



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

February 1, 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](#), [1/18](#), [1/25](#)

Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

Dear Cliffwood Families,

This is a friendly reminder that **tomorrow is an Early Dismissal Day**.

All students will be dismissed at **1:20 PM**, so please plan accordingly.

Thank you for your continued efforts in understanding the importance of students being in school every day and on time.

Consistent attendance and punctuality support learning, routines, and strong academic growth. We ask that families please avoid picking students up early whenever possible and try to schedule

appointments after school hours, as we have noticed an increase in early dismissals.

Please remember to **pack a light snack and a water bottle for your child each day**. We have filtered water fountains available in the school for students to refill their bottles as needed.

Be sure to check out the One School One Book (OSOB) photos from our exciting Kick-Off Assembly! One School One Book is a wonderful program that promotes a love of reading and builds excitement across our school community. This year, all of Cliffwood School is reading *Pippi Longstocking*. Students have received their own copy of the book, please take time to read and discuss it together at home.

Wishing everyone a wonderful week!



PAWS Winners



One School One Book Launch-Pippi Longstocking

We're thrilled to unveil this year's One School One Book pick, Pippi Longstocking! Get ready for big laughs, bold bravery, and a whole lot of imagination as our school dives into this classic together! Thank you to the teachers who put it all together and made it possible!





PreK Special To Me Tea- Let's Partea!



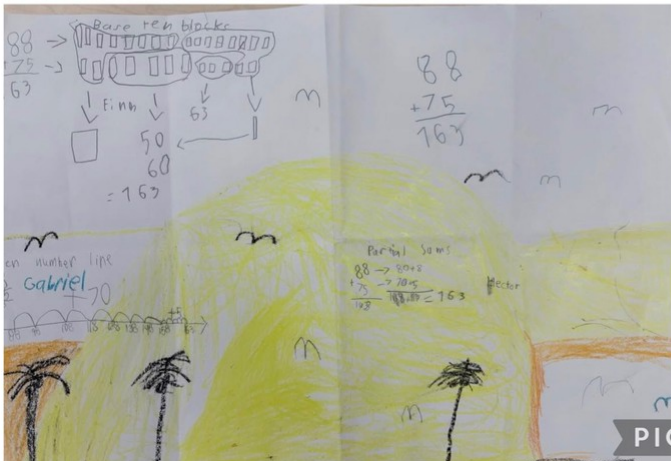
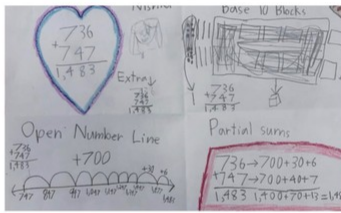




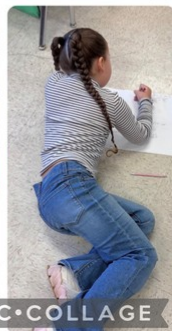
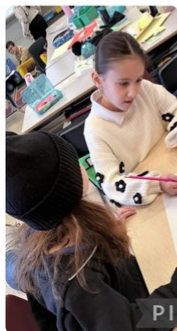
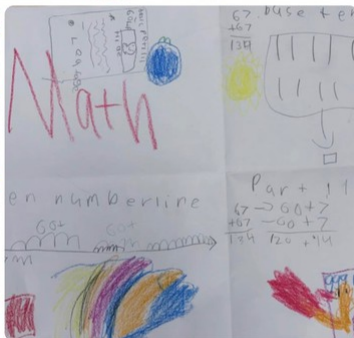
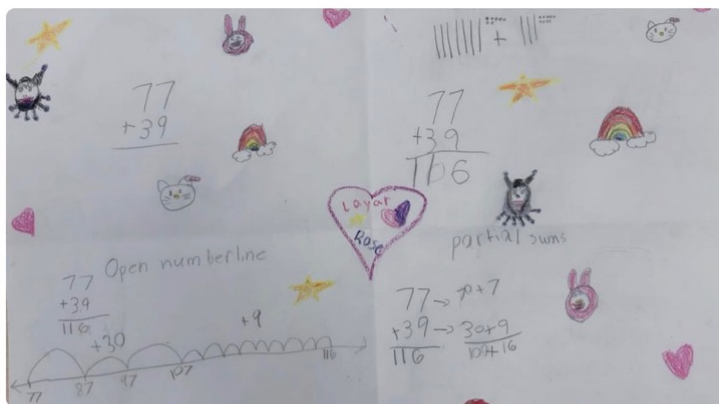




Math minds in action in Mrs. Colaneri's 2nd grade class!



PIC•COLLAGE



PIC•COLLAGE

American Heart Association- Kids Heart Challenge



Hello families,

Our school's American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge will be kicking off soon! Students will be learning about the importance of their heart and brain health as well as acquire lifesaving skills through the Finn's Mission education module.

We are excited to create a community of lifesavers, and we are asking you to join us. Check this off your list in less than one minute and receive a Heart Hero wristband just for joining the team!

- Sign Up Today at <http://www2.heart.org/goto/CliffwoodElementary> or scan the QR code above and download the free "AHA Schools" app.
- Raise funds to help kids with special hearts.
- Complete Finn's Mission: Complete all 7 steps, learn Hands-Only CPR, and be entered to win two tickets Super Bowl LXI!
- Don't forget to share with Family & Friends! Send messages via social media, text, and/or email.

Once 50% of our families sign up and we raise our initial \$1,000 to help kids with special hearts, our school will earn a \$500 gift certificate for physical activity and recess equipment to support the health of our school community!

After signing up, please get started on Finn's Mission where your family can learn the lifesaving skill of Hands-Only CPR! It only takes a few minutes, and it can make all the difference in an emergency.

Let's work together to create a community of lifesavers. Thank you for your support of this important initiative.



Symposium on Mental Health/Wellness

SAVE THE DATE

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Watawan-Aberdeen Regional School District
[Signature]
Authorized Signature

Monmouth County Schools
Partnership for Wellness Presents a
**Symposium on
Mental Health/Wellness**

Brookdale Community College
March 11, 2026
5:30 PM



GUARDE LA FECHA

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Watawan-Aberdeen Regional School District
[Signature]
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Escuelas del condado de Monmouth
Asociación para el Bienestar presenta una
Simposio sobre

Salud mental/bienestar

Brookdale Community College
March 11, 2026
5:30 PM





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.

REGISTRATION BEGINS
JANUARY 15TH



scan here!

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

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.



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.



Clases

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

LA INSCRIPCIÓN COMIENZA
EL 15 DE ENERO.



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

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

February 2026

Cliffwood ES
Breakfast


MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 • Mini Banana Loaf	3 • Savory Egg and Cheese Stuffed Hashbrown Patty	4 • Bagel with Cream Cheese	5 • Assorted Small Muffin • Mozzarella String Cheese	6 • Apple Frudel
9 • Mini Apple Bites	10 • Mini Cinnamon Waffles	11 • Mini Banana Loaf	12 • Sausage, Egg & Cheese on a Croissant	13 • Mini Strawberry Stuffed Bagel Stick
16  Presidents Day	17 • Mini Cinnamon Crumb Loaf	18 • Assorted Cereal • Graham Crackers	19 • Egg and Cheddar Wake Up Wrap	20 • Bagel with Cream Cheese
23 • French Toast Bites	24 • Mini Cinnamon Stuffed Bagel Stick	25 • Egg and Cheese on a Bagel	26 • Confetti Pancakes	27 • Assorted Small Muffin • Graham Crackers

Breakfast Served with Choice of: Fresh Fruit , 100% Fruit Juice , 1% White Milk , Fat Free Chocolate Milk , Fat Free White Milk

*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
2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popcorn Chicken • Maple Cinnamon Carrots • Soft Pretzel Stick 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emoji Waffles • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Crunchy Tater Tots 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twisted Cheesy Breadstick • Roasted Parmesan Broccoli 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Grilled Chicken Ciabatta • BBQ Baked Beans 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NY Style Bella's Pizza • Italian Green Beans
9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juicy Cheeseburger on a Bun or Juicy Hamburger on a Bun • Vegetarian Baked Beans 	10  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confetti Pancakes • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Crunchy Hash Browns 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Tender Parmesan Hero • Emoji Fries 	12  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tortellini Alfredo with Chicken Meatballs • Seasoned Garlic Breadstick • Sauteed Lemon-Garlic Green Beans 	13  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshly Baked Pizza Crunchers • Freshly Prepared Caesar Salad
16  Presidents Day	17  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sausage, Egg & Cheese on a Croissant • Crunchy Hash Browns 	18  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grilled Cheese Sandwich • Tomato Soup 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triple Beef Hard Shell Tacos with Rice • Fiesta Corn • Whole Grain Cinnamon Churro 	20  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Pizza Bagels • Freshly Prepared Maschio's House Salad
23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Tender & Mozzarella Stick Sampler • Peas and Carrots • Soft Pretzel Stick 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grilled Chicken BLT on Croissant • Maple Cinnamon Carrots 	25  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini French Toast • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Seasoned Sweet Potato Fries 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spaghetti with Meat Sauce • Broccoli Italiano • Seasoned Garlic Breadstick 	27  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NY Style Bella's Pizza • Freshly Prepared Cucumber and Tomato Salad

Breakfast Served with Choice of: Fresh Fruit , 100% Fruit Juice , 1% White Milk , Variety of Vegetables from our Harvest Market Fat Free Chocolate Milk , Fat Free White Milk Fat Free Chocolate Milk , Fat Free White Milk

*Menu is Subject to Change



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Healthy meals grow
healthy kids!

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

Information about Excused/Unexcused Absences



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

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



Cliffwood Elementary School
PTO Membership Form

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION
Member - Cliffwood 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

Dates to Keep in Mind

2/2- Early Dismissal (All Cliffwood students will be dismissed at 1:20 PM)

2/12- Report Card will be posted on Parent Portal

2/16- School Closed (Presidents' Day)



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional
School District

