

Superintendent's Report

January 2026



Ava Lynn Petriello, LTHS

Student Enrollment for December 2025

SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT	ATTENDANCE
Mill Pond Elementary School	615	90%
Cedar Creek Elementary School	435	92%
Forked River Elementary School	448	92%
Lanoka Harbor Elementary School	436	91%
Lacey Township Middle School	825	91%
Lacey Township High School	1,062	91%
Special Education (Out-of-District)	27	
*OCVTS – M.A.T.E.S.	28	
*OCVTS – Performing Arts Academy	25	
*OCVTS – Academy Law & Public Safety	15	
TOTAL	3,916	



January 2026

Seniors of the Month

LILY M. ALLEN

ALEXANDER W. BARNEMAN

Vocational Senior of the Month

LILYANA K. GUZIKOWSKI

Unsung Hero

VICTORIA BRANNICK



Mill Pond News

Kindness Everywhere!

Mill Pond's character committee set a monthly calendar focused on specific character traits that bring positivity to our community. Each week, the students are introduced to our lion language which focuses on vocabulary that enhances our three important building wide expectations. Last month, our focus was on the terms dependable, generous. Every morning, the teachers talked about and role modeled various scenarios focused on these vocabulary words. The following students were celebrated as pawsome citizens by various teachers.

Congratulations to our Pawsome Citizens!



Morning Announcements

Our classes continue to participate in the morning announcements! Each week, we welcome one class into the main office. They lead the building everyday with The Pledge of Allegiance. The students end the announcements wishing everyone a great day!



Mrs. Smith's Class



Ms. Grosso's Class



Ms. Teschlogs' Class

Mill Pond Express

Our amazing PTA created an evening of fun for our Mill Pond families. They boarded the Mill Pond Express bus and rode around the neighborhood to look at all the beautiful lights and decorations. Upon returning to Mill Pond, they enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies, hanging out with cubbie, writing letters to Santa, and even getting to sit on Santa's lap for a picture!



Winter Fun!

The holidays are certainly a busy time of learning but also for making some really great lasting memories. There were so many events for our students to participate in. The preschool students had a great time at the reindeer games and our kindergarten students jumped aboard the polar express parade. Everyone enjoyed the activities!



Cedar Creek News

Students of the Month



Gianna Bevilacqua
Lilly Carter
Joshua Chin
Jack Ewart
Carmela Fisler
Tessa Gagliano
Riley Grochowski

Michael Nowacki
Ethan Ottoson
Cristina Ozell
Ava Papalia
Emily Papalia
Julian Ponce

Nico Roehrich
Mariah Slazer
Evan Schneidt
Theodore Sheik
Harrison Stycuira
Ellie Yaprem



The Polar Express at Cedar Creek

On December 19th, the Polar Express visited CCS! Our first grade students received bells and made their way around the school with a conductor and Cubby!



Winter Wonderland

During our first week back after break, CCS hosted Winter Wonderland. Students and families made crafts, made new year's resolutions, had hot cocoa, and voted on their favorite decorated door!



Welcome
Winter



Forked River News

Special Area Students of the Month

Art - **Angel Torres-Rodriguez**
Library - **Jaxon Sikora**

Music - **Silvia Frazee**
PE - **Ben Ruggiano**

Chorus

On Thursday, December 18th, the Forked River School's third, fourth, and fifth grade chorus, under the direction of our choral director, Dr. Faille, and our assistant choral director, Mrs. Camaligan, performed two concerts during the school day at the Forked River School for our students and staff and a culminating evening concert in the auditorium of the Lacey Township High School to a standing-room-only crowd of parents and family members! We are proud of the dedication and talents of all of our choral students!

The Forked River School special area staff hosted their annual winter holiday sing-along on the last day before the holiday break. Each grade level gathered in the all-purpose room during their special area time and engaged in fun holiday stories, songs, and dancing!

Thanks to the efforts of our PTA who arranged for a very special guest from the North Pole to visit the Forked River School on the day before holiday break despite his very busy schedule! Our special guest along with our PTA volunteers spread much holiday joy amongst our students and staff!



FRS PTA

We would like to thank the Forked River School PTA for hosting their annual holiday shop for our students. Students were able to purchase small items to give to their family members for the holidays

Community Service

The spirit of giving was alive at the Forked River School during the December Holiday Season. We would like to thank our very generous students, staff members, parents, and community members for all of their support with the numerous charitable programs at FRS which served to help families within our community during the holidays. As always, the charitable support was amazing!

In closing, the Forked River School family wishes everyone in our great community of Lacey Township a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2026!





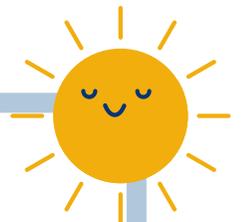
Forked River School Superstar Citizens of the Month



Teacher	Student	Teacher	Student
Mrs. Bergman	Alex Torres-Castro	Mrs. Lavorgna	Lenox Orlando
Mrs. Camaligan	Cassidy Korotky	Mrs. Mooney	Peyton Doyle
Mrs. Coller	Chloe Diaz	Mrs. Mulligan	Giovanna Trematerra
Mrs. Crepezzi	Christian Green	Mrs. Nachman	Grace De La Rosa-Pena
Mrs. DeNigris	Jonathan Gonzalez	Mrs. Schubiger	Liliana Jeski
Mrs. Flynn	Madyson Barker	Mrs. Tilton	Natalie Vazquez-Sierra
Mrs. Halliday	Noah Edwards	Mrs. Weaver	Benjamin Kreidberg
Mrs. Latwis	Tessa Ruggiero		

Safety Patrol Students of the Month

Ryan Kelly
Weston Leadem
Shaylah Henchy
Gray Jefferson
Jameson Mazurek
Bella Plosky
Kendall Kent
Mia Lefebvre
Michael Hoesly
Zachary Maxwell
John Miele



Morning Announcers

Grace De La Rosa-Penn
Maya Willis

Lanoka Harbor News

Students of the Month

The following students have been selected as Lanoka Harbor's Students of the Month for December 2025. These students were chosen for their outstanding work, dedication, and achievement.



Lena Hoffman

Conor Kiely

Logan Streno



CONGRATULATIONS!

Proud Paws

The Lanoka Harbor School Proud Paws Club, students, and staff participated in Candy Canes for Cancer. Buckets filled with candy canes were distributed by the Proud Paws Club members to each classroom. During the week of December 8th-15th students were invited to purchase candy canes for \$1.00. Club members were responsible for restocking the buckets as candy canes were sold.

This building-wide project raised money for Ocean of Love in Toms River. Ocean of Love is an organization that supports families with children who are battling cancer. They provide both emotional and financial support to help these families. The "Ocean" stands for Ocean County, so all the services this organization provides help families in our community. We proudly report that a donation check for \$3,148.00 will be presented to Ocean of Love.

The classrooms that led the building with their candy cane sales were:

1st place - Mrs. Ritner - 17 Buckets raised \$425.00

2nd place - Mrs. Maria - 16 Buckets raised \$400.00

3rd place - Mrs. Keelen/Mrs. Meyler & Mrs. Supsie - 8 Buckets raised \$200.00

We are most appreciative to the families and staff members who participated by donating candy canes and the Lacey Township PBA and NJ State Police who generously donated supplies. We thank you, and the Proud Paws advisors Mrs. Meyler and Mrs. Supsie for supporting Ocean of Love this holiday season.





Chorus

The Lanoka Harbor School 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Ferruzza and Mrs. Cottrell, put on a wonderful holiday performance on December 17th. Students participated as singers, dancers, narrators, and instrumentalists. They entertained staff, students, family, and friends. Their outstanding performance was full of holiday spirit! Great Job!

PTO Winter Workshop

A highlight of this year's holiday activities was the PTO Winter Workshop held on December 11th. Students and families were able to participate in various holiday activities. The evening was a memorable experience for all those who attended thanks to the PTO and staff members that participated.



Middle School News



What's Happening!

The [L.E.A.D. program](#) has begun at LTMS. The L.E.A.D. program features a well-structured curriculum complete with detailed lesson plans, and it aligns with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education. One of the most exciting aspects of the program is that a Lacey Township Police Officer or Detective will be instructing the program to middle school students. The alliance of resources between the LTSD and the LTPD is something very special that our young people will benefit from.

Lacey Middle School launched a new mentoring program called [Building Men](#). The mission and intent of Building Men is to develop character, strength, and integrity through group coaching. The program will take place during the school day once a month for the remainder of the year.

January

8th Grade Student of the Month Leonor Goncalves-Pereira

Leonor is an exceptional 8th-grade student who excels academically, demonstrates strong character, and shows outstanding dedication to her school community, consistently maintaining a rigorous standard in her Honors classes with a lowest current grade of 94 and perfect attendance that reflects her reliability and commitment to learning. Guided by her personal mantra, "I try to push myself to be better every day," she approaches challenges with determination and a positive mindset, and her teachers note that her cheerful attitude, genuine kindness, and willingness to uplift others make her a joy to have in class and a true embodiment of a student leader who helps create a welcoming, supportive school environment. Congratulations to Leonor!

January

8th Grade Student of the Month Connor Beauchemin

Connor has been selected as Student of the Month for his outstanding work ethic, positive attitude, and humble, kind nature. He is an active and enthusiastic participant in class, consistently sharing thoughtful ideas and contributing to discussions in ways that encourage others to get involved. Connor's friendly and easygoing personality makes him well liked by his peers, while his attention to detail, strong work habits, and respect for others set him apart. He works well with his classmates, holds himself to high standards, and leads by example by bringing positive energy to the classroom every day. Congratulations to Connor!

Chorus

Chorus had a truly outstanding chorus concert in December. From the falling snow to the surprise appearance of Santa and Mrs. Claus, every detail made the evening unforgettable. Our students sang beautifully—their energy, confidence, and joy filled the room. Thank you, Mrs. Hersh, for your hard work and vision, and thank you to everyone who helped make the evening so special.



Band

Band had an incredible band winter concert in December. The performance was polished, energetic, and truly showcased the hard work and dedication that goes into our music program. The pride on our students' faces—and the enthusiasm from families in attendance—made it clear how meaningful this experience was for everyone involved. Thank you, Mr. Holmberg for your leadership, passion, and the countless hours you invest to help our students shine.



Drama Club

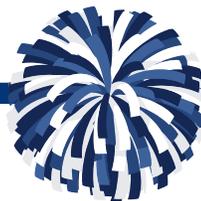
Drama Club is working on polishing the first half of their performance and starting the second half of the show. They are getting costumes organized and stage crew is working on building sets and props. They are hosting a paint night fundraiser on January 26th.

Set Design

Set Design has been working on designing and creating the set and props needed for the upcoming Drama play, *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* We usually meet two times a week to design, build and paint the things we need for the play. There are currently 60 members in the Set Design Crew.

LTMS Cheerleading

LTMS Cheerleading has done several team bonding activities including a secret Santa, holiday team pizza party, etc. They are continuing to work on their bench cheers and dance routine during their practices.



NJHS

NJHS will be working on their Got Sneakers! collection fundraiser as well as collecting can tabs..
Congratulations for a successful Toys for Tots drive!

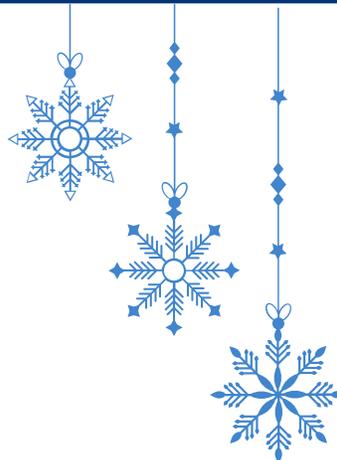


Intergeneration Club

Intergeneration Club traveled to Pheasant Run Clubhouse where students and club members participated in a painting activity while enjoying refreshments as well as participated in Wreaths Across America at Good Luck Cemetery. In January, students will travel to the Pheasant Run clubhouse where they will play games with adult club members and participate in Winter - themed activities.

Yearbook Club

Yearbook Club has selected a cover for this year's edition, continues to take photos, and is preparing the voting process for this year's student and teacher superlatives. The club also encourages everyone to continue submitting photos and memories for inclusion in the book.

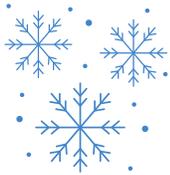


High School News

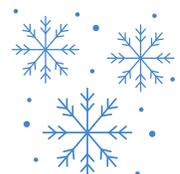


Good News

As the new year begins, we look ahead to the rest of the school year, which is a chance for high school students to reset and refocus. Whether it's improving grades, getting involved, or preparing for what comes next, this is the time to stay motivated and finish strong. The months ahead are an opportunity to grow, challenge ourselves, and make this school year one to remember.



Surf Rider Club Christmas Party



SENIOR OF THE MONTH

LILY M. ALLEN

The administration and faculty of Lacey Township High School are proud to recognize Lily Allen as our Senior of the Month - January 2026.

Lily is an outstanding example of what it means to be a well-rounded, compassionate, and driven student. She approaches every responsibility — whether academic, athletic, or personal — with quiet determination and humility. As a member of the STEM Academy, Lily consistently demonstrates curiosity, problem-solving ability, and perseverance. She is the kind of student who leans into challenging concepts, collaborates thoughtfully with classmates, and takes pride in producing work that reflects her best effort. Her teachers describe her as respectful, responsible, and someone who can always be counted on to follow through.

Lily's character shines just as brightly outside the classroom. As a committed student-athlete in gymnastics and lacrosse, she balances demanding practices and competitions while still maintaining high expectations for herself academically. She is supportive of teammates, leads with encouragement, and models resilience when things become difficult — showing others what it means to stay positive and composed under pressure.

Her commitment to others extends into the larger community as well. Through National Honor Society and tutoring, Lily gives her time generously to help classmates succeed and to support school-wide initiatives. As a gymnastics coach, she mentors younger athletes with patience and care, ensuring they feel safe, confident, and included. In the workplace, she brings the same reliability and strong work ethic, earning the respect of both peers and supervisors.

What truly sets Lily apart is her integrity. She treats people with kindness, shows empathy in every situation, and consistently chooses to do the right thing even when it requires extra effort. She is mature, thoughtful, and incredibly self-motivated — a student who makes our school community better simply by being part of it.

Lily is a deserving recipient of Senior of the Month, and we are proud to recognize not only her achievements, but the genuine character, compassion, and leadership she exhibits every day.

SENIOR OF THE MONTH

ALEXANDER W. BARNEMAN

The administration and faculty of Lacey Township High School have enthusiastically awarded Alexander Barneman as our Senior of the Month for January of 2026. This month's honoree is a student who truly represents the values we strive to instill in all of our learners, which is: purpose, compassion, leadership, and a genuine commitment to growth.

Alexander is a well-rounded and ambitious young man who approaches everything he does with enthusiasm and intention. Whether in the classroom or beyond it, he consistently demonstrates a sincere desire to learn, improve, and challenge himself. His academic dedication is impressive, but what truly sets Alexander apart is his character.

Alexander is deeply committed to service and leadership. He is always willing to step up and help wherever he is needed—volunteering for school events, supporting his peers, and contributing positively to our school culture. One of his most impactful contributions has been his work with elementary ESL students. As a fluent Spanish speaker, Alexander has devoted countless hours to tutoring and mentoring younger English language learners. Through his patience, empathy, and strong communication skills, he has made a meaningful difference in the lives of these students, helping them gain confidence and succeed.

Alexander is mature, respectful, and driven. He balances his academic responsibilities and extracurricular commitments with grace, remaining humble and approachable despite his many achievements. These qualities will undoubtedly serve him well in any path he chooses to pursue.

Alexander, we are incredibly proud of you and grateful for the positive example you set for our school community. Congratulations on being named Senior of the Month for January.

VOCATIONAL SENIOR OF THE MONTH

LILYANA K. GUZIKOWSKI

The administration and faculty of Lacey Township High School are proud to recognize Lilyana Guzikowski as our Vocational Senior of the Month for January. Over the past two years, Lilyana has distinguished herself as a dedicated Culinary Arts student at the Ocean County Vocational Technical School (OCVTS), where she truly shines while working in the kitchen and allows her warm, genuine personality to come through in everything she does. Lilyana takes tremendous pride in her work, whether she is in the dining room, the bakery, or the kitchen, and consistently holds herself to a high standard of professionalism and craftsmanship. She is dependable, thoughtful, and always willing to step up and support her classmates. Lily balances a strong work ethic with kindness and positivity, making her not only a strong student but also a wonderful role model for her peers. Her commitment to her craft, strong work ethic, and desire to continuously improve set her apart as an outstanding vocational student.

In addition to her vocational studies, Lilyana exemplifies balance and perseverance as a student-athlete. She was a member of our Women's Varsity Swim Team for three years, earning the respect and admiration of both her coaches and teammates for her dedication, leadership, and positive attitude. Her ability to remain committed to her team while managing a demanding academic schedule is a testament to her discipline and time-management skills.

Lilyana is also an honor roll student who successfully navigates the academic demands of both Lacey Township High School and OCVTS. Beyond the classroom, she has demonstrated responsibility and maturity by maintaining employment as an office assistant at a local marina for the past two years. Additionally, Lilyana remains actively involved in our school community through her participation in the Surfrider Club and No Place for Hate, reflecting her commitment to service, inclusion, and environmental awareness.

Lilyana Guzikowski's dedication to her education, athletics, employment, and extracurricular involvement makes her a truly deserving recipient of this recognition. We commend her accomplishments and wish her continued success as she pursues her future goals in the Culinary field.

UNSUNG HERO

VICTORIA BRANNICK

January's Unsung Hero is Victoria Brannick.

Victoria's dedication to our school is shown in her involvement in many different sports and clubs. Victoria played field hockey in the fall and also marched the flute in marching band where she earned a varsity letter. She is also involved in concert band, jazz band, choir, and Student government.

Victoria also is currently cast in the fall play 'Arsenic and Old Lace'. Victoria is very dedicated to music, as she plays multiple different instruments, such as flute, saxophone, and guitar. Victoria has always been known for being a caring person who is there for all of her friends and peers. She takes her academic responsibilities seriously and is currently in honors ELA, Honors Biology, Honors geometry, and AP world history. Victoria displays true characteristics of being a dedicated student.

Congratulations Victoria Brannick!