



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

December 14, 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](#), [12/7](#)

Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

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

Hello Cliffwood Families,

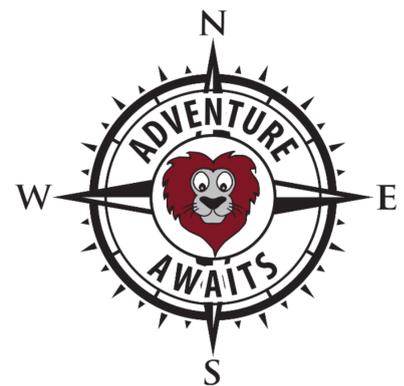
We had a wonderful week filled with holiday spirit here at Cliffwood School! Our students have been enjoying the season by participating in our annual Holiday Door Decorating Contest, filling our hallways with creativity, joy, and festive cheer. Be sure to take a look at some of the beautifully decorated doors in the photos below!

Our 3rd Grade Peer Buddies Program was also in full swing this week. Our third graders did an amazing job mentoring our younger students in gym through fun, engaging activities. They also spent time reading their published writing pieces to our kindergarten students—an absolutely adorable moment of leadership and learning!

This week kicks off our Holiday Spirit Week! Please take a look at the calendar below for each day's theme. Don't forget to bring out your green for Grinch Day tomorrow!

Wishing a very Happy Hanukkah to all our families celebrating this week.

Wishing all of our Cliffwood families a wonderful week ahead!



CLIFFWOOD SCHOOL

PAWS Winners



Governor's Educator of the Year Program

Please join us in celebrating Brittany Whelan being named Teacher of the Year and Mindy Esposito being named Educational Services Professional of the year!





3rd Grade Peer Buddies Program

3rd Grade Teachers and the Physical Education Department have collaborated to create a Peer Buddy Program. In this program, our third graders take on leadership and mentoring roles as they work with other students throughout the school. They assist younger students during fun physical education activities and help ensure our youngest learners get on the bus safely each day.



Cliffwood Authors

Third Graders read their published pieces to Kindergarten classes!



PIC•COLLAGE

Cliffwood Holiday Spirit-Thank you Cliffwood PTO!

Thank you to the Cliffwood PTO elves for decorating the main entrance of Cliffwood School with holiday cheer for all to enjoy!



Holiday Spirit Week 12/15-12/19

PIC•COLLAGE

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!



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!



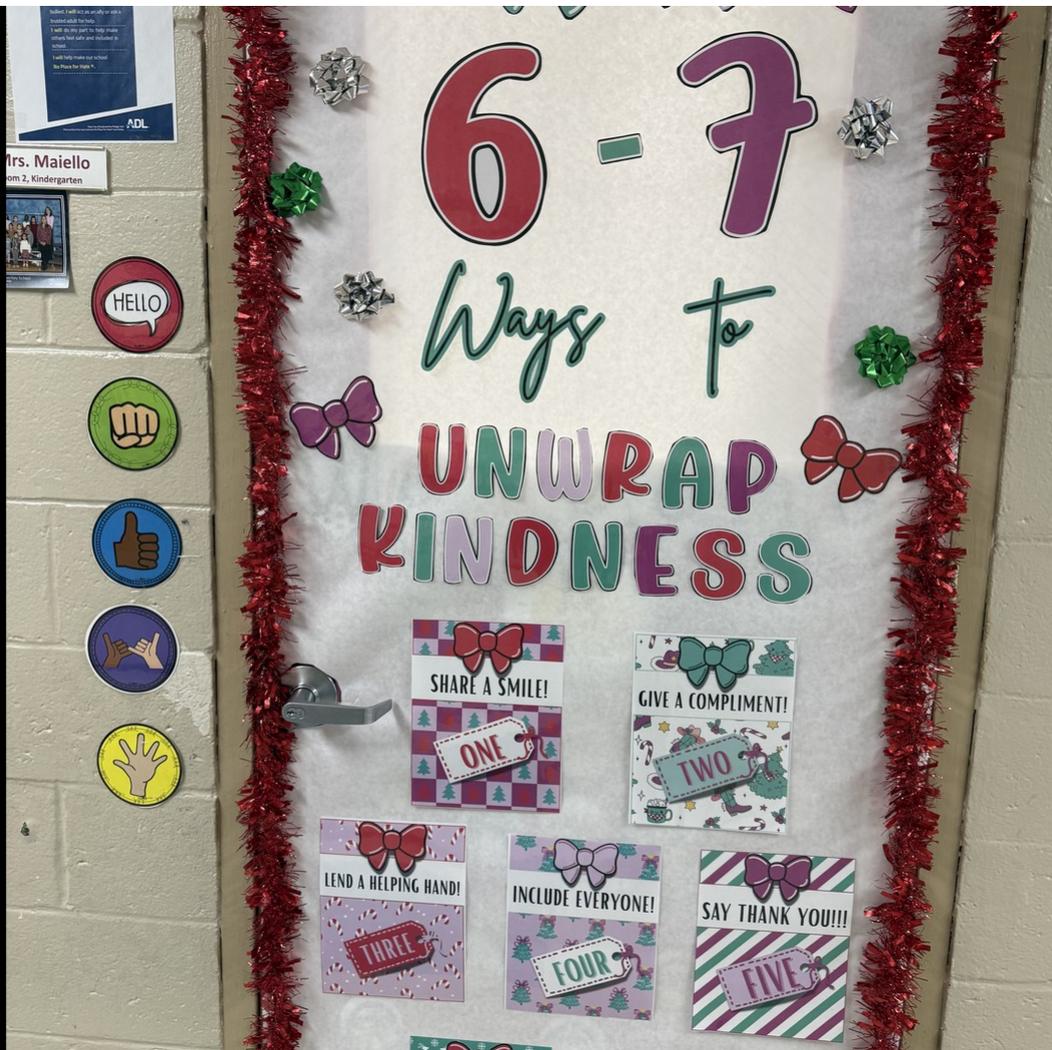
Friday, December 19th

Polar Express Day- Wear pajamas



Holiday Door Decorating Contest

Shout out to our Cliffwood Students & Staff for filling our hallways with holiday spirit with their beautiful holiday door displays!







Selfie
with
Elfie!

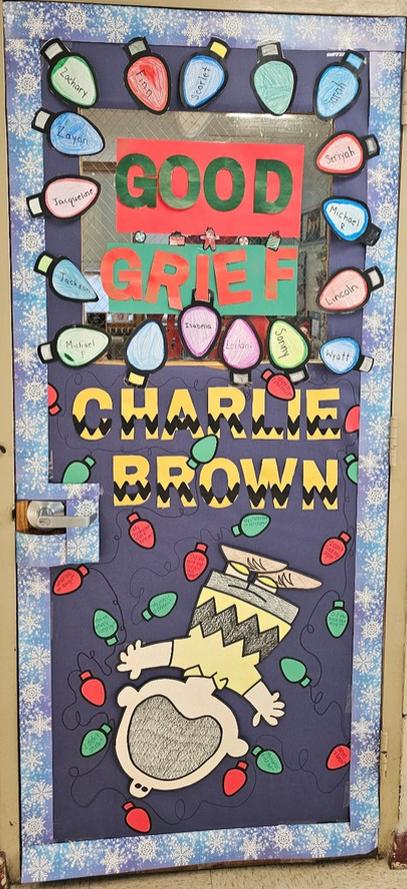
Don't be Shy
Take a
Selfie with
Elfie as you
walk by!

Pop Your head
in, Knock on
the door, Smile
for a picture
and we will
Click Galore!



Mrs. A. Pappas
Room 20, Grade 3

hello









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](#)

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

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

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: 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

12/13- 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

