



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

March 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](#), [2/1](#), [2/8](#), [2/15](#), [2/22](#)

Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

It was another fun and exciting week at Cliffwood School!

Our students had a great time celebrating **International Pokémon Day** this past Friday. A special shout-out goes to **Mr. McGowan** for generously gifting students Pokémon cards! Their excitement and appreciation were wonderful to see!

As we look ahead, please remember that **school will be closed on Wednesday, March 4th** for a Staff In-Service Training Day.

Important Reminder for 3rd Grade Families

NJSLA testing is approaching. Please note the following dates:

NJSLA ELA:

April 28, 29, 30

NJSLA Math:

May 5, 6, 7

We kindly ask that students are present on these days unless they are truly too sick to attend school. Please try to avoid scheduling routine doctor or dentist appointments during testing dates. Consistent attendance helps students feel confident and prepared to do their best.

Read Across America Week

We are excited to celebrate **Read Across America Week** beginning Monday!

We will kick off the week with special guest readers from throughout our community, including:

- Police officers
- Firefighters
- The mayor and council members



- Local librarians
...and more!

Building strong reading habits at a young age is so important. Reading helps develop imagination, strengthens vocabulary, improves focus, and builds lifelong learning skills. Encouraging children to become readers now sets the foundation for future success, both academically and personally. A love of reading truly lasts a lifetime!

We look forward to a wonderful week of literacy celebrations and community connections. Thank you for your continued support!

Snack Reminder

Please remember to pack a light, healthy snack and a water bottle for your child each day. Students have access to our refillable, filtered water fountains throughout the school day to stay hydrated.



Read Across America Spirit Week



Read Across America Spirit Week

MARCH 2ND - MARCH 6TH



Monday, March 2nd	Tuesday, March 3rd	Wednesday, March 4th	Thursday, March 5th	Friday, March 6th
DR. SEUSS'S BOOK OF COLORS	IF I RAN THE ZOO	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	THE HAIR BOOK	CAT IN THE HAT
Wear tie dye or colorful clothing	Wear animal print or camouflage	In-service day for teachers	Wear mismatched clothes or wacky hair	Wear red, white, black or stripes
				

Spring Parent Teacher Conferences



Cliffwood Elementary School

"We're Cliffwood Proud!"



422 Cliffwood Avenue, Cliffwood, NJ 07721
732-705-5600 | 732-705-5650 (Fax)
www.marsd.org

Nelyda Perez, Superintendent of Schools
Christine Cherece, Principal

Cliffwood Parent/Teacher Conference: March 11th & March 12th

March 11th: Evening conferences
March 12th: Afternoon conferences

Conferences can be scheduled for homeroom teachers, ESL, Resource, and Specials teachers on the Parent Portal Monday, 2/23 starting at 9AM.

At this time, conferences with the Related Service Providers, CST, Counselor, and School Nurse are not able to be scheduled through Parent Portal.

If you would like to meet with one or more of the following staff members please email them directly to arrange a conference day and time.

Nurse	Ms. Caldwell	scaldwell@marsd.org
Speech	Ms. LaPlaga	alaplaga@marsd.org
Speech	Ms. Sullivan	csullivan@marsd.org
OT	Ms. Bauer	jbauer@marsd.org
OT	Ms. Margulies	dmargulies@marsd.org
OT	Mr. Gonzalez	egonzalez@marsd.org
Phys. Therapy	Ms. Racioppi	bracioppi@marsd.org
School Counselor	Ms. Giacchi	ggiacchi@marsd.org
I.D.T.C	Ms. Miles	lmiles@marsd.org
Behavior	Ms. Falciglia	mfalciglia@marsd.org

Instructions for Scheduling Parent/Teacher Conferences with the Genesis Parent Portal

Step 1 - Log into the Parent Portal.

Step 2 - Click the Conference Tab on the top of the screen.

Step 3 - Click the schedule conference titled "Parent/Teacher Conferences"

Step 4 - Select the date and time for your desired conference time slot and Click Reserve.

Step 5 - Repeat steps 3 and 4 to select additional conferences with other staff.

Step 6 - Once finished, log out from the Parent Portal.

PAWS Winners



Pokemon Day at Cliffwood School





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

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION
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

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION
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.



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

March 2026

Cliffwood ES
Breakfast

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 • Mini Banana Loaf	3 • Savory Egg and Cheese Stuffed Hashbrown Patty	4 NO SCHOOL No School	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 • Emoji Waffles	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
30  Spring Break	31  Spring Break			

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.

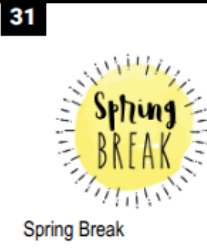
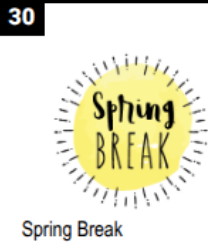
FOLLOW US:
@MASCHIOFOOD

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"> • Creamy Mac and Cheese • Fresh Veggie Dippers • Soft Pretzel Stick 	3  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Cinnamon Waffles • Juicy Breakfast Sausage • Crunchy Hash Brown 	4  <p>No School</p>	5  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crispy Chicken Parm Sliders • Roasted Parmesan Broccoli 	6  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuffed Crust Pizza • Freshly Prepared Spring Mix Salad
9  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grilled Cheese Sandwich • Tomato Soup 	10  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Maple Pancakes • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Crunchy Hash Brown 	11  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juicy Hamburger on a Bun or • Juicy Cheeseburger on a Bun • Crinkle Cut French Fries 	12  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasoned Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla • Black Bean & Corn Salad 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mozzarella Sticks • Freshly Prepared Maschio's House Salad
16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg and Cheese on an English Muffin • Crunchy Tater Tots 	17  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Tenders • Sweet Potato Waffle Fries • Shamrock Pretzel 	18  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pasta with Meatballs and Marinara • Fresh Dinner Roll • Freshly Prepared Garden Salad 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potato Bowl • Fresh Dinner Roll 	20   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NY Style Bella's Pizza • Freshly Prepared Caesar Salad
23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot Turkey and Cheese Melt on a Croissant • Maple Cinnamon Carrots 	24  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasoned Beef Scoop-A-Bowl with Rice, Cheddar Cheese, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Salsa and Tostitos Scoops • Black Bean and Corn Salad 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheesy Baked Ziti • Italian Green Beans 	26  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini French Toast • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Crunchy Hash Brown 	27   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Cheese Pizza • Freshly Prepared Spring Mix 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




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 Graham Crackers , with Assorted Cereal Graham Crackers ,

Information about Excused/Unexcused Absences



Attendance Matters

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

Spring Tricky Tray
Hosted by the Cliffwood PTO

Saturday, April 11, 2026

Cliffwood Elementary School
422 Cliffwood Ave
Cliffwood, NJ 07721

Doors Open 4 PM
Calling starts promptly at 5:30 PM

Admission: Cash, Check (made out to Cliffwood PTO)
or Zelle (CliffwoodPTO422@gmail.com)
Send Checks to Address Above

\$25 pre-sale
\$30 at door

Ticket Bundles sold on night of event

Tables can be reserved in sets of 6 or 12 tickets, paid in full
All other seating is first come, first serve

Admission includes 1 sheet of lower level raffle tickets,
coffee/tea, and dessert

Please provide name and contact # with payment

Must be at least 18 years old

email cliffwoodpto422@gmail.com
with any questions



Zelle

Cliffwood Elementary PTO

is now accepting donations for our
2nd annual Tricky Tray.



If you have any **BRAND NEW** items such as:
household items, women or mens items,
tools/hardware, holiday decor, toys, bath,
pool/BBQ, pocketbooks/backpacks, jewelry,
appliances, bottles of alcohol, scratch off lottery
tickets, etc.

Donations can be sent into school.

Our Tricky Tray will be held on
April 11th at

Cliffwood Elementary School

Please email CliffwoodPTO422@gmail.com
with any questions.

TO THIRD GRADE PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Baby Pictures Needed!



The PTO is requesting baby pictures of our 3rd graders to be included in this year's yearbook.

Please be sure to send over high quality photos, screenshots will appear blurry in the yearbook.

Please send in your child's baby picture (2 years old or younger) to:

cliffwoodyearbook2526@gmail.com

****Please include child's name and teacher in the email****



Please send in by March 1st



Include child's full name and teacher in the email.



Thank you!
The Cliffwood Elementary School PTO



Dear families,

Get ready—the Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school! This is a great opportunity to build your child's home library with new books they'll dive into again and again.

The easiest way to let your child shop the Fair independently is by creating an eWallet. It's easy to set up and easy for others to add funds.

Create an eWallet, and you'll also have the opportunity to contribute to Share the Fair - the giving program that supports students at our school who need help buying books. Consider participating so that no child leaves the Fair empty-handed!

Here's everything else you need to know about the Book Fair:



Dates: March 10th - March 12th

Location: Cliffwood Media Center

Family Event schedule and location: Book Fair will be open during conferences on March 11th and 12th



For full details, and to create an eWallet, visit our school's Book Fair homepage:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/cliffwoodelementaryschool>

More than ever, we need to get students reading. Studies prove* that children with more books at home have higher-level reading skills, and attain more years of education overall.

Lastly, this is a great opportunity to be a Book Fair volunteer! When you give your time, it helps make our Fair an unforgettable reading experience where *every purchase* benefits our school directly.

Happy reading,

Christine Cherence

Principal

Cliffwood Elementary School

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: 16D42ILN



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

3/4- School Closed In-Service Day

3/10-3/12- Cliffwood Book Fair

3/11- Parent Teacher Conferences (Evening)- Early Dismissal Day

3/12- Parent Teacher Conferences (Afternoon)- Early Dismissal Day



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



