



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

February 15, 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](#), [2/1](#), [2/8](#)

Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

February is always a busy and exciting time in the elementary world! I love seeing our hallways filled with vibrant learning, creativity, and joyful engagement. From exploring the Winter Olympics, to honoring influential leaders during Black History Month, to learning about George Washington in celebration of Presidents Day, our students are immersed in meaningful and memorable experiences. We are also spreading kindness in the spirit of Valentine's Day and eagerly preparing to celebrate 100 amazing days of learning and growing at Cliffwood School. It is truly a wonderful time to be part of such a special school community.



Reminder: There is **no school on Monday, 2/16**, in observance of Presidents Day. We hope you enjoy the three-day weekend with your families! When we return on Tuesday, we will celebrate our 100th Day of School, marking 100 incredible days of learning and growth at Cliffwood. Be sure to check the calendar of events below for Kindness Week as we continue to spread positivity and compassion throughout our school.

We also hope to see you on Thursday at McDonald's for McTeacher Night! Take the evening off from cooking and enjoy being served by Cliffwood teachers and staff, all for a great cause. We can't wait to see you there!

The Board Meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, April 27, at Cliffwood School. During the meeting, we will proudly recognize students who achieved Perfect Attendance for Marking Periods 1, 2, and 3. Invitations will be sent again as the date approaches with additional details. Finally, we extend warm wishes to our families who observe Ramadan and to those celebrating Lunar New Year!



Chomping out Hearts with the Beaverbot

Students used our MAEF (Matawan-Aberdeen Education Foundation)-funded Beaverbots for the first time, to "chomp" out hearts from decorative paper for their valentine cards. Students were given a choice of decorative paper, then drew out hearts with sharpies or paint sticks, and then one at a time, were given a short lesson on how to use the Beaverbot and off they went.

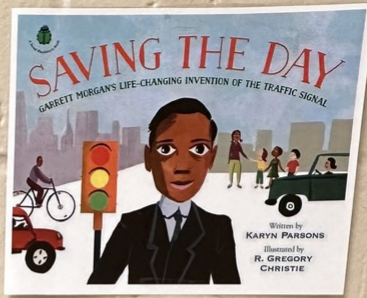
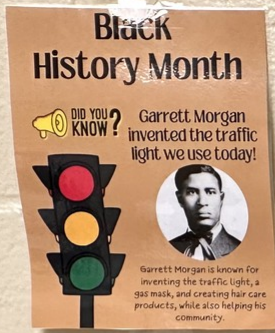




Black History Month

Students read the book, *Saving the Day*, and learned about Garrett Morgan, who invented the traffic light. Students then created their own traffic lights while learning how his invention helps keep people safe every day.





Hallways filled with February Learning

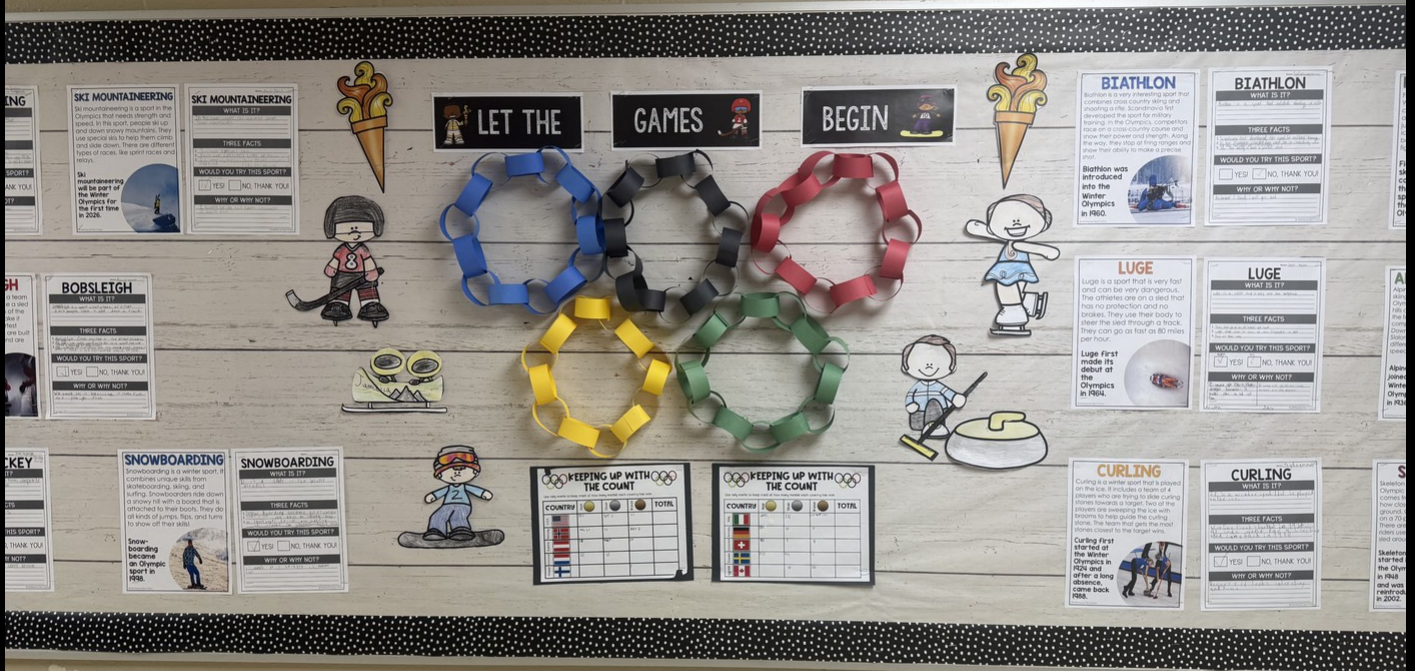
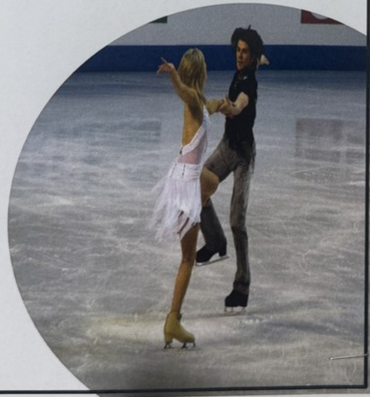


FIGURE SKATING

Figure skating is a very popular Winter Olympic sport. Ice skaters can perform by themselves or with a partner. They perform all kinds of jumps, spins, and dances on the ice! It is called figure skating because they are making different figures or patterns on the ice.

Figure skating is considered the oldest sport in the Winter Olympics.



© Nothing but Non-Fiction

Name: Skylar Ella

FIGURE SKATING

WHAT IS IT?

It is a sport that you can do lot of cool stuff like a jump

THREE FACTS

1. oldest sport
2. make patterns
3. very popular

WOULD YOU TRY THIS SPORT?



YES!



NO, THANK YOU!

WHY OR WHY NOT?

Because it would be fun to try!

© Nothing but Non-Fiction

WOW WORK



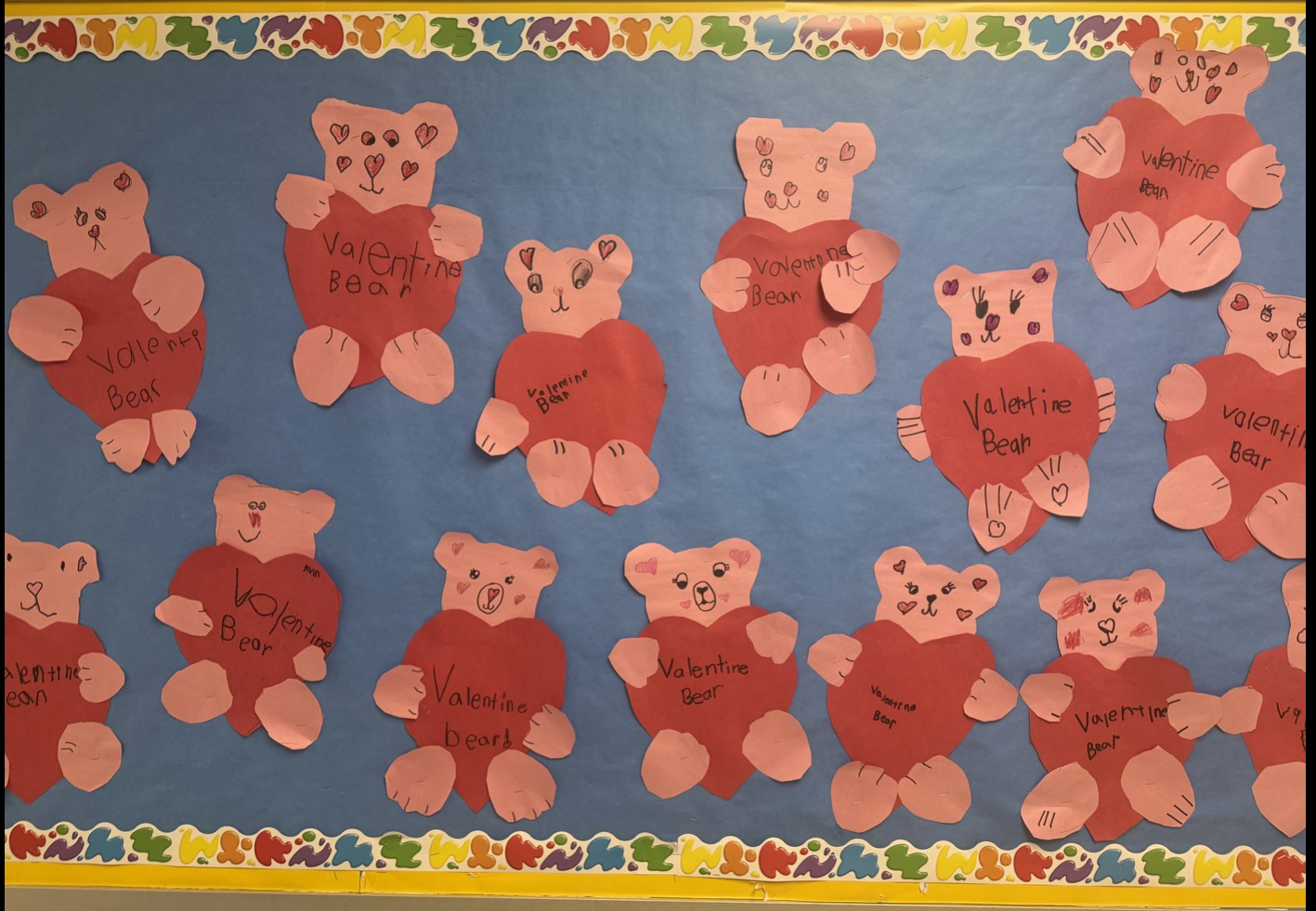
Honor the PAST
Celebrate the PRESENT
Educate & Inspire the FUTURE

Maya Angelou
Garrett Morgan
Aretha Franklin
Jesse Owens
Ruby Bridges
Jackie Robinson
Rosa Parks
Nelson Mandela
Serena Williams
Lebron James
Bessie Coleman
Louis Armstrong
Billie Holiday
Barack Obama
Katherine Johnson
Muhammad Ali
Misty Copeland
Kamala Harris

SECOND GRADE IS SWEET!

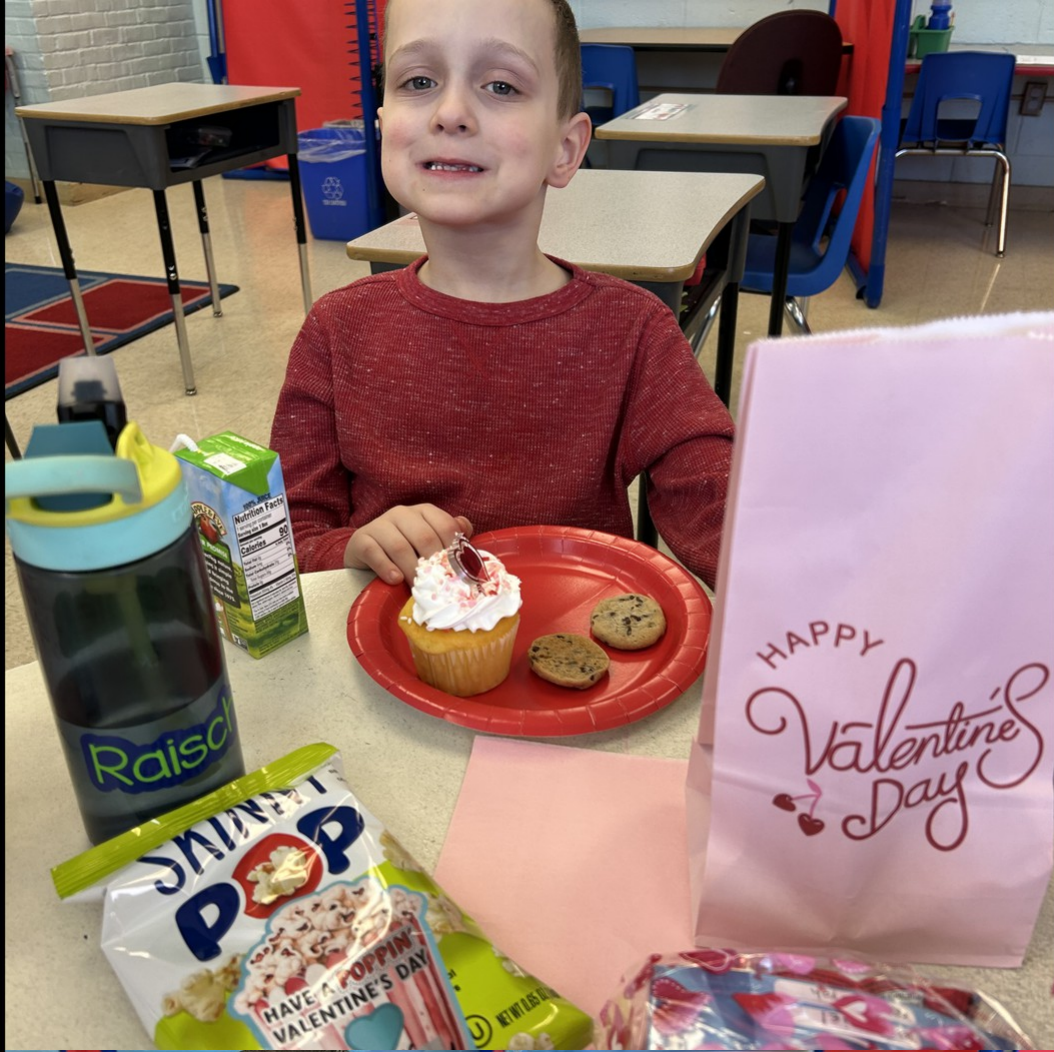
THE THINGS I LOVE
MY FAVORITE...
FOOD...
DRINK...
BOOK...
GAME...
SHOW...
IN SCHOOL, I LOVE TO...
I LOVE MY FAVORITE BECAUSE...

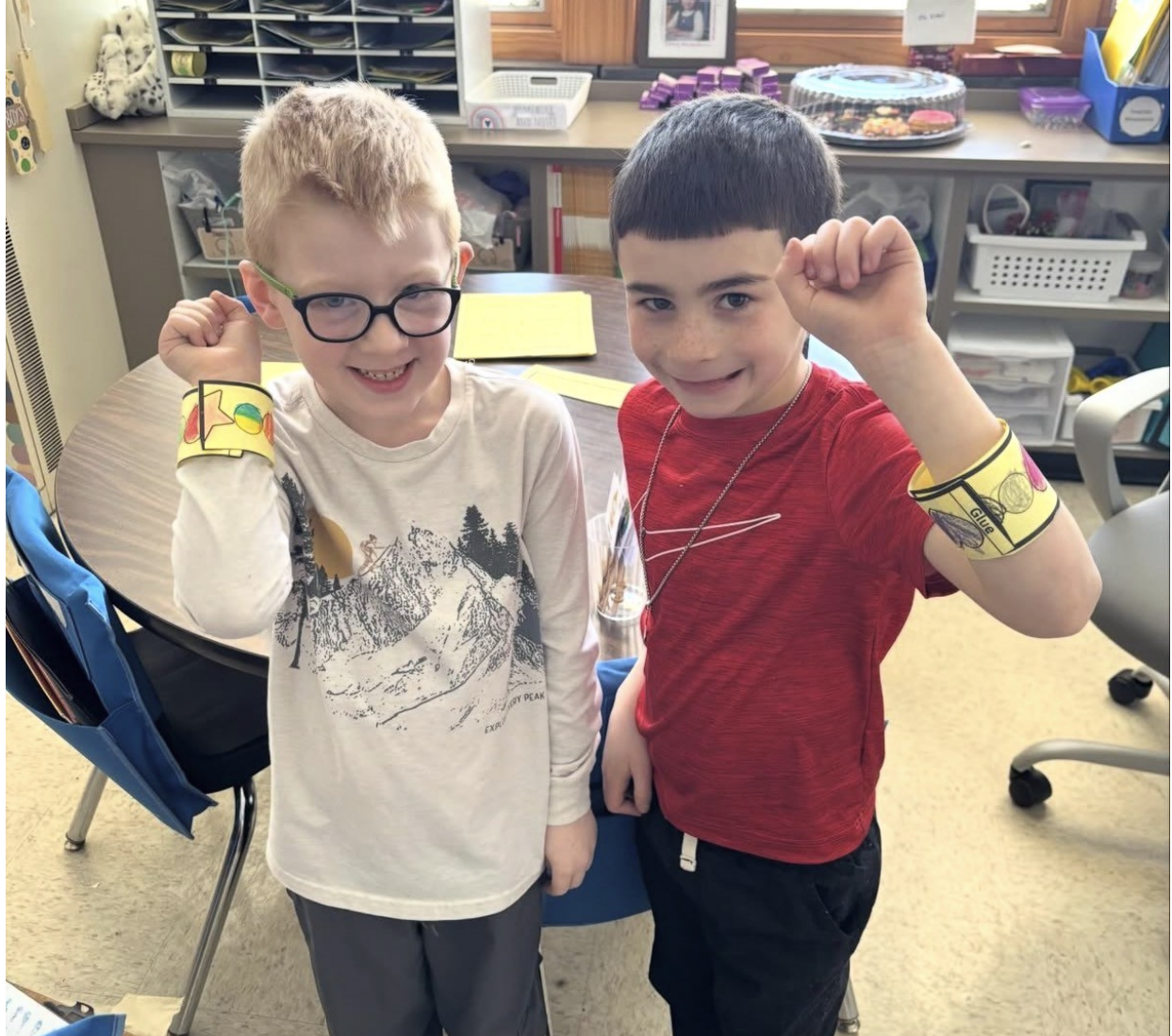




Valentine's Day Fun in the classrooms



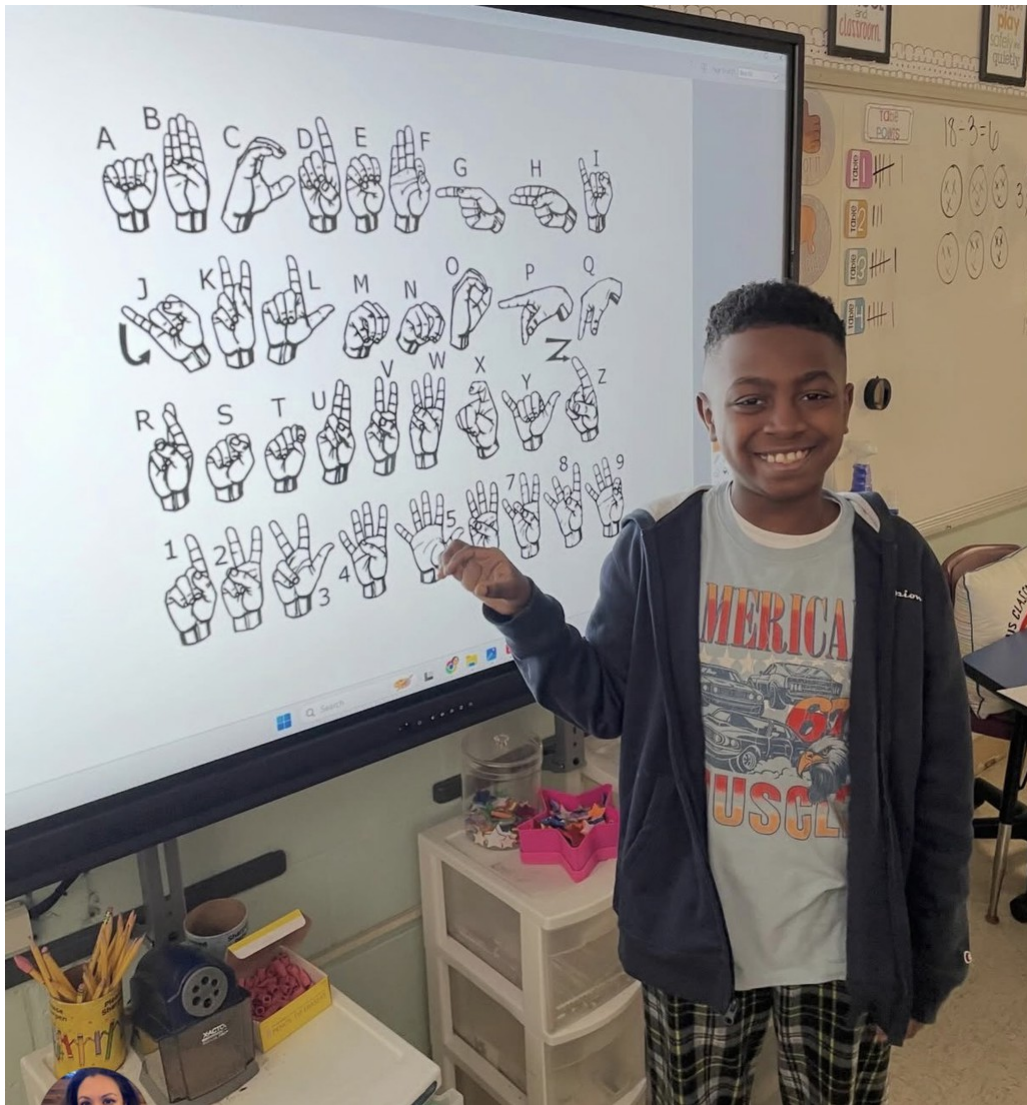


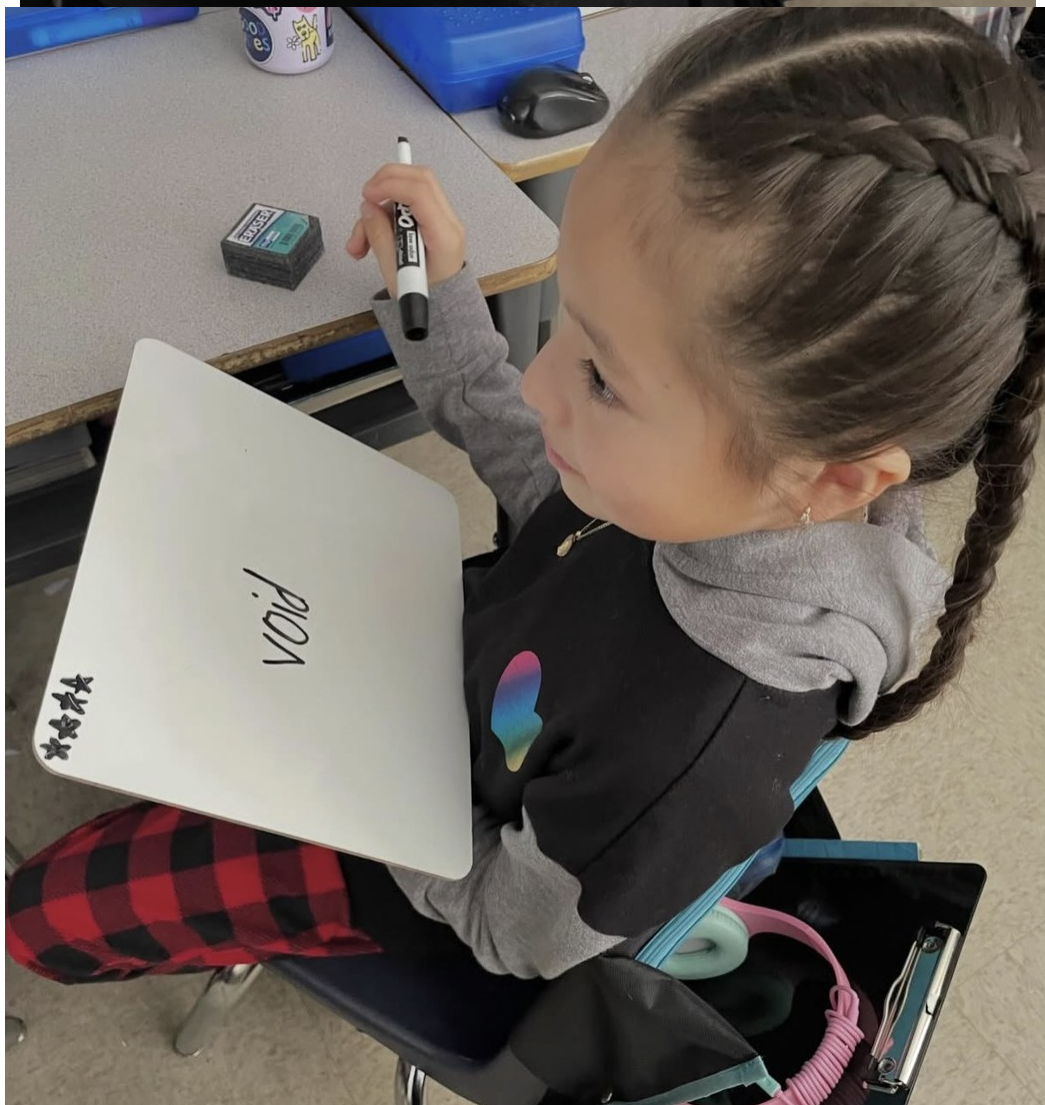
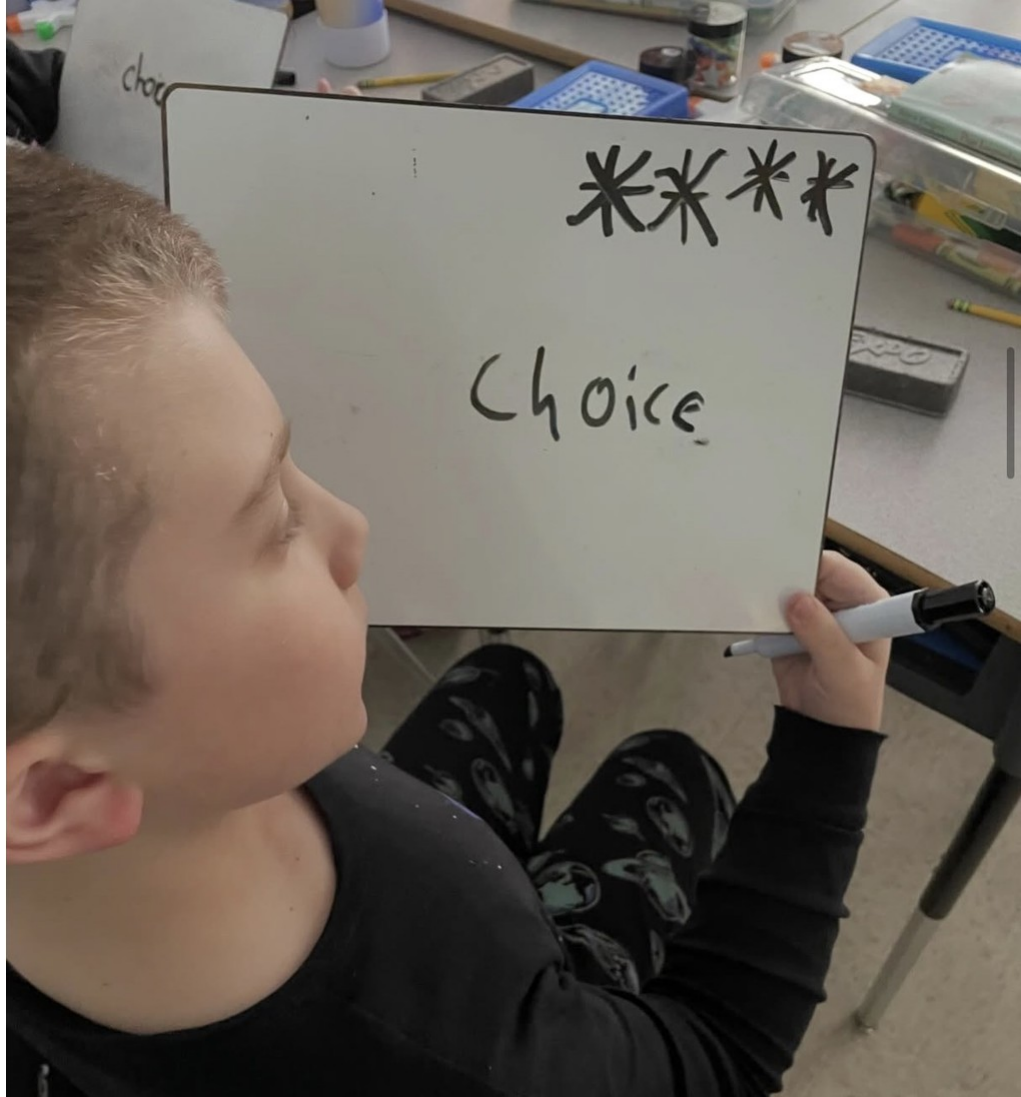




Spelling Practice in 3rd Grade

Students in Mrs. Royston's class have been practicing their spelling words by using sign language, turning letters into movement and making learning engaging and inclusive!







Random Acts of Kindness Week





Cliffwood Elementary School

Random Acts of Kindness Week 2026

February 16-20 2026

'Random Acts of Kindness Week' is a nationally celebrated, annual opportunity for students, staff, and other involved stakeholders to connect through simple and contagious acts of kindness. This week is recognized by encouraging others to engage in kind acts, no matter how big or small, and inspire others to do the same.

Spirit Days Schedule:

Monday 2/16	Tuesday 2/17	Wednesday 2/18	Thursday 2/19	Friday 2/20
<p>No School for students</p>	<p>It's Never too late to be kind <i>100th Day of School!</i></p> <p>Dress like you're 100 years old!</p> <p>Kindness Act: Hold the door for someone</p> 	<p>Kindness is in the heart of a Hero</p> <p>Dress as anyone you see as a hero (teacher, first responder, etc.)</p> <p>Kindness Act: Let someone else go first</p> 	<p>Thoughtful Words Thursday</p> <p>Spread some cheer! Wear and share your positive messages!</p> <p>Kindness Act: Write/draw a note of appreciation for someone</p> 	<p>Share the spirit of Kindness!</p> <p>Wear School Colors</p> <p>Kindness Act: Invite someone new to play with you at recess</p> 

McTeacher's Night- Thursday, 2/19 5-8 PM



Thursday, February 19th

**PLEASE JOIN YOUR TEACHERS, PRINCIPAL
AND STAFF AS THEY "WORK" AT
MCDONALD'S ON RT 34 IN ABERDEEN
FROM 5-8 PM.**

**WATCH THEM DISH UP FRIES, WORK THE
DRIVE THRU WINDOW AND TAKE YOUR
ORDERS AS THEY RAISE FUNDS FOR
CLIFFWOOD ELEMENTARY PTO.**



Kids Heart Challenge



The Kids Heart Challenge will take place throughout the month of February!
Donations Due: February 27th.



Hello families!

We just kicked off the Kids Heart Challenge! Through our partnership with the American Heart Association, students will learn about the importance of their heart and brain health, get moving with fun activities, meet kids with special hearts, and raise funds for the health of all hearts. Plus, our school can earn PE equipment and direct givebacks, and your child can earn fun thank you gifts. Most of all...they will feel good for doing good!

View the Kids Heart Challenge Kickoff Video [HERE](#)

SIGN UP TODAY TO EARN YOUR HEART HERO WRISTBAND!

Go to our school page located at www.heart.org/schools or scan the QR code above to download the Free "AHA Schools" App. Please check out our virtual donation envelope in the link below for everything you need to know!

[Virtual Donation Envelope](#)

HELP US REACH OUR SCHOOL GOALS! 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. When we reach our goal, the class with the highest % of students registering can Silly String me!

After signing up, **COMPLETE FINN'S MISSION** where you and your family can learn the lifesaving steps of hands only CPR, the warning signs of stroke and reach out to family and friends to create awareness and ask for support. All students that complete Finn's Mission will earn a Lifesaver Cape, and they will get to be a part of our Lifesaver Parade! They will also be entered into a drawing for two tickets to Super Bowl LXI in 2027! Our school will also be entered into a drawing for a \$10,000 fitness equipment makeover for every eighteen students that complete Finn's Mission!

When we reach our school goal impact goal, students completing Finn's Mission can Silly String the PE Teachers!

We understand that every family may not be able to donate, but all students can learn to prioritize their health and acquire the skills to be a lifesaver which will have a positive impact on our community. I hope your students have fun with this year's Kids Heart Challenge!

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]
Authorized Signature

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.



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.

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 • Popcorn Chicken • Maple Cinnamon Carrots • Soft Pretzel Stick	3 • Emoji Waffles • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Crunchy Tater Tots	4 • Twisted Cheesy Breadstick • Roasted Parmesan Broccoli	5 • California Grilled Chicken Ciabatta • BBQ Baked Beans	6 • NY Style Bella's Pizza • Italian Green Beans
9 • Juicy Cheeseburger on a Bun or Juicy Hamburger on a Bun • Vegetarian Baked Beans	10  • Confetti Pancakes • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Crunchy Hash Browns	11 • Chicken Tender Parmesan Hero • Emoji Fries	12  • Tortellini Alfredo • with Chicken Meatballs • Seasoned Garlic Breadstick • Sautéed Lemon-Garlic Green Beans	13  • Freshly Baked Pizza Crunchers • Freshly Prepared Caesar Salad
16  Presidents Day	17  • Sausage, Egg & Cheese on a Croissant • Crunchy Hash Browns	18  • Grilled Cheese Sandwich • Tomato Soup	19 • Triple Beef Hard Shell Tacos with Rice • Fiesta Corn • Whole Grain Cinnamon Churro	20  • Mini Pizza Bagels • Freshly Prepared Maschio's House Salad
23 • Chicken Tender & Mozzarella Stick Sampler • Peas and Carrots • Soft Pretzel Stick	24 • Grilled Chicken BLT on Croissant • Maple Cinnamon Carrots	25  • Mini French Toast • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Seasoned Sweet Potato Fries	26 • Spaghetti with Meat Sauce • Broccoli Italiano • Seasoned Garlic Breadstick	27  • 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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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
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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

2/16- School Closed (Presidents' Day)

2/17- 100th Day of School

2/17-2/20- Random Acts of Kindness Week

2/18- PTO Meeting 5:30 in the Cafeteria

2/19- McTeacher's Night McDonalds on Route 34 Aberdeen

2/27- National Pokemon Day-Wear Pokemom Apparel to School

3/4- School Closed In-Service Day

3/11- Parent Teacher Conferences (Evening)



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional
School District

