



## MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

### January 4, 2026

#### 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](#), [12/14](#), [12/21](#)

#### Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

As we prepare to welcome our students back to school tomorrow, I hope everyone enjoyed a restful and joyful winter break filled with time spent with family, friends, and loved ones. Breaks like these give us the opportunity to recharge and reflect, and we are excited to begin 2026 together at Cliffwood School.

The year ahead will be filled with meaningful learning, new experiences, and special moments that help our students grow both academically and socially. We look forward to creating lasting memories, celebrating achievements, and continuing to support every child along their learning journey.

We can't wait to see all of our Cliffwood students and families back at school tomorrow. Here's to a wonderful and successful 2026, Welcome back!



#### Jade Hernandez, Winning Christmas Ornament

Jade Hernandez, along with other Cliffwood Art Enrichment students, designed and created ornaments celebrating New Jersey and the upcoming 250th anniversary of our nation's independence. Jade's ornament was selected to be proudly displayed at Drumthwacket, the Governor's official residence in Princeton. Jade and her family had the special opportunity to visit Drumthwacket and see her winning Christmas ornament on display. We are **Cliffwood Proud** of Jade and her outstanding achievement!



Happy Holidays & Happy New Year from Cliffwood School





## 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

January 2026

Cliffwood ES  
Breakfast

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1	2
			  New Year's Day      New Year's Day	
5	6	7	8	9
• Mini Banana Loaf	• Savory Egg and Cheese Stuffed Hashbrown Patty	• Bagel with Cream Cheese	• Assorted Small Muffin • Mozzarella String Cheese	• Apple Frudel
12	13	14	15	16
• Mini Apple Bites	• Mini Maple Pancakes	• Sausage, Egg & Cheese on a Croissant	• Mini Strawberry Stuffed Bagel Stick	• French Toast Bites
19	20	21	22	23
 MLK DAY MLK Day				
26	27	28	29	30
• French Toast Bites	• Mini Cinnamon Stuffed Bagel Stick	• Egg and Cheese on a Bagel	• Confetti Pancakes	• Assorted Small Muffin • Graham Crackers

\*Menu is Subject to Change



MASCHIO'S IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER



**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?**  
Please call us at (973) 598-0005 to speak to one of Maschio's Registered Dietitian Nutritionists.

**FOLLOW US!**  
@MASCHIOFOOD

Healthy meals grow  
*healthy kids!*

Swap Outs-Elementary Breakfast: Assorted Cereal Bar with Graham Crackers , Assorted Cereal with Graham Crackers , Assorted Pop Tarts with Graham Crackers , Bagel with Cream Cheese

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1  New Year's Day	2  New Year's Day
5  • Juicy Hamburger on a Bun or Juicy Cheeseburger on a Bun • Emoji Fries	6  • Seasoned Beef Taco Scoop-a-Bowl W/ Shredded Cheddar Cheese, Lettuce, Diced Tomatoes & Salsa • Steamed Corn • Whole Grain Cinnamon Churro	7  • Fluffy French Toast Slices • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Crunchy Hash Browns	8  • Spaghetti with Meat Sauce • Italian Green Beans • Fresh Dinner Roll	9  • WW Pizza Wedge, Nardones Plain or Pepperoni • Freshly Prepared Maschio's House Salad
12   • Creamy Mac and Cheese • Cornbread Poppers • Roasted Vegetables	13 • Chicken Tenders with choice of: • BBQ Sauce or Buffalo Dipping Sauce • Garlic Parmesan Dinner Roll • Freshly Prepared Cucumber and Tomato Salad	14  • Turkey Ham, Egg & Cheese on Bagel • Crunchy Hash Browns	15 • Chicken Fajitas on a Tortilla • Rice and Beans	16 • Twisted Cheesy Breadsticks with Marinara Sauce • Freshly Prepared Garden Salad
19  MLK Day	20 • Grilled Cheese Sandwich • Tomato Soup • Fresh Veggie Dippers	21 • Chicken and Waffle Sandwich • Maple Cinnamon Carrots	22 • BBQ Chicken Bacon Cheddar Melt • Mashed Sweet Potatoes	23  • Stuffed Crust Pizza • Freshly Prepared Spring Mix Salad
26 • Seasoned Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla • Taco Seasoned Fries	27 • Meatball Parm Hero • Panko Crusted Green Beans	28  • Fluffy Buttermilk Pancakes with Wild Blueberry Compote • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Crunchy Hash Browns	29 • Popcorn Chicken, Whipped Mashed Potatoes, Rich Brown Gravy, Seasoned Corn • Fresh Dinner Roll	30 • Cheese Calzone & Mini Ravioli Sampler • Freshly Prepared Caesar Salad

\*Menu is Subject to Change



MASCHIO'S IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.



**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?**  
Please call us at (973) 598-0005 to speak to one of Maschio's Registered Dietitian Nutritionists

**FOLLOW US!**  
@MASCHIOFOOD  
  

Healthy meals grow  
*healthy kids!*

Swap Outs-Elementary Breakfast: Assorted Cereal Bar Graham Crackers , with Assorted Cereal Graham Crackers ,

## Information about Excused/Unexcused Absences



# Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

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

### 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!



# Cliffwood Elementary School

## PTO Membership Form

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION  
Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District  
*[Signature]*  
Authorized Signature

**Come JOIN the PTO for the 2025-2026 School year!**

**Membership Cost: \$10 per family**

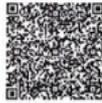
Membership dues are considered a donation to the organization and are utilized as a fundraising tool. Annual dues and our fundraising dollars provide the following (and more!): Class trips and busing, classroom supplies, fun day t-shirts, staff appreciation days, assemblies, programs, and family events.

**Why join? Joining the PTO can benefit you, your child, your school, and the community.**

The PTO needs YOU! Your opinion matters and your presence and support are appreciated. The amount of involvement you have in the PTO is completely up to you!

As a member, you have the privilege to potentially hold office, introduce motions, debate, and vote in the decision-making process at monthly meetings. There is no obligation to attend meetings, but we hope you do!

We are Cliffwood Proud and are ready to get the school year started!



Zelle

To Join: Fill out form below with payment (\$10) and submit it to your child's teacher in an envelope labeled "PTO Membership"  
We accept cash, check (made payable to Cliffwood PTO or Zelle)



Parent/Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

Child #1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Child #2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child #2's Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Child #3 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child #3's Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Child #4 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child #4's Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Email us at [CliffwoodPTO422@gmail.com](mailto:CliffwoodPTO422@gmail.com)

## Dates to Keep in Mind

1/5- School Reopens

1/12, 13, 14- Jersey Mike's Fundraiser

1/19- Martin Luther King Jr Day- School Closed

1/21- PTO Meeting 5:30 in the Cafeteria

1/26- Board of Education Meeting at 7:00 PM- Cliffwood Cafeteria



**Matawan-Aberdeen Regional**

School District



