



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

STRATHMORE NEWSLETTER

Straight From Strathmore

Hootline News - Sunday, February 15, 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](#), [1/11](#), [1/19](#), [1/25](#), [2/1](#), [2/8](#)

Redistricting

Please see the updated FAQ dated 02.06.26 on the district website - [Shaping our District's Future](#)

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Superintendent's Message - 2/12/26

Our schools here in MARSD are powered by people: dedicated teachers, staff, and administrators who pour their hearts into our students and families.

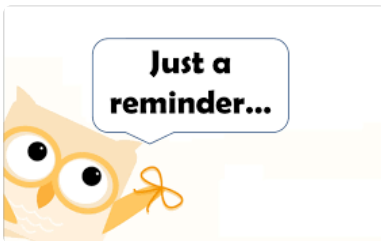
To celebrate the incredible work happening across our district and to show appreciation this Valentine's Day season, I encourage you to submit a shout-out to your favorite MARSD teachers, staff members, or administrators using the ["Heart of MARSD" submission form](#) throughout the month. Whether it's a teacher who goes above and beyond, a counselor or principal who offers support, or a paraprofessional who brings kindness into the classroom, this is your opportunity to publicly say *thank you*.

These messages will be shared throughout the month of February on the district's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and shared with the teacher, staff member, or administrator.

Please take a few moments to participate. Thank you for helping us shine a light on the people who make MARSD a special place to learn and grow!

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Reminders



Attendance Policy

To receive credit for a full day of school, students must be present for a minimum of 4 hours. Students who arrive after 11:30 AM or leave before 1:20 PM will not receive attendance credit for the day. Additionally, any other schedule interruptions—such as early dismissals or late arrivals—that result in less than 4 hours in the

building will impact whether your child receives credit for that day. Please keep this in mind when scheduling appointments or planning absences.

The State of New Jersey Recognizes the following as excused absences only:

- Religious observance
- College visits
- "Take our Children to Work Day"
- Participation in observance of Veterans Day
- The closing of a busing district that prevents a student from having transportation to the school
- Participation in district board of election membership activities

If you have questions about attendance, feel free to reach out to the main office.

Cultural Celebrations and Observances

Ramadan

Ramadan is expected to begin on the evening of February 17th and continue through March 18th. During this holy month, many Muslim families observe fasting from dawn to sunset.

We are committed to supporting all students during this important time. If your child will be observing Ramadan and fasting during school hours, or if they require any accommodations, please reach out to their homeroom teacher. We want to ensure that every student feels supported and comfortable during this meaningful time.

Lunar New Year

On Tuesday, February 17th, many families in our school community will celebrate Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival. This important holiday marks the beginning of the Year of the Horse and is observed by Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and other Asian communities around the world. Celebrations traditionally last for 15 days, culminating with the Lantern Festival.

Lunar New Year is a time for family gatherings, festive meals, and cultural traditions that welcome good fortune and prosperity for the year ahead. We celebrate the rich diversity of our school community and wish all families observing this holiday a joyful and prosperous new year!

100th Day of School



Celebrate 100 Days

We're excited to celebrate the 100th day of school on **Tuesday, February 17th!** We encourage students to dress up like they are 100 years old. Some ideas include: gray hair (wigs or baby powder), cardigans or vests, adding glasses, or wearing slippers. Get creative and have fun with it! We can't wait to see all our "100-year-olds" on this special day.

Random Acts of Kindness Week - 2/16-2/20



Strathmore Random Acts of Kindness Week February 17–20



Tuesday 2/17

100th day

Dress up like you are 100 years old!



Wednesday 2/18

**Color the world with kindness:
Dress in all of the colors of the rainbow!**



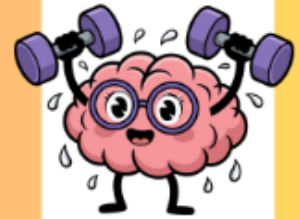
Thursday 2/19

**Words Matter:
Wear a shirt with a positive message for others to read!**



Friday 2/20

**Work out our problems with kindness!
Wear your favorite workout attire!**



STES Kids Heart Challenge Update



With help from this year's Heart Heroes, we're learning all about keeping our hearts healthy through movement, kindness, rest, and knowing when to ask for help.

To date:

- 79 students have registered
- 12 families have completed Finn's Mission and learned the life-saving steps of Hands Only CPR
- We have achieved 54% of our impact goal of \$10,000!

Visit <http://www2.heart.org/goto/strathmore> or download the AHA Schools app to join the fun. Bonus: Students get a free

wristband just for signing up!



SIGN UP TODAY!



STRATHMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS HEART CHALLENGE UPDATE!

We just kicked off our school's American Heart Association **Kids Heart Challenge!** The focus of this year's program is to encourage students and staff to care for their hearts and minds, help kids with special hearts and learn lifesaving Hands-Only CPR by completing Finn's Mission! To date, **79 students** have registered and joined our school team, and **12 families** have completed Finn's Mission!

We need your help to reach our Principals Challenge goal of having half of our school enrollment sign up today!

- **SIGN UP:** Scan the QR code and download the "AHA Schools" App or go to www.heart.org/schools
- **Collect donations to help kids with special hearts.**
- **Complete Finn's Mission!** Learn Hands-Only CPR, earn your lifesavers cape and be entered to win 2 tickets to Super Bowl LXI!
- **Share with Family & Friends:** Post on social media and **send 10 emails and texts.** *There are messages already written for you in the app and in your online headquarters!*

Once we have half our school sign up, we will earn \$500 for new PE equipment for our students! All students will receive a Heart Hero wristband just for registering. You will also help your class win the classroom challenge. The class in each grade with the highest % of students registering will earn Extra Recess and Heart Hero Keychains! **When we reach our goal, we will celebrate with a school-wide PJ Day! Plus, the top class will enjoy lunch with Mrs. Kelly!**

To date, the leaders are:

- **Kindergarten:** Marion with 8 students, Connolly and Pereria with 3 students and Cordi with 1 student.
- **1st Grade:** Tomkins with 8 students, Barsi with 7 students, Larkin with 4 students and Cullen with 3 students.
- **2nd Grade:** Winchel and Kushwara with 5 students, Holynskij and McNerney with 3 students.
- **3rd Grade:** Flynn with 7 students, Latin with 4 students, Bauer, Mizenko and Trischitta with 3 students.

[Scan the QR code to join our school team today and complete Finn's Mission!](#)

You will earn Heart Hero Keychains, Beet and Rescue, a Lifesaver Cape and you will be invited to our Lifesaver Parade! You will also be entered into a drawing for 2 tickets to the 2027 SUPER BOWL!



Cafeteria Connection
February 2026

Sweet Strawberries for Valentine's Day
Whether it's their color or heart shape, many love strawberries, especially around Valentine's Day. Strawberries not only taste good but they come with many health benefits. Strawberries are low in sodium and are a good source of vitamins such as vitamin C and minerals including potassium which is important for a healthy heart as well as nerve, kidney and muscle contraction. Strawberries are grown in every state and around the world. The World Health Organization estimates 2 pounds per person in 1980 to 8 pounds in 2013, according to the USDA. So why do people enjoy strawberries for Valentine's day? In Chinese creation story a fight between the first man and woman is resolved by a heavenly gift of strawberries. In European art, strawberries have been associated with boldness. Fresh or frozen, strawberries can be enjoyed many different ways. Sports say you should look for red fruits with bright green caps, and if you're thinking about chocolate dipped strawberries this Valentine's Day try dark chocolate for dipping. Dark chocolate has a lot of cocoa which is high in healthy flavonoids that can keep us looking our lovely best!

February Holidays:
Black History Month
National Heart Month
National Gospel Music Month
Feb 2 National Ground Hog Day
Feb 2 National Tater Tot Day
Feb 7 National Folklife/Mixedo Day
Feb 9 National Pizza Day
Feb 13 National Checker Day
Feb 13 National T-shirt Day
Feb 17 President's Day
Feb 20 National Muffin Day
Feb 24 National Tiramisu Chip Day
Feb 27 National Chili Day
Feb 27 National Strawberry Day
Feb 28 National Pancake Day

Dietitian's Pick
Sweet potatoes are a root vegetable that come in different colors such as white, yellow, orange, red or even purple. Sweet potatoes are high in beta-carotene which is converted to vitamin A in our body. They are also high in potassium which balances the fluids in your body. It is important for normal blood pressure, muscle growth and the functioning of the brain and nervous system. Baking sweet potatoes preserves their natural sweetness making them a delicious choice for a nutrient-dense side, snack or main course.

Baked Sweet Potato
Yields 4

INGREDIENTS:
• 4 Sweet Potatoes, scrubbed clean
• Olive Oil, optional
• 4 tsp. Butter
• Kosher Salt
• Freshly Ground Black Pepper

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Preheat oven to 425°. On a baking sheet lined with aluminum foil, prick sweet potatoes all over with a fork. Rub the outsides with a small amount of olive oil if you intend to eat the skins.
2. Bake until tender, 45 to 50 minutes.
3. Let cool, then split the tops open with a knife and top with a pat of butter.
4. Season with salt and pepper before serving.

Enjoy!

Lunar New Year - Year of the Horse!
Lunar New Year begins on February 17th. It's the Year of the Horse. Similar to western culture's new year, some Asian families will stay up late on Lunar New Year's Eve and spend wishes to other family members and friends at midnight. Parents will give out small red envelopes that have money inside to children. Homes will be decorated with hanging lucky colors (yellow, red), and eating lucky food like red dumplings (family togetherness), fried flour-coated peanuts (richly), and red cookies (prosperity), etc. are popular ways to get lucky. Our school cafeteria will enjoy having themed food stations & Chef Day! We look forward to celebrating soon!

HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR

Recipe of the Month
FEBRUARY

JERSEY FRESH
Farm to School

Baked Sweet Potato
Yields 4

INGREDIENTS:
• 4 Sweet Potatoes, scrubbed clean
• Olive Oil, optional
• 4 tbsp. Butter
• Kosher Salt
• Freshly Ground Black Pepper

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Preheat oven to 425°. On a baking sheet lined with aluminum foil, prick sweet potatoes all over with a fork. Rub the outsides with a small amount of olive oil if you intend to eat the skins.
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3. Let cool, then split the tops open with a knife and top with a pat of butter.
4. Season with salt and pepper before serving.

Enjoy!

New Offering from the YMCA

Click the image for details on a new group being offered by the YMCA that focuses on coping skills to help minimize test anxiety and increase confidence.

TEST DAY TOOLBOX!
TESTING ANXIETY GROUP

the **Y** YMCA

WEDNESDAYS
5-6 P.M.

MARCH 11 » APRIL 22



Nurse's Notes

Reporting Absences

When your child will be absent from school, please remember to copy the school nurse on your email to the teacher. This helps me keep accurate health records and ensures I'm aware if your child is out due to illness. If your student has a contagious condition or will need any follow-up care when they return, letting me know directly helps me support their smooth transition back to class.

Extra Clothes

Consider sending in a complete change of clothes in a labeled bag for your child to keep at school. Accidents, spills, and playground mishaps happen, and having a fresh set of clothes on hand can help your child feel comfortable and get back to learning quickly. A spare outfit can make all the difference on those unexpected days.



Counselor's Corner

Self-regulation is the ability to effectively manage your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. It's the ability that helps kids to manage everyday emotions, focus well on tasks, and positively connect with others. While it's an important skill throughout the whole year, self-regulation strategies become even more critical for kids before and after winter or holiday break. With the change in routines, increased indoor time, and potential for holiday stress, children and young adults often need extra support this time of year. That's where self-regulation activities can come in. Practicing these skills can (and should) be fun!

Here are 10 engaging activities to help your kids practice self-regulation skills this winter season:
<https://www.thepathway2success.com/winter-self-regulation-10-engaging-activities-for-kids/>

Winter Self-Regulation Activities for Kids

www.thepathway2success.com



Strathmore Snapshots

Kindness Ticket Recipient Recognition - 2/13/26

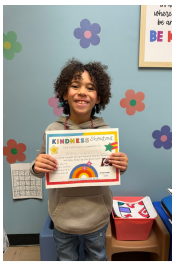
Congratulations to this week's Kindness Ticket winners, drawn from this week's collection of tickets for showing kindness, respect, and positivity in our school community. Thank you for making our school and our world a better place!



Victoria



Olivia



Antoine



Violet

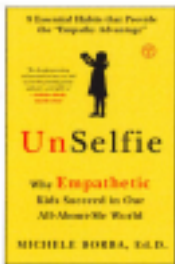


Emily

Symposium on Mental Health

The Monmouth County Schools Symposium on Mental Health & Wellness is scheduled for **March 11th at 5:30 PM at Brookdale Community College**. Please see the flyer below for details and registration information.

Monmouth County Schools APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION
Monmouth-Red Bank Regional School District
Administrative Department
Partnership for Wellness Presents a
Symposium on Mental Health & Wellness
Featuring a Keynote by
Rebecca Bryan
*“Positive Childhood Experiences are the
Foundation of Lifelong Resilience”*



FIRST 300 ATTENDEES
WILL RECEIVE A
FREE COPY OF
“UNSELFIE”

Brookdale Community College

Student Life Center

March 11, 2026

5:30PM

Visit the link below or scan the
QR code to register:

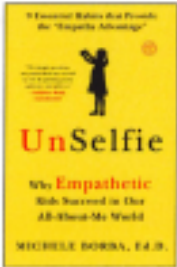


<https://tinyurl.com/MCSPW2026>

#BeYouBeWell

Escuelas del condado de Monmouth
 Asociación para el Bienestar presenta una
Simposio sobre salud mental y bienestar
 Presentando una conferencia magistral de
Rebecca Bryan

Las experiencias positivas en la infancia son la base de la resiliencia a lo largo de la vida”



LOS PRIMEROS 300 ASISTENTES RECIBIRÁN UNA COPIA GRATUITA DE "UNSELFIE"

Brookdale Community College
 Student Life Center
 March 11, 2026
 5:30PM



Visita el siguiente enlace o escanea el código QR para registrarte:
<https://tinyurl.com/MCSPW2026>



2026-2027 Registration

Pre-K and Kindergarten registration for the the 2026-2027 school year is now open. See the flyers below for details.



PreK and Kindergarten
 (click on flyer for details)



PreK and Kindergarten Spanish
 (click on flyer for details)

PTO Happenings

What's coming up...

Please join us
for the next
PTO Meeting.
2/25 at 7PM!

VALENTINE'S DAY CANDY GRAMS

Due by February 6th

Support the 3rd Grade Committee by sending a candy gram to your child, friends, or even the whole class! See flyer below for details.

CHOCOLATE BAR SALE!

- Flyers going home Monday 2/2.
- Sign up by completing the Google form (link below) OR returning the slip on the flyer (disregard the QR code for Givebacks)
- Tuesday, 2/3 from 2-6PM: pickup your box of chocolates at door 17.
- Text Laura at 732-673-3195 if you can't make it Tuesday, or when you're ready for another box.
- Money due after chocolate is sold.

DATES TO REMEMBER

2/2-20: World's Finest

Chocolate Fundraiser

2/2: Half day

2/6: Spirit Day

2/6: Candy Gram Deadline

2/16: School closed

2/25: PTO Meeting 7PM

2/26-27: School Store

2/27: Lip Sync sign-up deadline

3/4: School closed

LIP SYNC IS BACK!

Lip Sync is a fun show where students perform on stage with their friends. Sign up closes February 27th, or when capacity is reached. See flyer below for instructions and details.

SCHOOL STORE

Thursday & Friday, February 26-27

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



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

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A PART OF THE PTO TODAY!

Online
Spirit Wear sale
March 13-23!



DIBARI'S PIZZERIA

259 Main Street, Matawan
Tuesday, February 24 from 4-9pm.



Please present this flyer or mention Strathmore when you order. Applies to dine in or phone orders. If you make an online order, contact the restaurant and mention Strathmore

15% of the proceeds will go to support the Strathmore Third Grade Committee



STRATHMORE LIP SYNC 2026
 The Golden Mic
 Your Golden Ticket brings to helpness!

It's the moment everyone has been waiting for...
 The Strathmore Lip Sync Show is BACK! Get ready for an unforgettable night of music, dancing, laughter, and pure entertainment!

EVENT DETAILS
 Friday, May 15, 2026 7:00 PM
 Matawan-Alberden Regional High School

WHAT IS LIP SYNC?
 This is a non-competitive, high-energy showcase where students perform on stage with friends - and judging, no prizes, just FUN!
 Participants choose a song (or mix) from their favorite POP ICONS from 1980 to present, create a group and receive their tickets, and perform it on stage!
 ✓ Make up a group name (eager groups are encouraged, 1 performance per group)
 ✓ Create short lyrics
 ✓ Practice & perform
 ✓ Have an AMAZING time!

HOW TO SIGN UP
 By Friday, February 27, 2026 (or earlier if we reach the maximum number of spots)

Submit ONE email per group with all of the following details to: strathmorelipsync2026@gmail.com

- Song title(s)
- Artist & version
- Group name
- Participants and grade of each child
- Parent contact info (phone & email for each child)

Important Notes

- Allies are invited - once a sign-up will close!
- No repeat songs (first approved + locked in)

Announcements about sign-up closures will be posted on the Strathmore Elementary Parents Facebook Page

World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser

The WFC fundraiser is underway. Click [here](#) to complete the Google form for the chocolate sale.

2026 Lip Sync - May 15th

Click [here](#) for details

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.

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!

Catch a glimpse inside our school on our Instagram page



Follow us at [strathmore_school_aberdeen](#)

Important Dates

- Monday, February 16: School Closed for Students
- February 16-20: Random Acts of Kindness Week
- Tuesday, February 17: 100th Day of School
- Monday, February 23: BoE Meeting, STES Cafeteria, 6:30 PM
- Thursday-Friday, February 26-27: School Store
- March 2-6: Read Across America Week
- March 11: Early Dismissal for Parent /Teacher Conferences (pm)
- March 12: Early Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences (afternoon)
- March 17: PK Trimester 2 Ends
- March 23: First Grade field trip
- March 24-25: Book Fair
- March 26: Author Visit
- March 27: Early Dismissal
- March 27: 3rd Grade Spring Dance



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional
School District

