



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

STRATHMORE NEWSLETTER

Straight From Strathmore

Hootline News - Sunday, January 11, 2026



Important Links

[District Website](#), [District Calendar](#), [School Hours](#), [Arrival/Dismissal Procedures](#)

Past Newsletters

[Straight from Strathmore \(9/1-9/21\)](#), [9/28](#), [10/6](#), [10/13](#), [10/19](#), [10/26](#), [11/2](#), [11/9](#), [11/16](#), [11/23](#), [12/7](#), [12/14](#), [12/21](#)



A Message from Mrs. Kelly

Happy New Year and Welcome Back! I hope you all enjoyed a restful winter recess and had the chance to celebrate the holidays with loved ones. It's wonderful to see our hallways filled with energy and excitement once again as we begin the new year together.

As we step into 2026, many of us are thinking about fresh starts and new goals. I encourage our students to set their own resolutions, whether it's reading more books, trying a new activity, or being a better friend. Small steps can lead to big growth, and we're here to support them every step of the way.

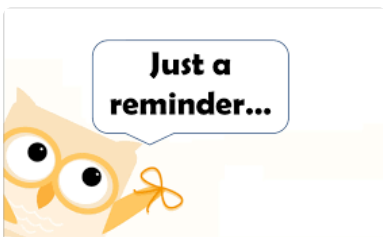
The spring season is always one of our busiest and most rewarding times of year. In the coming months, students will participate in important assessments that help us understand their progress and tailor our instruction to meet their needs. We also have exciting field trips on the horizon that will bring learning to life beyond our classroom walls. Additionally, our staff is already hard at work planning memorable end-of-year activities and celebrations that our students will cherish.

As always, thank you for your continued partnership and support in your child's school experience.

Important Arrival / Parking Update

We kindly ask that families refrain from parking in parking spots during morning arrival times. Our teachers and staff need access to these spaces so they can arrive on time and be fully prepared to welcome your children each morning. Families are encouraged to use our kiss-and-go arrival procedure for drop-off, or you may park on nearby neighborhood streets and walk your student(s) to the building. As a reminder, Door #9 is also available for student arrival—you can park on Invar Place for convenient access to this entrance. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us ensure a smooth start to every school day. Thank you for your understanding and support!

REMINDERS



Wearable Electronic Devices

As we work to maintain a focused and highly engaging academic environment, this is an important reminder regarding wearable smart devices (like smartwatches) and the use of all personal electronic devices in school.

Our district policy, MARSD SmartPhone/Mobile Device Policy #5516.02, applies to all personal devices, including smartwatches, to reduce distractions and promote face-to-face interactions. For

our elementary students, please remember personal smart devices and smartwatches must be kept in your child's backpack or school bag at all times.

Need to Communicate? If a student needs to contact a parent or guardian during the school day, they may come to the main office with staff permission to use a school phone.

We appreciate your partnership in supporting a distraction-free environment that prioritizes academic engagement and student well-being. You can review the full policy ([#5516.02](#)) on the district website for complete details.

Keeping Students Healthy and Learning: When to Stay Home

The cold and flu season is here. We know how important it is for your child to be in school to learn, but it is just as important to keep our school community healthy.

- A fever (100.4°F or higher)
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Flu-like symptoms (body aches, chills, fatigue)
-

Students may return to school when they are fever-free for 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medicine), when vomiting/diarrhea has not occurred in 24 hours and/or 24 hours after antibiotics are started.

Attendance is vital for academic success, but so is good health. Thank you for partnering with us to keep our classrooms a safe and healthy learning environment for everyone.

Dress for Success

We go outside whenever weather permits, as fresh air and physical activity are important parts of our daily routine. As temperatures remain cool this season, please ensure your child comes to school prepared for outdoor recess each day.

Students should arrive at school dressed in regular daytime clothing. Pajamas, slippers, and sleepwear should only be worn on designated spirit days when we specifically invite pajama attire. This helps maintain our learning environment and ensures students are ready for an active day of learning



Redistricting Scenario

This week, Mrs. Perez, Superintendent of Schools, shared communication regarding the redistricting scenario. You can find a copy of the communication [here](#). Positive and productive feedback is welcome. See the steps below to submit your feedback:

- If you have a comment about the map, the school zones, or the scenario, you can use the COMMENT feature located on the upper right corner of the map.
- If you have a technical question about using the map, you can email info@citygategjis.com
- If you have general comments or questions, you can email redistrict@marsd.org or complete the district's [community feedback form](#).



2026-2027 Registration

Pre-K and Kindergarten registration for the the 2026-2027 school year opens on Thursday, January 15th.



PreK and Kindergarten
(click on flyer for details)



PreK and Kindergarten Spanish
(click on flyer for details)

Winter Activity

Dr. Racioppi, district Physical Therapist, shared a [fun activity](#) to keep kids active in the winter.



WINTER FUN WITH DR. RACIOPPI

Keep your child active even when the weather gets too cold to head outside!!!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

3 BOXES DECORATED LIKE A SNOWMAN, SOCK BALLS, TAPE

ACTIVITY:

Indoor fun is sure to be had by aiming sock balls at a snowman!!! Have your child color their own or paste a printed out snowman onto three boxes as pictured.

Your child "builds" their snowman by sticking the blocks on top of each other.

Have your child stand an appropriate distance from the target, marked by a piece of tape. With feet shoulder distance apart, have your child squa to the floor to pick up one sock ball at a time. Using an overhead throw, enjoy throwing to knock over the snowman.

Make it fun and keep track of how many throws it takes to knock him over. If you have more than one child you can have them take turns. Make it more challenging or easier by changing the distance they are standing away from the target.

DR. RACIOPPI IS A DISTRICT PHYSICAL THERAPIST AT MASCHIO'S CAFETERIA CONNECTION.

Maschio's Cafeteria Connection

Teacher
afeteria Connection
JANUARY 2024

National Nutritional Month!
Many of us have had or at least tried nutritional supplements a time. We may remember the first glance, first taste, or first time we enjoyed a meal. But what if the nutrient for us or who we made the meal was... could be a nutritional treat in and of itself. During the winter months, many people like warm beverages, such as a bowl of soup, or a hot drink.

HEALTH BENEFITS
If you are not accustomed to your daily diet, your potential for reducing risk of heart disease may be high. It is important to eat a variety of fruits and vegetables. It is also important to keep your blood sugar regularly. Imagine if we introduced or reintroduced this eating & treat into your everyday diet. Cops are a wonderful & super food, give the fiber benefit, but it is not as nutritious as berries. Try adding some honey instead of sugar for sweetness & some blueberries to change it all!

QUICK AND EASY!
Make it a healthy snack and easy! You just need a few ingredients to start, and you and your body will love you for it. It is a great snack and treat and you can get your protein per drink or snack on the go. Use your imagination for all the delicious fresh food options you can use to prepare. Start the New Year with having more nutritious meals!

EASY NUTRITIONAL RECIPE

- 1/2 cup of blueberries
- 1/2 cup of milk or water
- 1/2 cup of oatmeal

Combine ingredients in a pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer and cook the oats, stirring occasionally, until soft.

JERSEY FRESH Blueberry Crisp Serves 6

INGREDIENTS:

- 5 cups Blueberries, fresh or frozen
- 2 tablespoons Sugar
- 3 tablespoons Flour
- 1 Lemon

TOPPING:

- 1/4 cup Butter softened
- 1/4 cup Brown Sugar
- 1/4 cup All Purpose Flour
- 1/4 cup Oats Regular or Quick
- 1/4 teaspoon Cinnamon

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F.
2. Gently wash the berries and squeeze the juice of half of the lemon.
3. Toss blueberries with sugar, lemon rind, 1 tablespoon lemon juice and 3 tablespoons flour. Place in a 2qt baking dish.
4. With a fork, combine the butter, brown sugar, oats, flour, and cinnamon until crumbled. Sprinkle over blueberries.
5. Bake 25-40 minutes or until the top is golden brown and the fruit is bubbly. Cool slightly and serve warm.

Enjoy!

Dietitian's Pick

While most diets are based on eating along with whole grains, fruits, and vegetables, blueberries are a nutrient power house. They are packed with antioxidants that help protect your body from oxidative stress and keep your heart healthy. Blueberries are also a good source of fiber, which helps with digestion. Blueberries are also a good source of potassium, which helps with blood pressure. Blueberries are also a good source of antioxidants, which help protect your body from oxidative stress. Blueberries are also a good source of antioxidants, which help protect your body from oxidative stress.

National Fresh Squeezed Juice Week!
HEALTHY DRINKS WEEK JANUARY

Release some tension by squeezing some juice out of your favorite fruits and vegetables and enjoy the health benefits. The amount of concentrated vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and flavonoids your body gets from eating a meal plus an equivalent. It's a brilliant way to boost your immune system during cold and flu season peak time between December and February. However, any time of the year is great for a healthy squeezed juice. If you wish, mix some of your favorite fruits or vegetables or both! It's the new year, go ahead and try something new and fun. This is a great way to benefit your body with numerous nutrients!

Recipe of the Month
JANUARY

JERSEY FRESH
Farm to School

Blueberry Crisp Serves 6

INGREDIENTS:

- 5 cups Blueberries Fresh or Frozen
- 2 tablespoons Sugar
- 3 tablespoons Flour
- 1 Lemon

TOPPING:

- 1/4 cup Butter softened
- 1/4 cup Brown Sugar
- 1/4 cup all-purpose Flour
- 1/4 cup Oats Regular or Quick
- 1/4 teaspoon Cinnamon

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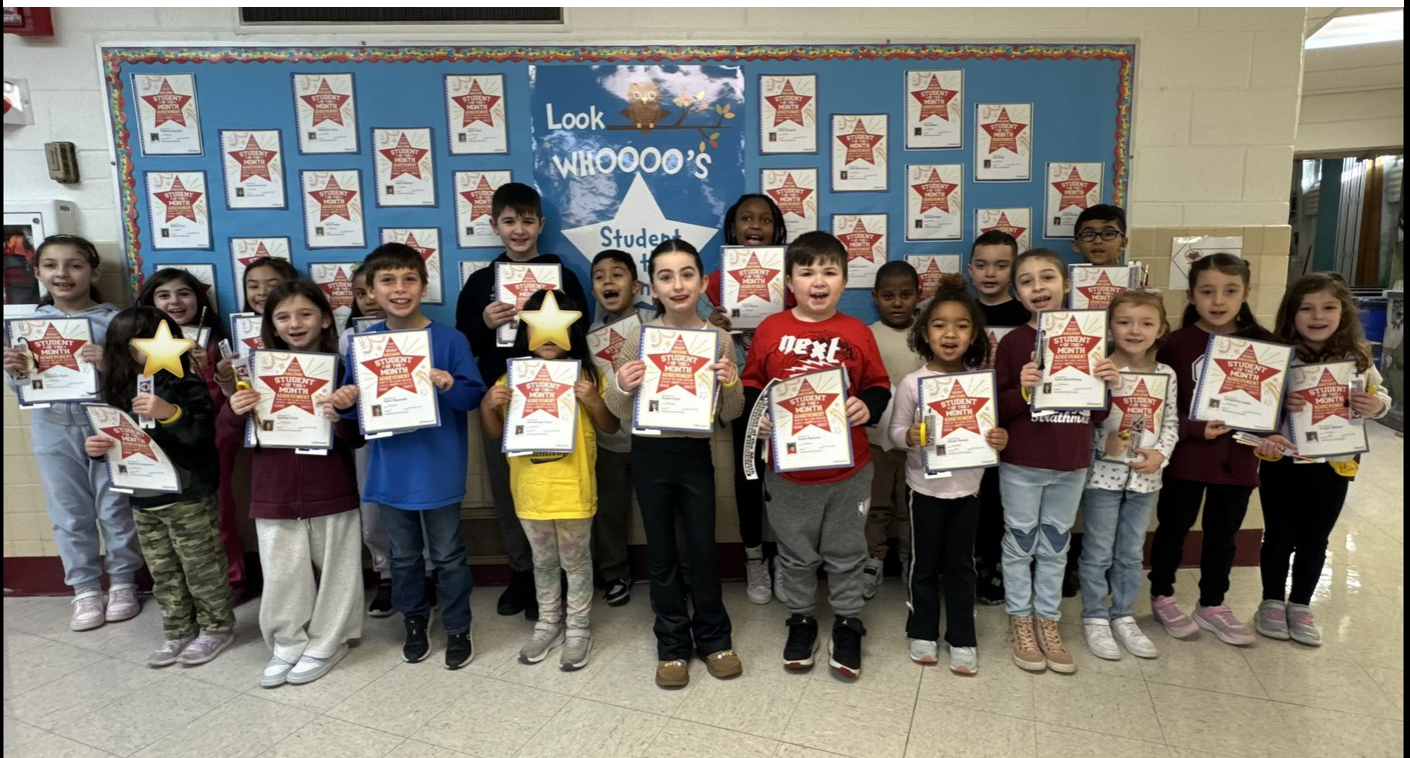
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Enjoy!

Strathmore Snapshots

December Students of the Month

Kindness

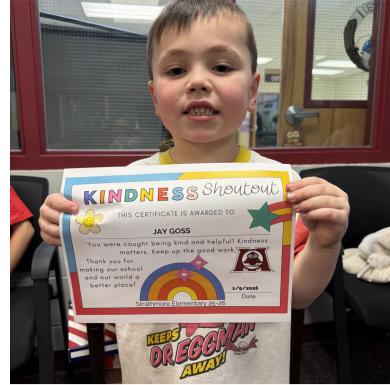


Kindness Ticket Recipient Recognition - 1/9/26

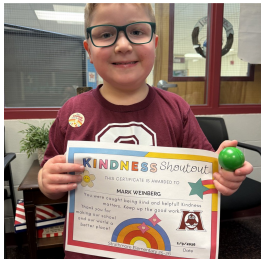
Congratulations to this week's Kindness Ticket winners, drawn from this week's collection of tickets for showing kindness, respect, and positivity in our school community. Thank you for making our school and our world a better place!



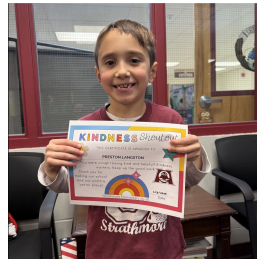
Andra



Jay



Mark



Preston



Daniel

PTO Happenings

STRATHMORE PTO

What's coming up...

PTO MEETING

Wednesday, January 7th at 7PM
Please join us in the school library for our first meeting of the new year! We will be talking about what's coming up for the winter and spring.

DATES TO REMEMBER

1/6: Pizza Bingo signup deadline
1/7: PTO Meeting 7PM
1/9: Spirit Day
1/9: Pizza Bingo
1/19: School closed
1/29-30: School store
2/2: Half day
2/2-20: Chocolate bar fundraiser

PIZZA BINGO

January 9th, 6:30-8PM

Registration CLOSES JANUARY 6th!

- Pizza will be served at 6:30, bingo will start at 7:00. Only a limited amount of pizza will be available for sale that night, it is highly recommended that you pre-order.
- Registration is required even if you are only playing bingo.
- VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS ARE NEEDED. Please text Laura at 732-673-3195 if you can help or donate snacks, drinks, or fruit loops.
- See the flyer below or Givebacks for further details.

SCHOOL STORE IS BACK!

Thursday & Friday, January 29-30

Send cash in an envelope or baggy, students shop during lunch! Text Jackie at 917-524-4713 if you want to volunteer.



Scan the QR code to join, shop or get involved, or visit <https://strathmorepto.givebaacks.com>

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A PART OF THE PTO TODAY!

Chocolate Bar
Sale info
coming soon!



January Dine Out - 2/27/26

click on the flyer for details



3rd Grade Dance

March 27, 2026

Givebacks

Visit the Givebacks website to stay up to date on the PTO, events and fundraisers. [Click here](#) to visit the Givebacks website.

Get Involved

Check out Strathmore's [PTO page](#) on the district website, where you can find information on how to connect. The PTO meets every other month in the Strathmore Library at 7:00 PM. Remaining meeting dates for the year are February 25, April 8, and June 3.

Save the Date - 3rd Grade Show, May 20, 2026

We are thrilled to announce the details for this year's highly anticipated Third Grade Annual Performance! This is a wonderful and memorable event that celebrates our students and their musical talent.

This year, the third grade will be participating in a spectacular Disney-themed show. Our show is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th, at the Matawan Regional High School Auditorium. Details regarding times and tickets will be shared closer to the event.

[3rd Grade Show Letter](#)

[3rd Grade Show Letter - Spanish](#)

Submit a Story

Do you have good news to share about a student, staff member, team or club? The district is always looking for opportunities to share school-community connections! Use this [Google Form](#) to tell us about it. We may feature it in some way on the district's newsletter or social media!

Important Dates

- Monday, January 19: School Closed
- Thursday-Friday, January 29-30: School Store
- Friday, January 30: MP 2 ends
- Monday, February 2: MP3 begins
- Monday, February 2: - Early dismissal (PK-8)



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional
School District



