



Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-5

March 17, 2026

LOVE OF READING WEEK

2026

Fairytale Fores

DAILY WOLF
THE TRUE STORY OF
THE 3 LITTLE PIGS



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Principal's Corner

As you scroll through this edition of the Laker Insider, you will see many highlights, activities, and photos from the past few months. While these moments capture a great deal, they still don't compare to experiencing them firsthand.

I would like to sincerely thank every member of our staff for the hard work and dedication they bring to our district and our students each day. That commitment, combined with the tremendous support and strong sense of community from our families, even those in town who do not currently have children in our schools, is what truly makes Mount Arlington such a special place.

Like many of you, I'm also looking forward to some stable, consistent weather. As the temperatures begin to warm up, we are starting to see students wearing shorts and other warm-weather clothing.

With that in mind, I would like to reemphasize that the student dress code will be enforced. I encourage you to click [HERE](#) and review Board Policy 5511 for the full details. This information can also be found on page 4 of the MAPS Student Planners.

I will close by wishing everyone a fun and safe Spring Break, which is now just 16 days away. It's hard to believe how quickly the year has gone and that we are already approaching April.

Truly,

Joe Coladarci, Principal



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Congratulations!

On March 5th, 8th grader, Calie Foit was celebrated as the Mount Arlington Public School District Unsung Hero. The Morris County School Boards Association presents the Unsung Hero Awards to 8th and 12th grade students who make significant, often overlooked contributions to their school and communities. These students are recognized for their quiet strength, resilience, and positive impact.

Congratulations Calie!





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MAPS Love of Reading Week

MAPS students celebrated their love of reading with this year's theme: Investigate a Good Book. The hallways transformed into Genre City, the backdrop for our literary-themed detective activity. Someone stole the endings of the stories, and students donned their metaphorical detective hats to investigate eight suspects and solve the case.

Over the course of the week, students sleuthed through the halls analyzing handwriting, detailing suspects' physical descriptions, and matching footprints, fingerprints, and blood-type. Additionally, teams of students evaluated suspect interviews for bias and inconsistencies compared to eyewitness reports, communication logs, timelines, and the physical evidence. Everyone organized their notes on an evidence matrix and applied critical thinking and deductive reasoning to support their conclusions.

A spirit week and book trivia raffle rounded out the fun this week. Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring the raffle prizes, and congratulations to our lucky winners!

1. Scooby Doo Choose Your Own Ending- Addison Rodriguez, grade 3
2. The Last Kids on Earth- Natalia Viera, grade 4
3. The Chronicles of Narnia- Marc Fernandez, grade 5
4. Stranger Things Volume 1- Sebastian Rutler, grade 3
5. Sunrise on the Reaping- Tanav Dave, grade 7





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Decker Literacy Night

Our recent Literacy Night was a wonderful celebration of books, creativity, and the joy of reading. Students and families gathered for an evening filled with engaging activities, imaginative projects, and interactive games inspired by some of the most beloved children's books.

Throughout the evening, students explored stories that have sparked a love of reading for generations. Activities were inspired by favorites such as *Magic Tree House*, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, *The Cat in the Hat*, and many other books that encourage curiosity and imagination.

Literacy Night was a great success, bringing our school community together to celebrate reading. Events like this help inspire lifelong readers by showing students that books can open doors to creativity, adventure, and endless possibilities.





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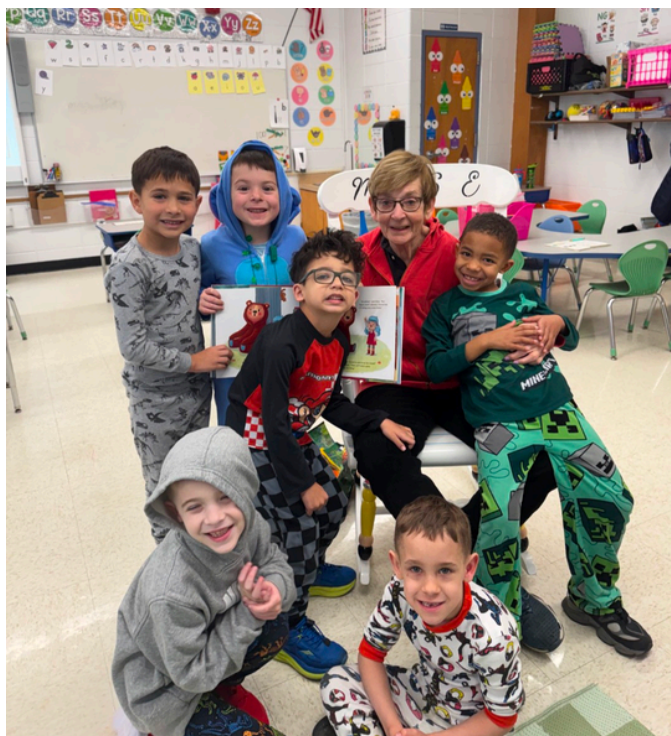
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Senior Citizen Readers @ Decker

Seniors from the local community recently visited Decker school to share their love of reading with students. The special visit created a warm and meaningful experience as the seniors spent time in classrooms reading stories and engaging with the young learners.

The visit not only supported students' literacy development, but also created a wonderful opportunity for intergenerational connection. The senior citizens enjoyed spending time with the children and sharing their passion for reading, while students appreciated the chance to meet new members of their community.





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From the PTO

Dear Parents and Families,

We're excited to share some recent highlights and upcoming events with you!

Our PTO had a fantastic time organizing a Glow Dance for our 6th - 8th graders earlier this month. It was wonderful to see students enjoying an evening filled with music, dancing, and fun with friends. The photo booth was a big hit, capturing lots of memorable moments! We also had the pleasure of awarding two students for their standout dance moves. As always, a HUGE thank you to our parent volunteers who helped make this event such a success. We're already looking forward to planning more dances and activities in the future!

We're also thrilled to announce our first-ever Mother's Day Flower Fundraiser in collaboration with Roxbury Garden Center. This is a great opportunity to celebrate someone special in your life while supporting our school community. Families will be able to choose from a beautiful selection of 5" annuals, including geraniums, sunpatiens, New Guinea sunpatiens, lantana, and coleus. The sale will begin on May 4th, and more details will be shared soon on PT Board and social media.

We also encourage everyone to come out and support our 8th-grade class for a fun and exciting night at the Volleyball Fundraiser this Thursday, March 19th at 6:00pm at Eisenhower Middle School. Admission is \$10 (kids under 5 are free), and a concession stand will be open. All proceeds will support end-of-year activities and celebrations for the Class of 2026.

For information on upcoming events and fundraisers, please visit <https://mta.ptboard.com/> (use school code 93KANX for first-time users) and follow us on Facebook (Mount Arlington PTO) and Instagram (@mountarlingtonpto).

As always, thank you for your continued support of our students, teachers, and school community. We couldn't do it without you!

Warm regards,
Brooke, Randi, Laura and Joelle



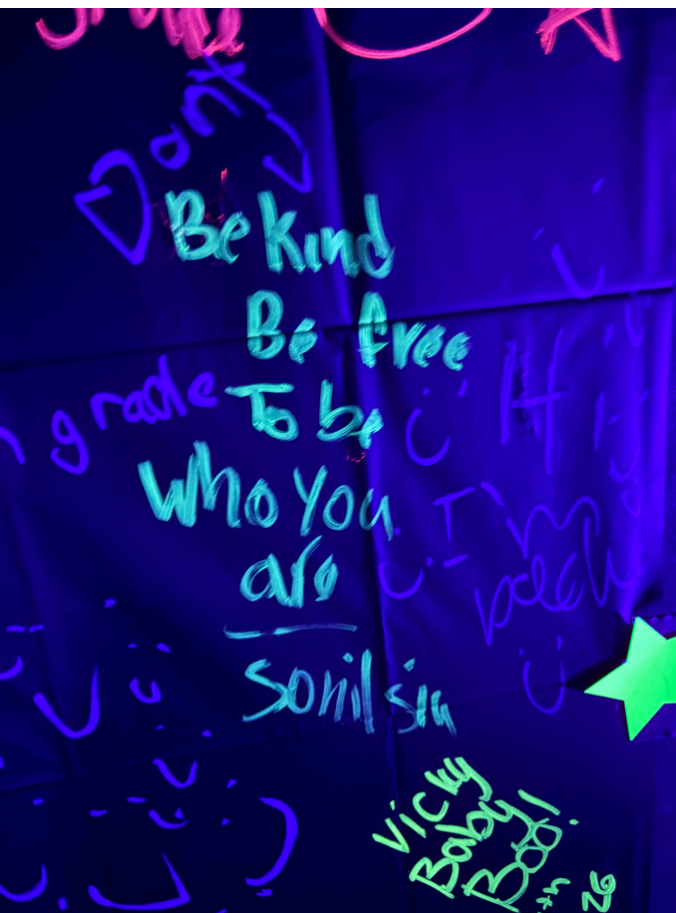
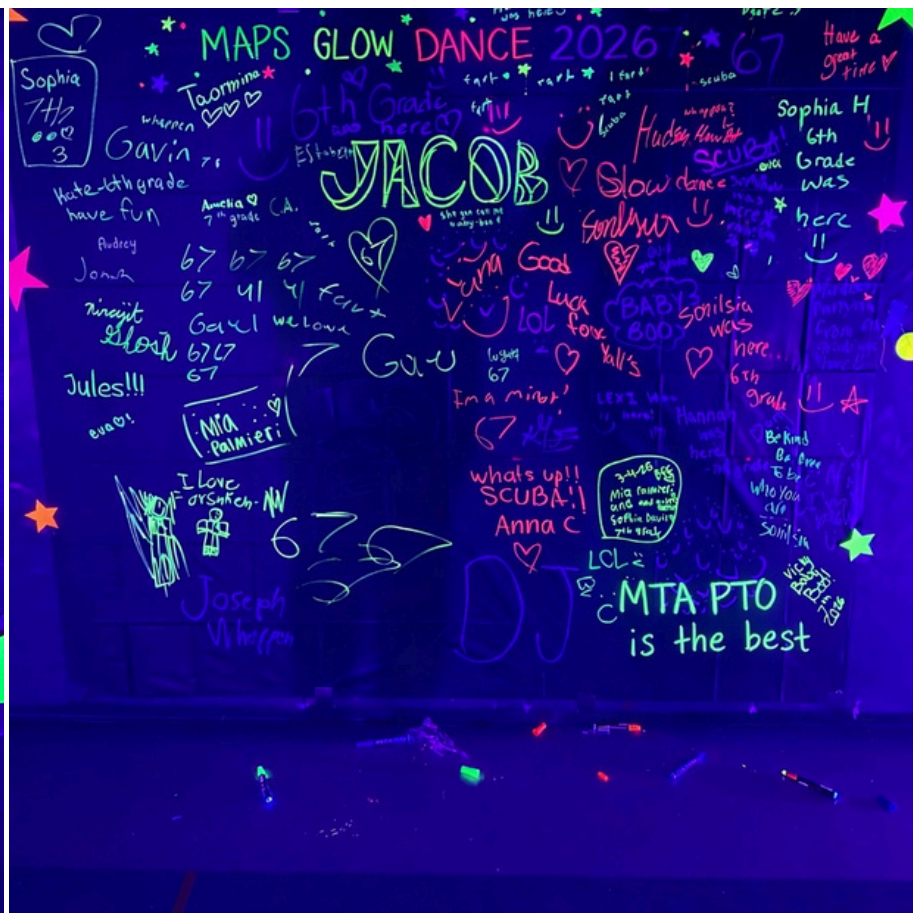
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From the PTO.....continued





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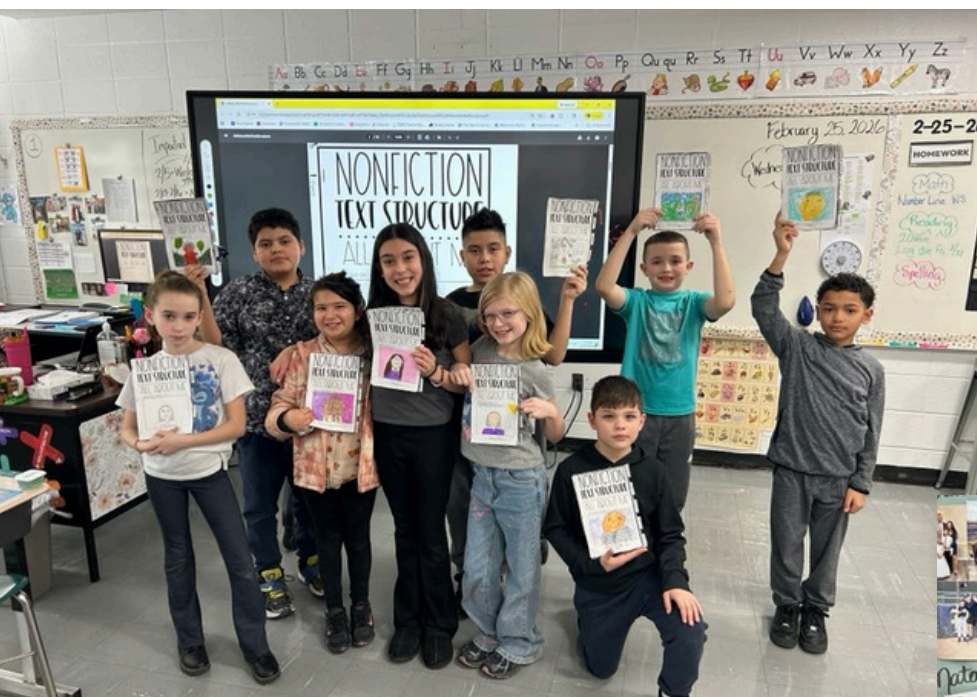
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Mrs. Smith's Class

At the end of February, Mrs. Smith's ELA students completed their Nonfiction Text Structures Unit. Students learned about the five types of nonfiction writing: description, compare and contrast, chronological order, problem and solution, and cause and effect. For each type, students completed a writing task using their prior knowledge, personal experiences, and online research. They then combined their work to create a nonfiction booklet. We are proud of their hard work and progress!





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Mrs. Danysh's Health Class

In 4th grade, Mrs. Danysh's Health class learned about the structure and function of skin as part of their Integumentary System lesson. Students worked in small groups to create a skin cell model using various materials and did an amazing job overall!

Mrs. Danysh was super proud of their creative ideas and how well they worked together.

In 5th grade, Mrs. Danysh's Health class learned about the Circulatory System. After learning about the components of blood (plasma, red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets) students were asked to create a blood cell model and Google Slides presentation. Students worked in small groups to discuss the materials they would use to make their model and presented their slides to the class. Mrs. Danysh was very impressed by their hard work and creativity.





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Mrs. Polania's Spanish Class!

8th grade students enjoyed practicing using the verbs tener and ser as well as chapter vocabulary to play Guess Who?





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Kindergarten

The kindergartners at Decker School had a busy, hands-on day celebrating the 100th Day of School! The children worked together in groups of 3-4 students and rotated through eight different activities related to the number 100. Some of the activities included using dot markers to make 100 "gumballs" in a gumball machine, creating a picture using the number 100, building using 100 objects, stacking 100 large red cups as high as they could and painting 100 dots.





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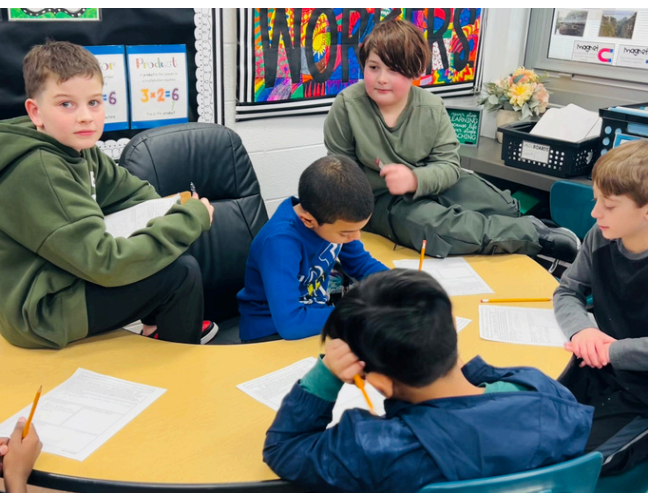
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3rd Grade

Mrs. Farley's 3rd grade have been working hard on their teamwork and problem solving skills. From working together to complete 500-piece puzzles, to discussing and brainstorming solutions to classroom and school issues, to solving the Love of Reading Week mystery, we have definitely become a cohesive team!





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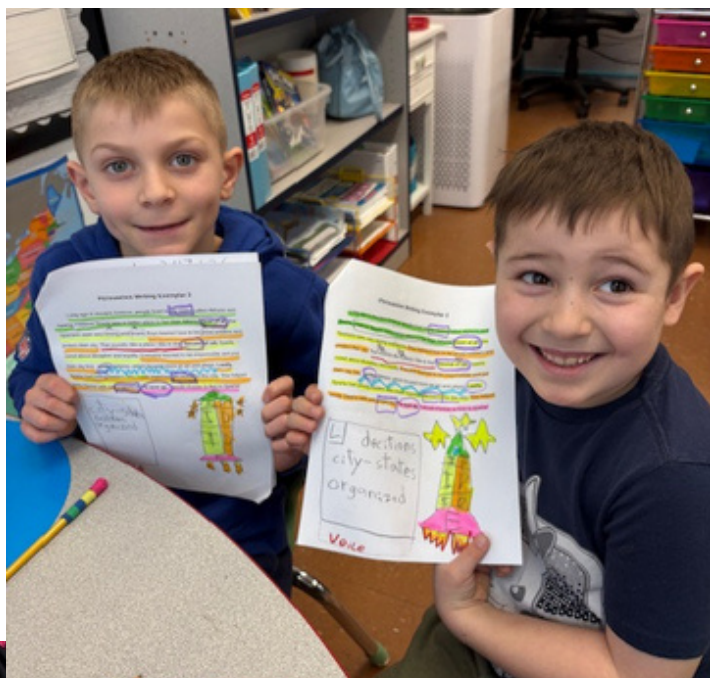
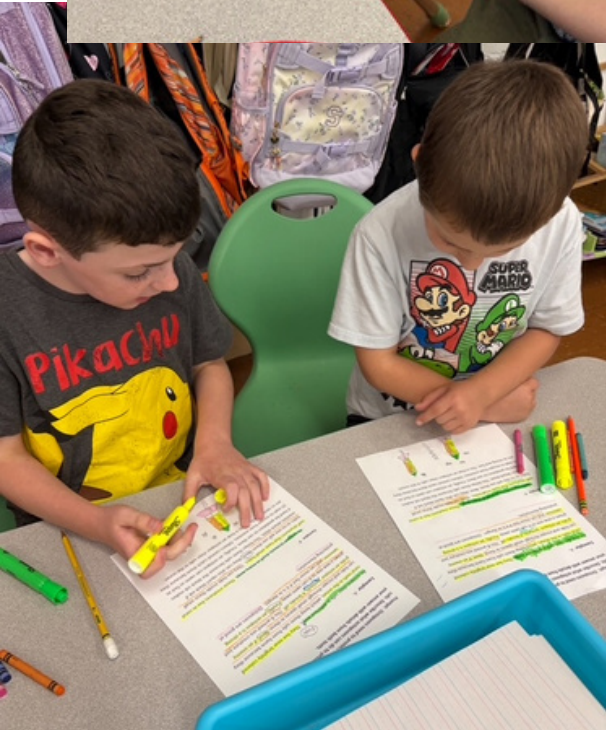
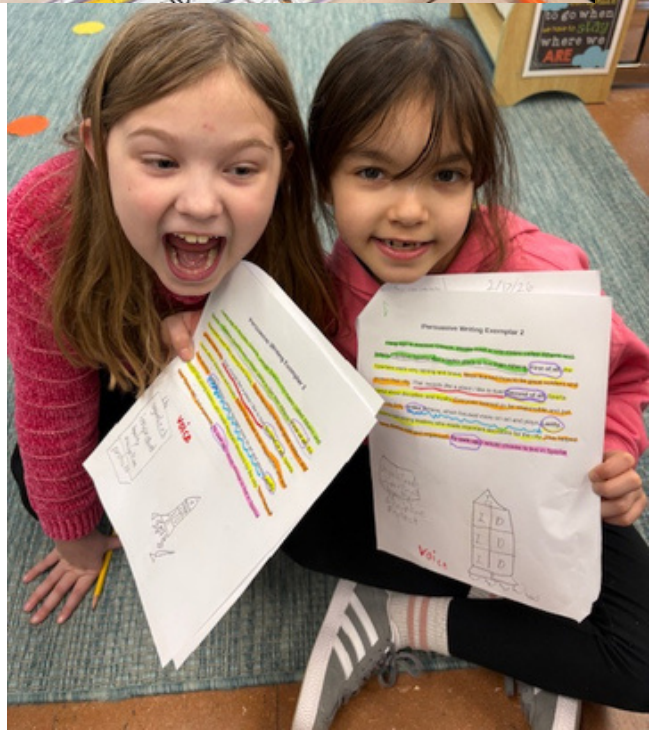
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2nd Grade

In second grade, students have been learning paragraph structure through the Think SRSD writing model. Students plan, organize, and write strong paragraphs about content they're learning in class. This process supports deeper understanding of the texts we read, and at the same time, helps students grow into confident, thoughtful writers. Students work collaboratively to read and color-code exemplars, before taking on the rigorous work of writing paragraphs on their own!





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Art

We are proud to celebrate March as Youth Art Month and recognize our talented students artists whose artwork had been selected for the Morris & Sussex County Exhibit at CCM. Their creativity, hard work, and artistic growth were represented in this special showcase. Congratulations to Juliette Doran, Ava Gregory, Violet Hardy, Camryn Infante, Anna Vera, Julian Garcia, Alivia Walsh, Isabella Lima, Anna Chukas, and Audrey Jenny for this achievement and for representing our district so well!





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Art....continued





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Pre-K

Pre-K read the book “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie!” Then we made and decorated our own cookies. We were sure to drop off a yummy treat for our friend, Mrs. Cosenza!





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Decker Author Visit

On March 16th, Decker students were treated to an author visit. Dr. Jennifer Doran, MAPS alumni, shared her newly published book, *Uma the Unicorn's Rainbow Quest: A Colorful Tale of Overcoming Picky Eating*. Students enjoyed the book and then created their own plate of varied and colorful foods.





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Instrumental & Vocal Music

The Beginning Band and 3rd and 4th grade choirs had a great performance at the Winter Concert on February 5th. Congratulations on an excellent first concert!

The Concert band will perform this Wednesday 3/18 on the Roxbury All District Band Concert. The concert takes place at 7 pm at Roxbury High School and all are welcome to attend!

Congratulations to 8th grade student, Alaina Furman, for her acceptance into the New Jersey All State Chorus! Alaina will be busy rehearsing for a concert in early May with approximately 100 other middle school students from all around the state of New Jersey. Well done and congratulations!

Throughout the country, every March is known as "Music in Our Schools Month." Next week in MAPS, we will recognize this time with some special events. There will be morning trivia and "name that tune" questions, dress-up day, and band and choir performances. Stay tuned for more information to come!

MAPS Athletics

Spring sports season is right around the corner, and the Lakers softball and baseball teams are getting ready to begin. First up are tryouts, where coaches are looking forward to seeing the skills, effort and enthusiasm that players bring to the field. Following tryouts, both teams will jump into their first practices of the season with games beginning in April. The March schedule is currently available on the "Live Calendar" on the [MAPS website](#). With returning players and new faces eager to contribute, the Lakers softball and baseball programs are excited to get the season underway! 🏈⚾️



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2026 Talent Show

We had a huge turn out of talented students for the annual MAPS talent show on February 26th. About 40 students performed. Acts included instrumentalists, singers, a comedian, a soccer player, dancers, artists, gymnasts, and a mathematician! It was a spectacular night of wonderful performances.





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2026 Talent Show.....continued





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2nd Marking Period Honor Roll

Honor Roll Award Recipients - Marking Period 2 2025-2026

High Honor Roll- All A's

Cole Connelly - 8	Tanav Dave - 7	Iaromir Fedko - 5
Sophia Duque - 8	Hudson Hewitt - 7	Marc Fernandez - 5
Isabella Isriprashad - 8	Lexi Olic - 7	Marcus Gansert - 5
Joella Lee - 8	Hannah Philip - 7	Samuel Ghetti - 5
Summer Lovins - 8	Carlo Joseph Blandura - 6	Hayley Jennings - 5
Zoey Olliges - 8	Arnav Desai - 6	Thomas Liz Gutierrez - 5
Joshua Osorio - 8	Sophia Hegazy - 6	Aubrey Norton - 5
Ayaan Ali - 7	Michele LeSueur - 6	Ethan Osorio - 5
Eva Bloom-Aemisegao - 7	Madison Panycia - 6	Javon Peck - 5
Julietta Borowiec - 7	Jonah Price - 6	Andre Ramirez Chaupis - 5
Ava Braico - 7	Naomi Alcantara - 5	Marcus Velez - 5
Anna Chukas - 7	Luke Brown - 5	Alivia Walsh - 5

Honor Roll-A's and no more than 2 B's

Derek Baxter - 8	Gavin Nemeth - 7	Mason Calvello - 5
Grace Connors - 8	Amelia Rutler - 7	Rishik Gorre - 5
Zaliyah Davis - 8	Jacob Villalba - 7	Liam Mogesa - 5
Antony Dubrovensky - 8	Amy Arias - 6	Addison Oatley - 5
Natalie Fernandez - 8	Gael Duque - 6	Kevin Olic - 5
Ariana Jenny - 8	Nirajit Ghosh - 6	Eidan Segura - 5
Daniel Rojas - 8	Colton Oliver - 6	
Alexa Salzano - 8	Rayyan Umer - 6	
Victoria Martinez - 7	Rudra Bhatt - 5	



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Nurse's Notes

Spring Health Newsletter
From Decker Health Office
Stay up-to-date
Website Link

NJ law now allows for sunscreen in schools with written parental permission. See more about this change on my [website](#).



More on sun safety-[here](#)



Head injuries do happen at school. You will be

notified ASAP if there is a concern of a concussion. You should, however, be aware that signs and symptoms of concussion can develop later while at home.

Information on how to prevent head injuries, such as wearing helmets, and the signs and symptoms of a concussion, can be found on my website.



Tick awareness-

See the following brochure-[tick informational brochure from the NJDOH](#)

Water safety in our beautiful lake community-Swim lessons save lives!

Drowning prevention is a family activity!

Swim lessons for parents and toddlers are a first step toward water safety.



[healthychildren.org](#)

American Academy of Pediatrics



When it comes to water safety, be a good role model for your child! That means always **wearing life jackets**

when boating. Using alcohol and drugs increases the risk of drowning. You need education and a licence if you will be operating a motorized vessel in New Jersey.



Spring is screening time in the health offices.

Height, weight, blood pressure, vision, hearing, and dental (pre-K) are among

the screenings conducted in the elementary public school setting. You will be notified of any concerns.

Did you know gardening has [health benefits](#), and Mount Arlington has a community garden?



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- 3/19 - Faculty/Student Volleyball @ Eisenhower MS - 6:30pm
- 3/19 - BOE Meeting - 7:00pm
- 3/23-27 - Music in Our Schools Spirit Week
- 4/3-12 - Spring Break
- 4/13 - School Resumes