



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

January 18, 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](#), [1/4](#), [1/11](#)

Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

Reminder: There is no school tomorrow as we are closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

We hope everyone is staying safe, warm, and enjoying this snowy Sunday! Our students had some snowy-day fun in their classrooms. After reading the classic *The Snowy Day*, students created beautiful winter-inspired illustrations, be sure to check them out below!

Our third graders were hard at work participating in a fun and engaging grammar scavenger hunt, learning to identify adjectives and adverbs in an interactive way. Please also take a moment to review the School Health Information letter linked below, as it contains important updates for our families.

In addition, please take a moment to review the updated list of students who earned 100% attendance for Marking Period 1. We look forward to recognizing these students at our next Board of Education meeting on Monday, January 26, and hope you can join us.

Enjoy the three-day weekend, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday!

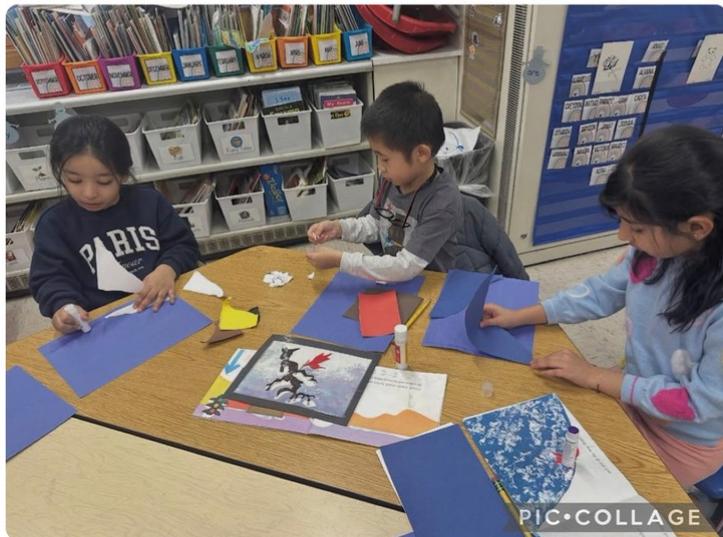
PAWS Winners





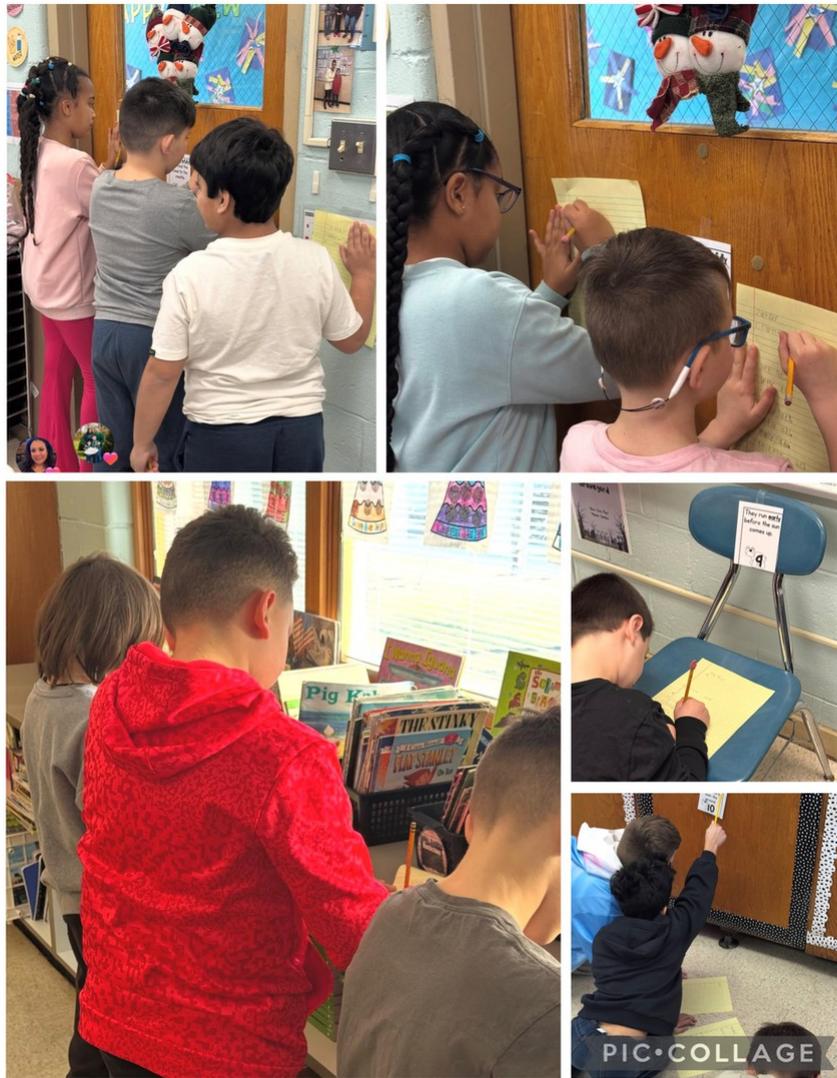
Snow Day Fun!

Snow Day Fun in the classroom! Our students designed Winter illustrations inspired by Snowy Day while practicing fine motor skills!



Grammar Skills Scavenger Hunt

Mrs. Pappas's and Ms. Coakley's third graders practiced their grammar Skills by going on a scavenger hunt to identify adjectives and adverbs.



School Health News

Dear Cliffwood Families,

We appreciate members of our school community reaching out and sharing concerns regarding reports of active/non-active head lice (*Pediculosis*). Open communication is essential for maintaining a healthy and safe school environment, and we take all concerns seriously.

Please be assured that the school followed district health policies and procedures, including [District Policy 8454 – Management of Pediculosis](#). Additionally, our district is continually working to enhance communication with families while striking a balance between student privacy and public health guidance. We value your feedback and recognize that situations like this help strengthen our communication practices and partnerships with families.

We also recognize that moments like these provide opportunities to educate and inform our community about both active and non-active cases, as well as best practices for prevention and treatment. For accurate and helpful information about head lice (*Pediculosis*), please review the following resource: [Pediculosis Information Letter](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me or our school nurse, Mrs. Caldwell.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in keeping our school community healthy.

Sincerely,

Christine Cherence, Principal

Perfect Attendance Marking Period 1-UPDATE!

Congratulations to our students who earned **Perfect Attendance for Marking Period 1!** We are so proud of your commitment to being at school every day. Regular attendance plays an important role in academic success, social-emotional learning, and building strong habits, like being on time, that set students up for success now and in the future.

We truly could not do this without the support of our families. Strong family–school partnerships make a meaningful difference in helping students develop positive routines and a love of learning. These students received a letter home recognizing their achievement and have been invited to the next **Board of Education meeting on Monday, January 26th at 7:00 PM at Cliffwood School**, where they will be recognized for their perfect attendance. We are Cliffwood Proud!

PERFECT ATTENDANCE (1st Quarter-1/8/26)

Student:	Teacher:
1. Adriana Askar	Ms. DaSilva (Prek)
2. Regan Ventura	Ms. Oczkowski (Prek)
3. Nicholas Reyes	Ms. Gomez (Prek)
4. Gianna Rivera	Ms. Gomez (Prek)
5. Vivaan Mandava	Ms. Thorpe/Ulaj (Prek)
6. Lila Raju	Ms. Thorpe/Ulaj (Prek)
7. Jazmine Becton	Ms. B Walker (Prek)
8. Layla DiGeso	Ms. B Walker (Prek)
9. Alivia Acosta	Ms. M Walker (K)
10. Kian Gluck	Ms. M Walker (K)
11. Junior LoBaido	Ms. M Walker (K)
12. Jace Oczkowski	Ms. M Walker (K)
13. Felicity Philip	Ms. M Walker (K)
14. Krithi Yenjerla	Ms. M Walker (K)
15. Kara Yong	Ms. M Walker (K)
16. Bryson Amaker	Ms. Maiello (K)
17. Darlin Bueso Medina	Ms. Maiello (K)
18. Sehrish Haque	Ms. Maiello (K)
19. Landon Brenner	Ms. Terry (K)
20. Chrysilia Klapakis	Ms. Terry (K)
21. M'Kayla Newman	Ms. Terry (K)
22. Alice Oliveira	Ms. Terry (K)
23. William Perryman	Ms. Terry (K)
24. Ellie Raisch	Ms. Terry (K)
25. Kaia Veal	Ms. Terry (K)

**PERFECT ATTENDANCE
(1st Quarter-1/8/26)**

26. Elias Raju	Mr. Wyman (K)
27. Rebecca Hoffman	Ms. Petruccio (1st)
28. Allie Petersen	Ms. Petruccio (1st)
29. Faith Odeh	Ms. Thiel (1st)
30. Lailah Stevens	Ms. Thiel (1st)
31. Giovanna Petrone	Ms. Saviano (1st)
32. Lexandra Rivera	Ms. Saviano (1st)
33. Kayden Sullivan	Ms. Saviano (1st)
34. Giovanni Ingargiola	Ms. Somohano (1st)
35. Aiden Hernandez	Ms. L Pappas (2nd)
36. Stella Ingargiola	Ms. L Pappas (2nd)
37. Karter Mautes	Ms. L Pappas (2nd)
38. Amelia Rockafellow	Ms L Pappas (2nd)
39. Audrianna Acosta	Ms. Schultz (2nd)
40. Payton Dobbins	Ms. Schultz (2nd)
41. Eyela Wilson	Ms. Schultz (2nd)
42. Layar Bader	Ms. Colaneri (2nd)
43. Finn Freeman	Ms. Colaneri (2nd)
44. Ektoras Klapakis	Ms. Colaneri (2nd)
45. Gabriel Ambatali	Ms. Whelan (3rd)
46. Ayaan Ali	Ms. Royston (3rd)
47. Michael Forli	Ms. A Pappas (3rd)
48. Lincoln Kurtzo-Jesionka	Ms. A Pappas (3rd)
49. Zachary Volfson	Ms. A Pappas (3rd)
50. Jazzlyn Barrios Valverde	Ms. Preiser (3rd)
51. Ace Wilson	Ms. Preiser (3rd)

**PERFECT ATTENDANCE
(1st Quarter-1/8/26)**

52. Derek Sobin	Ms. Preiser (3rd)
53. Parker Sobin	Ms. Saviano (1st)
54. Bezalel Offeh	Ms. Preiser (3rd)
55. Alex Narduzzi	Ms Preiser (3rd)
56. Avery Cyriacks	Ms. Somohano (1st)
57. Julianna Blashfield	Ms. Gomez (Prek)
58. Avery Cyriacks	Ms. Somohano (1st)
59. Julia Narduzzi	Ms. Somohano (1st)

Preschool Parent Workshop: Raising Confident (not picky) Eaters

Join us for our second Preschool Parent Workshop, Raising Confident Eaters: End Food Battles. Open to parents with students currently enrolled in our preschool program. Childcare will be provided by our High School's National Honor Society. Registration required. Register [HERE](#).

RAISING CONFIDENT EATERS: END FOOD BATTLES A POWERFUL PARENT PRESENTATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28TH AT 6:15 PM

LAUREN DORMAN, MS RD CDE

Registered Dietitian, Keynote Speaker, Author, Consultations.

Dear Parents,

I know that navigating food-related challenges with children can sometimes feel overwhelming, but Lauren Dorman, Pediatric Registered Dietitian is here to make that process easier.

This presentation is for parents who are interested in transforming their family's nutrition and health. You'll finally have the support and guidance you've been hungry for. You'll know exactly how to think, what to say, and what your next steps should be...

Lauren wants you to feel less overwhelmed with her bite sized-lessons! Learn the recipe to implement a calm structure and routine. Imagine mealtime being less of a battle and more of a joy-filled with a variety of options that everyone loves.

Through this empowering presentation, you as the parent will learn the 6 essential skills necessary to empower your child to crave balance and color on their plate!

Outcomes From Presentation:

- ★ Your child exhibits improved energy levels, focus, and mood
- ★ Your child develops a healthy, positive relationship with food and their body
- ★ Your child accurately recognizes and responds to hunger and fullness cues
- ★ Balanced, nourishing, and flexible meal/snack patterns are established, with increased food variety through effective exposure
- ★ Both parent and child experience fulfillment, joy, and ease throughout their nutrition behavior change journey



"Lauren is such a clear, empathetic, empowering and informative speaker. I was so impressed with her ability to connect with the participants she gave for my school's parents! As a parent and educator, I wish that I had benefited from Lauren's knowledge and experience years ago. Her webinar has already changed the conversations I have with students about food."

REGISTER HERE!



Scan To Enter The
Raising Confident Eaters
Community



732-766-2616
schooldietitian@gmail.com
@dont_diet_dietitian

AS SEEN IN



PreK & K Open Enrollment



PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2026/2027



OUR PROGRAM

Locations



Preschool classrooms are offered at Cambridge Park, Lightbridge Academy, and district elementary schools.

Eligibility



Students must be 3 years old on or before October 1, 2026 to enter preschool and are accepted through a lottery.

Classes



Classes are mixed aged with 3 and 4 year olds. All classrooms use Tools of the Mind curriculum.



Preschool is free to all eligible residence of the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District.



Busing is available for eligible students.

Students must be enrolled by March 20th to be included in the lottery.

REGISTRATION BEGINS
JANUARY 15TH



scan here!

For questions or additional information, please call (732) 705-4079 or visit <https://www.marsd.org/parents-students/central-registration>



INSCRIPCIÓN PARA PREESCOLAR Y KINDER 2026/2027



NUESTRO PROGRAMA

Ubicaciones



Se ofrecen clases de preescolar en Cambridge Park, Lightbridge Academy y en las escuelas primarias del distrito.

Elegibilidad



Los estudiantes deben tener 3 años cumplidos el 1 de octubre de 2026 o antes para poder ingresar al preescolar, y la admisión se realiza mediante sorteo.

Clases



Las clases son mixtas con niños de 3 y 4 años. Todas las aulas utilizan el plan de estudios Herramientas de la Mente.



El preescolar es gratuito para todos los residentes elegibles del Distrito Escolar Regional de Matawan-Aberdeen.



El transporte en autobús está disponible para los estudiantes elegibles.

Los estudiantes deben estar matriculados antes del 20 de marzo para poder participar en el sorteo.

LA INSCRIPCIÓN COMIENZA
EL 15 DE ENERO.



escanea aquí!

Para preguntas o información adicional, llame al (732) 705-4079 o visite <https://www.marsd.org/parents-students/central-registration>

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

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



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

School Store Wed 1/21 & Thurs 1/22

Cliffwood students will have the chance to shop at the Cliffwood School Store on 1/21 & 1/22. If you child is shopping please send their money in a labeled envelope or ziploc, please no unlabeled

money. Thank you!



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

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

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

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

1/21 & 1/22- School Store

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

1/28- Candy Bar Fundraiser



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional
School District

