



## MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

### CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

December 7, 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](#), [11/30](#)

#### Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

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

Hello Cliffwood Families,

It was wonderful to see so many Cliffwood families at Parent-Teacher Conferences this week. Your presence and partnership truly make a difference. A strong home-school connection not only supports student success, but also fosters open communication, shared goals, and a sense of belonging for every child.

A huge thank you to our Cliffwood PTO for organizing the Holiday Shop! Our students loved choosing special gifts for their loved ones, and the excitement in the halls all week was contagious. We also want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who donated and participated in Pajama Day! Together, we raised over \$1,000 for CHOP Hospital thanks to your generosity!

Check out the amazing learning happening at Cliffwood this past week:

- Pre-K took a hands-on trip to our local supermarket, Sprouts, to deepen their understanding of the Tools of the Mind Grocery Store unit.
- First graders explored how different amounts of energy create different pitches, making fantastic connections between science and music.



**CLIFFWOOD SCHOOL**

• Third graders practiced their multiplication facts through a fun Tic-Tac-Toe game, an easy activity you can play together while waiting for dinner on a night out!

Be sure to take a look at the flyer for the Cliffwood PTO Winter Festival on Saturday, 12/13, and don't forget to join us for Ice Cream Social Night on 12/19 at Monster Ice Cream.

As the weather gets colder, please remember to dress children in warm layers, hats, and gloves. We do go outside for recess whenever possible.

Wishing all of our Cliffwood families a wonderful week ahead!

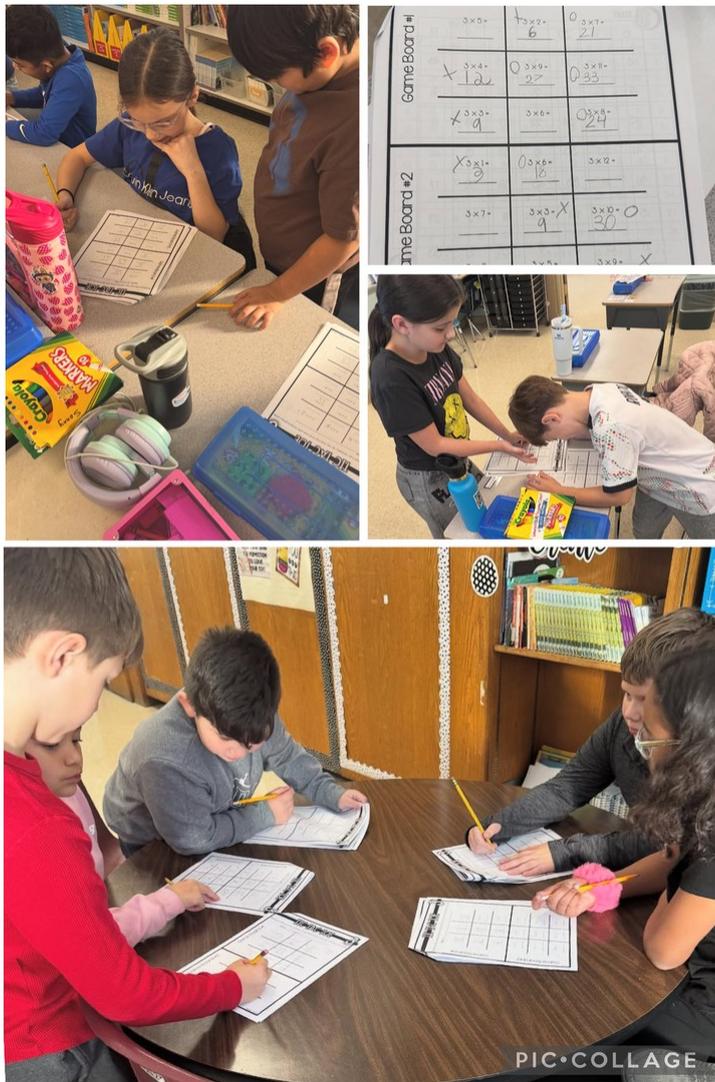
## 1st Graders Exploring Different Pitches

First graders discovered different types of pitches created by different amounts of energy.



## Multiplication Tic Tac Toe

Mrs. Pappas' 3rd Graders practiced their multiples of 3 by playing multiplication tic-tac-toe with a partner.



## PreK Trip to Sprouts

Our Pre-K classes had an exciting week as they took a special class trip to our local supermarket, **Sprouts!** This hands-on experience brought their Tools of the Mind Grocery Store unit to life. Allowing students to see real produce, explore different sections of the store, and make connections to the roles they've been practicing in their classroom pretend-play centers. From making shopping lists to identifying fruits and vegetables, our young learners are building early math, literacy, and self-regulation skills in meaningful and authentic ways. This visit helped them see how everything they are learning in the unit connects to the real world!





## School Picture Retake Day 12/18

<https://order.bnlschoolpictures.com/login>

CELEBRATE YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL YEAR  
WITH A TIME-HONORED TRADITION



FALL PICTURE DAY  
*is coming!*

**Cliffwood Elementary School**

**Retake day is: 12/18/2025**

**Your Prepay Code is: 9G2W2T8Q**

[CLICK HERE TO PRE-ORDER](#)

## Parent Workshop on Toilet Training

Our district preschool program will be hosting a Parent Workshop on Toilet Training on Wednesday, 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!

Click [HERE](#) to register.



Matawan Aberdeen  
Regional School  
District

## PRESCHOOL PARENT TRAINING

# TOILETING



Learn how to successfully toilet train your child using a positive and consistent approach.

- ✓ Recognize signs of readiness
- ✓ Effectively prepare yourself
- ✓ Create realistic expectations
- ✓ Gain practical tips

Cambridge Park Elementary School  
6:30-7:30 pm

**FREE ON-SITE CHILDCARE  
PROVIDED BY OUR HIGH  
SCHOOL STUDENTS**



**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



WEDNESDAY

**10  
DEC.**





Matawan Aberdeen  
Regional School  
District

## FORMACIÓN PARA PADRES DE NIÑOS EN EDAD PREESCOLAR

### TINODORO ENTRENAMIENTO



¡Aprende cómo enseñar a tu hijo a ir al baño con éxito utilizando un enfoque positivo y constante.

- ✓ Reconocer las señales de preparación
- ✓ Prepárate eficazmente
- ✓ Crea expectativas realistas
- ✓ Obtén consejos prácticos

Cambridge Park Elementary School  
6:30-7:30 pm

SERVICIO GRATUITO DE CUIDADO DE NIÑOS  
EN NUESTRAS INSTALACIONES, OFRECIDO  
POR NUESTROS ESTUDIANTES DE  
SECUNDARIA



**REGISTRO OBLIGATORIO**



MIÉRCOLES  
**10**  
DIC.



Holiday Spirit Week 12/15-19

# Holiday Spirit Week

## Monday, December 15th

**Grinch Day**- Wear Green to celebrate the Grinch and his transformation, emphasizing that the spirit of the holidays is more important than material things

HAPPY GRINCH DAY!



## Tuesday, December 16th

**Holiday Spirit!** - Wear your favorite Holiday colors and spread some cheer!

HAPPY  
Holidays!

## Wednesday, December 17th

**Winter Wonderland** - Wear Blue and White to welcome the snow



## Thursday, December 18th

**Wear your favorite (or least favorite) Holiday Sweaters** - Ugly, Pretty or even just Creative!



## Friday, December 19th

**Polar Express Day**- Wear pajamas



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](mailto: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](mailto:ldyer@maschiofood.com), 732-705-5326

Sarah Engst, Area Supervisor, [sengst@maschiofood.com](mailto:sengst@maschiofood.com)

## 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 Winter Festival

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

### Cliffwood Spirit Wear- Great Holiday Gift!

# Cliffwood Ice Cream Social

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:CliffwoodYearbook2526@gmail.com).



## Box Tops



CLIFFWOOD AVENUE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
CLIFFWOOD, NJ



Referral Code: I6D42ILN

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

---

## Dates to Keep in Mind

12/10- Free Parent Workshop on Toilet Training at Cambridge Park  
School 6:30 - 7:30 PM

12/10- PTO Cookie Dough Fundraiser Pick-Up 3:30-6:00 at Cliffwood  
School

12/13- Cliffwood PTO Winter Festival 12:00-2:00 PM (Chick-fil-a will be there 15% of sales will  
benefit Cliffwood School)

12/15-12/19- Holiday Spirit Week

12/18- Retake School Pictures

12/19- Cliffwood Ice Cream Social 7-9:30 PM @ Monster Ice Cream

12/23- Early Dismissal

12/24-1/4- School Closed for Winter Break

---

---



**Matawan-Aberdeen Regional**  
School District

