



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

March 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](#), [2/15](#), [2/22](#), [3/1](#), [3/8](#)

Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

Dear Cliffwood Families,

It was another wonderful week here at Cliffwood School!

Our Book Fair was a great success, and the students absolutely loved shopping for new books. A huge thank you to the Cliffwood PTO for organizing this event and to all of the volunteers who came in to help our Lions shop. Events like this would not be possible without your time and support, thank you! The PTO also generously gifted books to each classroom and the main office, which is truly appreciated. Your support helps foster a love of reading throughout our school.

It was also great seeing so many families during Parent-Teacher Conferences this week. Conferences are such an important opportunity for families and teachers to connect, discuss student progress, celebrate successes, and work together to support each child's continued growth and learning. We truly value this partnership with our families.

We would also like to thank the Cliffwood PTO for organizing a pizza and snack collection for our teachers during the long days of conferences. This thoughtful gesture meant so much to our staff, and they were very grateful for your kindness and support.

With a few warm days this week, students really enjoyed getting outside for recess and spending time on the playground and in the fresh air. We are excited for the spring weather ahead and look forward to many more beautiful days at Cliffwood School! Don't forget to wear your green Tuesday for St. Patrick's Day!

Wishing everyone a wonderful week ahead.



PAWS Winners



Spring Weather Fun



Health & Wellness Update

Our Nurse's Office is in need of extra clothing for students who may need a change during the school day. If you happen to have any gently used children's shirts, shorts, or pants that you are willing to donate, we would greatly appreciate your support.

We also recommend that families, especially for our younger learners, send in a spare set of clothes for their child. Accidents and spills can happen, and having a change of clothes available helps students get back to learning comfortably.

If you would like to send in a change of clothes for your child, please place the items in a labeled Ziploc bag with your child's name. The bag can stay in your child's backpack, or the teacher can store it in a safe place in the classroom. A helpful set of extra clothes would include:

- A shirt
- Shorts or pants
- A change of underwear

In other health-related news, students will also be participating in Dental Health presentations. These presentations help reinforce the importance of healthy habits and taking care of our teeth. Thank you to Ms. Caldwell, School nurse, for setting up and organizing these presentations for our students.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity in helping us care for all of our students.



Spring Photos

Dear Cliffwood Families,

I would like to inform you of a change regarding school photography this year. Cliffwood School uses BNL Photography for our fall pictures and Lifetouch for our spring photos. The Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District has decided to cancel its contract with Lifetouch, and as a result, we will not have spring photos this year.

We appreciate your understanding regarding this change. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at ccherence@marsd.org.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Christine Cherence, Principal

PreK & K Open Enrollment



PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2026/2027



OUR PROGRAM

REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 15TH

 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.

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



scan here!

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

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.




















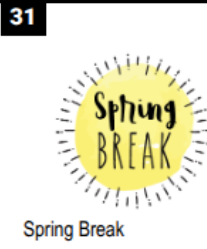
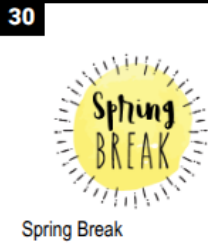
QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
Please call us at (973) 598-0005 to speak to one of Maschio's Registered Dietitian Nutritionists.

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:
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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



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.

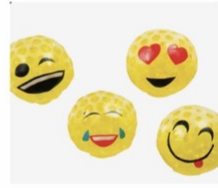
1. Religious holidays (Each year, the State Board of Education votes on a list of approved religious holidays for observance upon the written request signed by the parent.).
2. Participation in observance of Veterans Day.
3. Participation in district board of election membership activities.
4. Take Our 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

March School Store

Wednesday, March 18th &
Thursday, March 19th



Dave & Buster's Power Cards Fundraiser

Purchase Dave & Buster's Power Cards Supporting Cliffwood PTO!

<https://www.groupraise.com/offer-campaigns/73297-cliffwood-ptd-dave-busters-fundraising-campaigns>

CLIFFWOOD PTO FUNDRAISER!

DAVE & BUSTER'S POWER CARD SALE!



Buy a \$20 Power Card & Support
Cliffwood PTO!

GET 50%
BACK FOR OUR SCHOOL!

50% of each card sold goes back to our school!



1. SCAN TO ORDER



3. GET YOUR POWER CARDS!

DAVE & BUSTER'S
POWER CARD



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Scan here to order:

www.groupraise.com/73297

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CLIFFWOOD PTO!

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

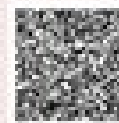
Tables can be reserved in sets of 6 or 12 tickets, paid in full

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



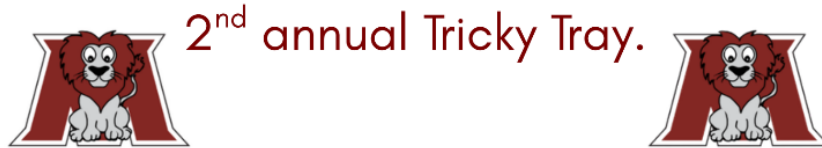
Zelle

email cliffwoodpto422@gmail.com

with any questions

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



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



Cliffwood Elementary School

PTO Membership Form

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION
Multiple-Choice Regional School District
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

- 3/17- Wear Green St. Patrick's Day
- 3/18- School Store Shopping during lunch
- 3/19- School Store Shopping during lunch
- 3/27- Early Dismissal Day
- 3/30- 4/3- School Closed Spring Break
- 4/11- Cliffwood PTO Spring Tricky Tray
- 4/18- 3rd Grade Dance



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional

School District

