history and meaning of Thanksgiving

Native American Day in Ms. Maiello & Ms. Polakowski's Kindergarten classroom!





Happy Thanksgiving from these cute Cliffwood Turkeys!



Celebrating Reading & Writing

- Special Mystery Reader Parent Guest in Ms. Somohano's First Grade Classroom. The students enjoyed listening to, Humble Pie!
- Previous students now 2nd graders came back to visit first grade to read their stories about their favorite animals.
- First graders celebrated their published pieces by reading aloud their personal narratives to 3rd graders!





Cliffwood Balloon Parade





Pajama Day at Cliffwood School for a Great Cause!

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.

Parent Workshop on Toilet Training

Our district preschool program will be hosting a **Parent Workshop on Toilet Training on Tuesday, December 10th from 6:30–7:30 PM**. This workshop is open to all families with children enrolled in our district's preschool program at any site.

Please see the attached flyers (in both English and Spanish) for full details. We encourage you to share this information with anyone who may benefit.

For your convenience, **free childcare** will be provided by the MRHS National Honor Society. Families planning to use this service should indicate so when registering.

We hope this workshop is helpful and supportive as we partner together in your child's early learning journey!

Holiday Spirit Week 12/15-19

FLU Vaccine

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

Holiday Shop

The PTO is looking for volunteers to help students shop. Please sign up with the link if you are able to help out! Thank you! [Holiday Shop](#)



Cliffwood PTO Winter Festival

Join us for our Winter Festival! Click here to register! <https://forms.gle/nVubvGE2xGb3Ae3w7>

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](#)

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.

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

- 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)
- 12/3, 12/4, 12/5- Cliffwood Holiday Shopping
- 12/5- Pajama Day at Cliffwood School for a Great Cause!
- 12/10- Free Parent Workshop on Toilet Training at Cambridge Park School 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- 12/13- Cliffwood PTO Winter Festival 12:00-2:00 PM
- 12/15-12/19- Holiday Spirit Week
- 12/18- Retake School Pictures



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional
School District



