



## MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

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

#### Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

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

Dear Cliffwood Families,

Wow, another busy week filled with learning and fun here at Cliffwood School!

We loved welcoming MAMS Wingman students to visit our Cliffwood students. Our students enjoyed getting to know them through shared activities and listening as they read stories. Third graders were busy learning about Christmas traditions from around the world, while our music students are preparing for the recorder with a fun treble clef spelling bee.

If you haven't heard, it was the 67th day of school at Cliffwood this week, and of course we had to celebrate 6-7 with fun and learning!

However, the highlight of the week was a very special visit from Santa Claus himself. The joy he brought to our students was truly heartwarming and he didn't just bring his reindeer, but a beautiful rainbow over Cliffwood School. Pure magic!

Friendly reminders:

- Tuesday is an early dismissal day. All students will be dismissed at 1:20 PM, please plan accordingly.



- School will be closed from Wednesday, 12/24 through 1/4 for Winter Break.

Wishing all of our Cliffwood families a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year. Happy holidays to our amazing Cliffwood community, stay safe and enjoy the break!



PAWS Winners



6-7!!!! We celebrated 67 days of school!



Students had a 6-7 filled day celebrating the 67th day of school! From playing Race to 67, to tackling a creative base-10 block STEM design challenge, to completing 6-7 themed poem, these students were engaged, energized, and learning every step of the way!



## MAMS Wingman Visited Cliffwood School

We loved welcoming MAMS Middle School Wingman students into our Cliffwood classrooms! Wingman is a student leadership program that promotes kindness, inclusion, and peer support, and these student leaders did a wonderful job modeling teamwork and encouragement.



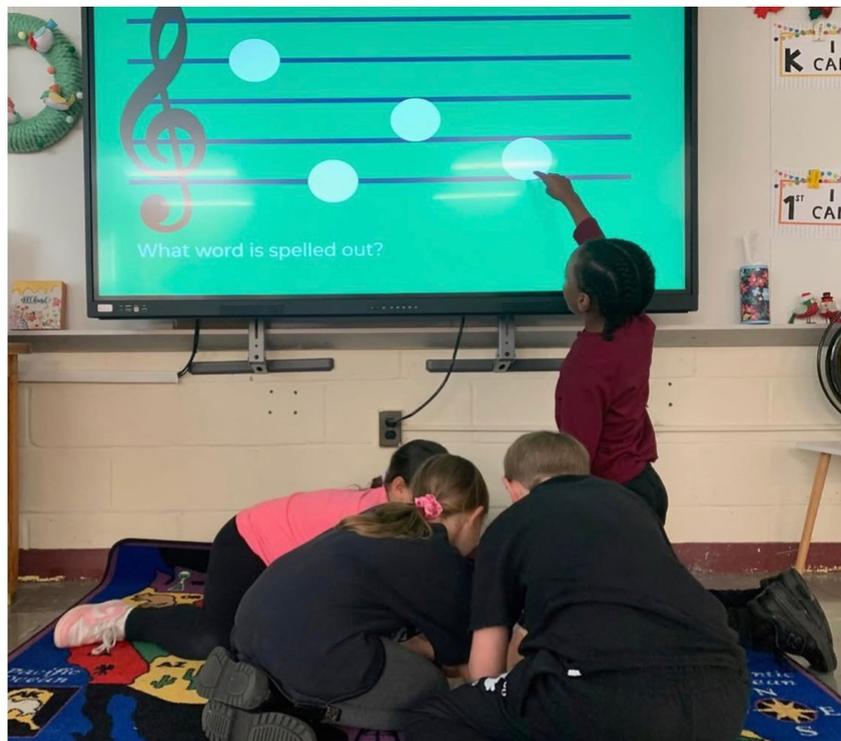
## MARSD Winter Wonderland! Giving Back!

This past Tuesday, MARSD hosted our 2nd Annual Winter Wonderland. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the community, we were able to provide over 100 local families with gifts for their entire households. More than 1,000 gifts were donated, wrapped, and distributed to families in our community! Thank you for supporting our local community. We want to know how truly appreciated each family was as they received their gift bags!



## Spelling Bee in Music Class!

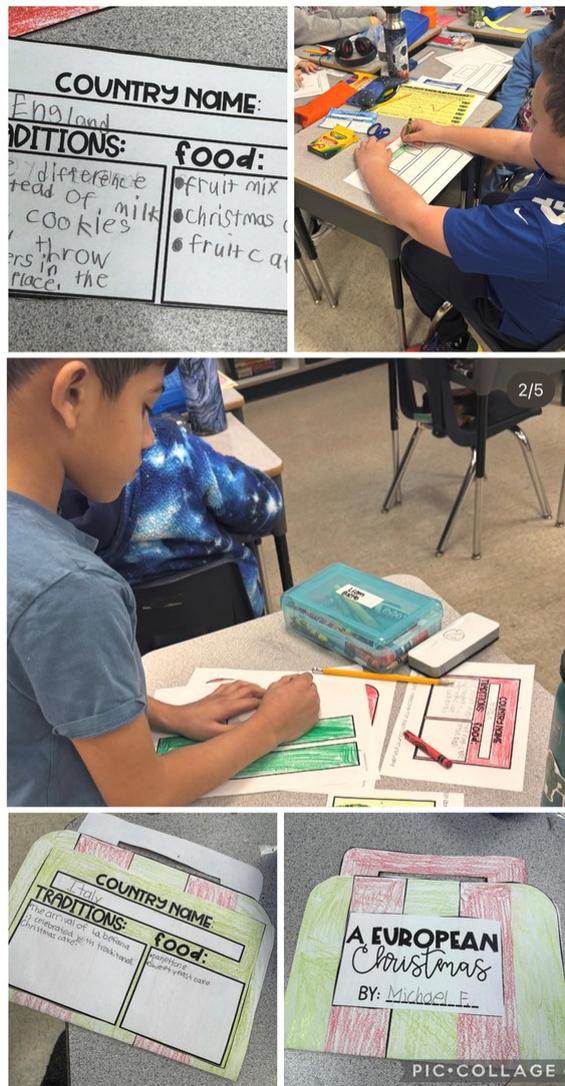
Students were busy preparing for the recorder by doing a "treble clef" spelling bee!



PIC•COLLAGE

## Christmas Celebrations Across the World

Mrs. A. Pappas's third graders packed their bags in a cross curricular activity, bridging ELA and Social Studies, to learn how different European countries celebrate Christmas. Students read nonfiction mini books and extracted information from the text to highlight different food and traditions from the countries of Italy, Spain, Germany, Sweden, and England.



## Santa visited Cliffwood School!

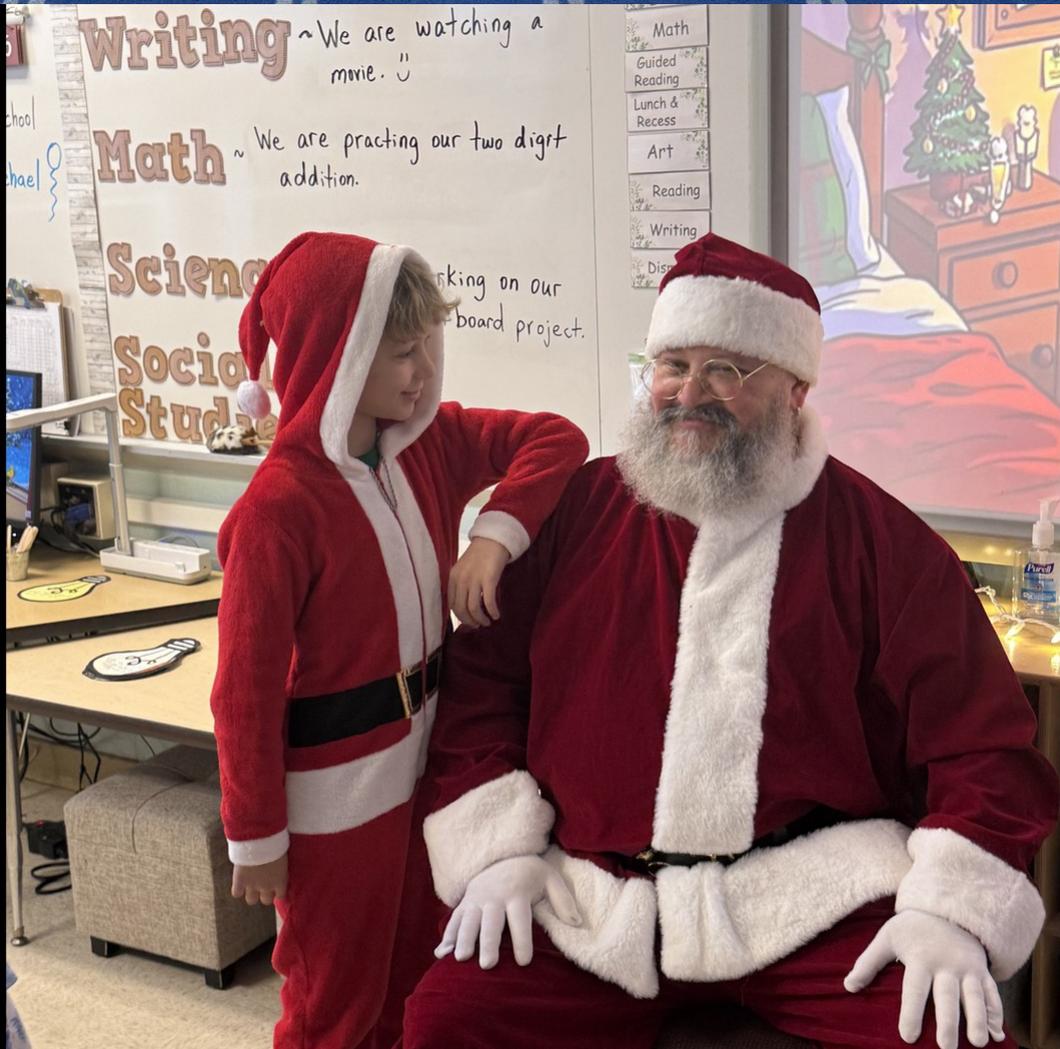
We were so lucky to have a special visit from Santa, who stopped by every classroom at Cliffwood School! The pure joy and excitement on our students' faces was truly heartwarming to see. Thank you, Santa, for making the day so magical!















## 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

### PTO Monster Ice Cream Fundraiser

### PTO Winter Festival

### 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

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



Referral Code: I6D42ILN

---

## Dates to Keep in Mind

12/23- Early Dismissal  
12/24-1/4- School Closed for Winter Break  
1/5- School Reopens



**Matawan-Aberdeen Regional**  
School District

