



Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-4

December 23, 2025

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Happy Holidays to the entire Mount Arlington Public Schools Community!





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Principal's Corner

It's hard to believe we've already arrived at the holiday season. The first part of the school year truly flew by, no doubt because of the many incredible events and activities we've shared along the way. I sincerely hope everyone enjoys a restful and well-deserved 12 days off.

I want to give a huge thank you to the very best public school staff anyone could ask for—your dedication and hard work make all the difference.

As we close out 2025, I hope we all step into 2026 feeling encouraged, energized, and excited for a wonderful year ahead.

Happy Holidays!

Joe Coladarci

2025 Teacher of the Year



Educational Support Professional of the Year

Congratulations to Ms. Megan Hahn on being named our 2025 Teacher of the Year, and to Mrs. Dipali Tailor on being selected as our 2025 Educational Support Professional of the Year. Both Ms. Hahn and Mrs. Tailor were formally recognized at the December 17 Board of Education meeting.





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2025 VFW Patriots Pen Essay Contest

Earlier this year, middle school students had the opportunity to participate in an essay contest hosted by the VFW Post 2833. This year's theme was "How are you Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country." Our three winners were recognized and received their awards at the December Board of Education meeting. Congratulations to the following students:

3rd place: Isabelle Feuss

2nd place: Dominic Pierri

1st place: Zaliyah Davis

Zaliyah's essay went on to win 3rd place in all of Morris County!

Congratulations to all of the winners!





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2025 Holiday Concert & Music Notes

The music department has been very busy these past few weeks with rehearsals and performances.

On December 6 the concert choir performed outdoors at the borough tree lighting. In addition to singing a few of their concert songs, the choir led the crowd in singing some favorite carols. Despite the chilly weather, all had a festive evening of music and fun.

Both the band and the choir performed three concerts - the evening performance for families, the gala concert for the school, and then a final performance for some special guests, our senior citizens. We're proud of all the students who worked hard to put together a very entertaining program! The Beginning Band and 3rd and 4th grade choirs will have their winter concert on Thursday, February 5th at 7 pm.

On December 19, our concert choir was featured on a kids' segment for the radio program on WSUS 102.3 FM. This was an exciting opportunity for our singers!

Finally, congratulations to 8th grade student, Alaina Furman, on her acceptance into the Morris Area Honor Choir! She will perform in a concert with approximately 100 other choir members from schools throughout Morris County and the surrounding area.

Great job, music department!





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2025 Holiday Concert & Music Notes.....continued





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Holiday Breakfast & Concert for Community Seniors

On December 18, we welcomed our wonderful community seniors to our school for breakfast and a special holiday concert experience. Thanks to our amazing PTO for providing breakfast and assisting throughout the event, as well as the generous support of Lucy Decena for transporting our guests, we were able to host approximately 25 seniors. Everyone enjoyed a lovely morning filled with music, fellowship, and even mini quiche!





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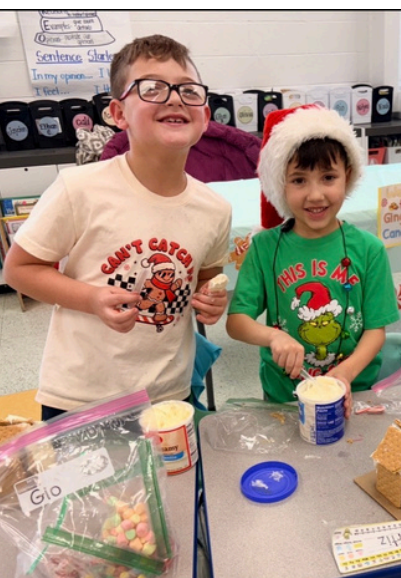
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First Grade

First grade students recently completed an exciting gingerbread project-based learning experience that combined math, social studies, and teamwork. Students learned about earning and saving money by working toward a goal—buying the supplies needed to build their gingerbread houses. Along the way, they practiced making choices, saving their earnings, and understanding the value of money.

After carefully planning and purchasing their supplies, students proudly built their gingerbread houses. Now that the houses are complete, first graders are extending their learning by exploring communities. They are discussing how houses fit together to form neighborhoods, the importance of working together, and the different roles people play in a community





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Second Grade Readers Theatre

Our second graders proudly performed their annual Readers Theater! They read wintertime classics like *The Grinch*, *Polar Express*, and other stories in the form of scripts. Through Readers Theater, students practice reading aloud with purpose and how to use their voice to match characters and emotions. They did an outstanding job following along and projecting their voices to a standing-room only crowd of family members. What a way to end 2025!





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Third Grade

Third grade is heading into winter break in the holiday spirit! Grinch Day was a fun day for everyone, filled with a Grinchy read aloud, learning about figurative language with “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch,” a scavenger hunt, and a science experiment to make the Grinch’s heart grow! Happy Holidays, everyone!





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4th Grade

December was an exciting and memorable month for MAPS fourth graders! Students enjoyed a special visit from Patrick at the Lake Hopatcong Foundation, who led an engaging lesson on biodiversity. Through hands-on activities and real-world examples, students learned how plants and animals depend on one another and why protecting local ecosystems is so important.

In other news, Miss Hahn and her fourth grade friends received a special shout-out on the December 5th CNN10 broadcast from host Coy Wire! They were recognized for sending in a special card and t-shirt (courtesy of Dean D'Amico) to show how much they love learning about daily current events by watching CNN10. Students were beyond thrilled to hear MAPS called out during the broadcast, making for a moment they won't soon forget.

It was a month full of learning, curiosity, and unforgettable experiences as our fourth graders wrapped up the year on a high note!





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MAPS Athletics

The middle school basketball season is well underway, and both the Lakers and Lady Lakers have been hard at work representing their school with pride, effort, and teamwork.

The Lakers are off to a strong start and are currently enjoying a winning season. Their success has been fueled by solid defense, unselfish passing, and great energy on the court. The boys continue to improve each game and have shown what can happen when teamwork and determination come together.

The Lady Lakers have faced a challenging schedule this season, but their perseverance has been impressive. They continue to show resilience, learning from each game and working hard in practice to sharpen their skills. Their positive attitude and commitment to improvement truly reflect what being a student-athlete is all about.

As the season continues, both teams are focused on finishing strong and supporting one another. We're proud of the Lakers and Lady Lakers for their dedication and sportsmanship. Check out the "Live Calendar" on the [MAPS website](#) for game information and come cheer on our student-athletes. GO LAKERS!! 🏀





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MAPS Athletics.....continued





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From the PTO

Happy Holidays!

We are so grateful for our amazing community and all that you do to make it special. Wishing you a joyful, healthy holiday season and an exciting 2026 ahead filled with connection, fun, and growth.

With appreciation,

Brooke, Randi, Joelle & Laura - Your PTO



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- 12/24 - Winter Break Begins
- 1/5 - School Resumes
- 1/7 - BOE Reorganization Meeting - 7:00pm

