



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

March 22, 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](#), [3/15](#)

Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

Dear Cliffwood Families,

This past week at Cliffwood School, students had a blast celebrating the fun traditions of St. Patrick's Day! ✨ Mischievous leprechauns were spotted sneaking through the building, leaving behind quite a mess, but our students were ready! They worked hard designing clever traps to catch them. While the leprechauns managed to escape (this time!), students came *very* close and are still on the lookout for that pot of gold!

Our PreK students shared what they would do if they found a pot of gold, such adorable ideas! Second graders took it a step further by elaborating with creative stories that were both funny and impressive. You definitely won't want to miss reading them! First and third graders warmed our hearts with their writing about what they are lucky to have in their lives. Their thoughtful reflections were truly special. First graders also got into the March Madness spirit by sharing their favorite "slam dunk" books. What a great way to celebrate reading! Kindergarten students have been busy learning about weather and different types of clouds. If you have a chance, take a moment to look up at the sky with your child and see what kinds of clouds they can identify!

Our second graders were also hard at work researching animals and writing informational pieces to share what they've learned, great job demonstrating your knowledge!

In honor of Women's History Month, students across grade levels learned about important women in history and their incredible contributions.



There has been so much learning happening this week, and it has been wonderful seeing student work proudly displayed throughout the hallways! Be sure to take a look below!

Looking ahead, please remember:

- **Early Dismissal:** Friday, March 27
- **School Closed:** March 30 – April 3 (Spring Break)

We hope everyone enjoys a relaxing and fun-filled break with family!

Cliffwood Spring Tricky Tray- Get your tickets!!!!



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

PAWS Winners



Creating Leprechaun Traps and going on Leprechaun hunts!



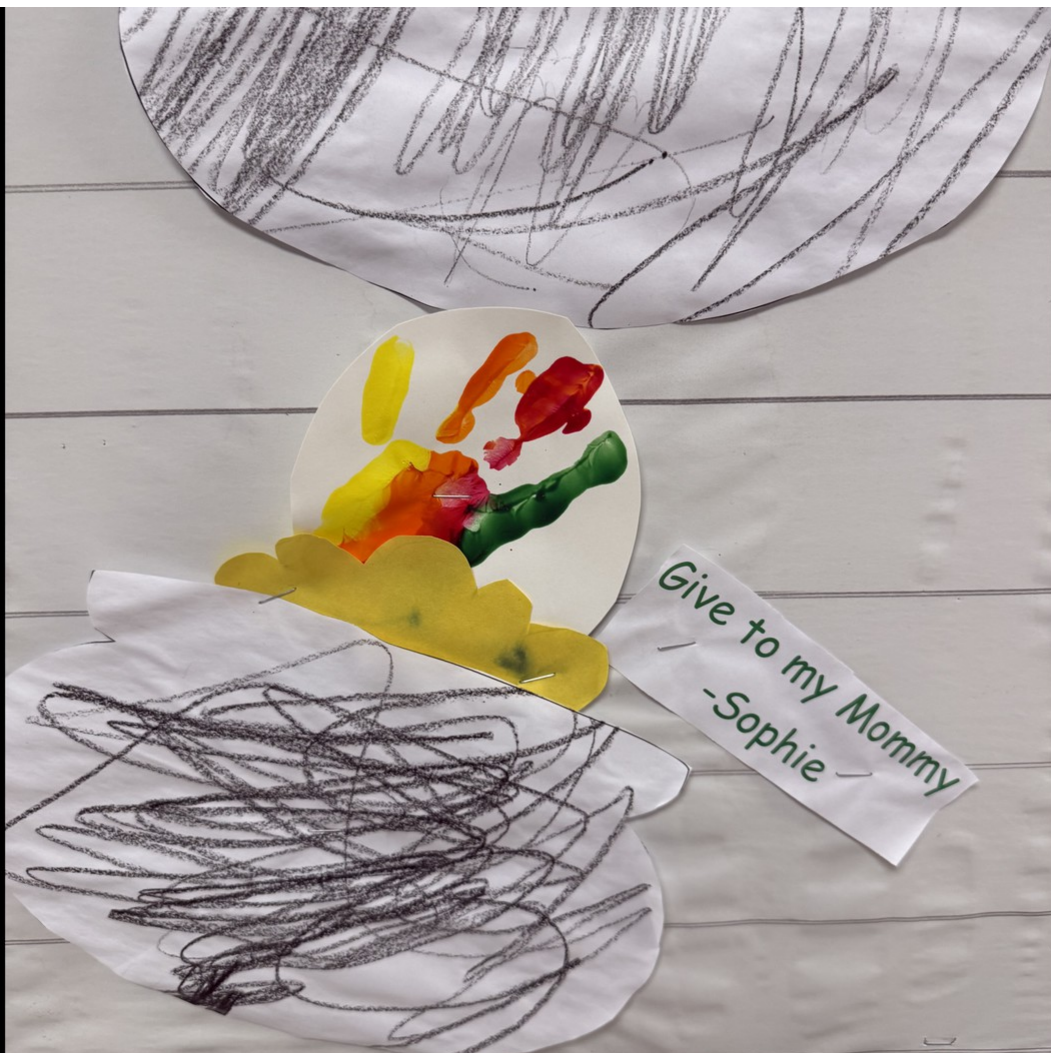




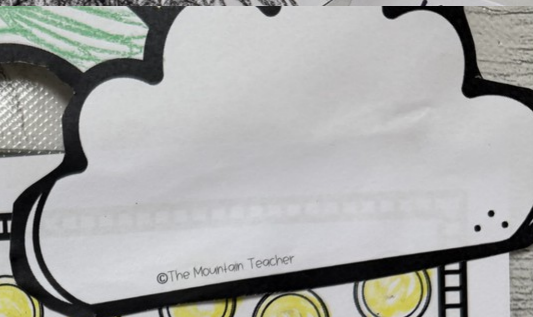

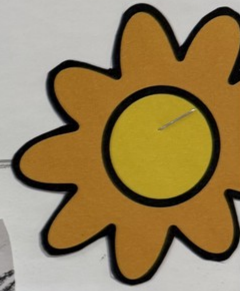




If I found a pot of Gold....



Buy a T-rex
-Leo




©The Mountain Teacher

IF I FOUND A POT OF GOLD

Author: Lenzi McCawley

One day, I found a pot of gold outside.
First, I would dig in the gold for a leprechaun. Next, I would scratch the gold coins to see if there really. Last if it is real I would wish for no school for the rest of my life. Happy st. patricks day!

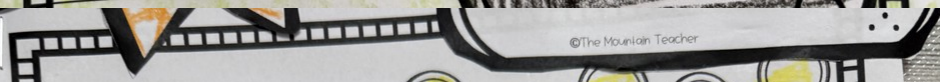




IF I FOUND A POT OF GOLD

Author: Manuel Serrano

One day if I found a pot of gold outside. First, I would check if there are no mini leprechauns. Next, I would take that BIG POT OF GOLD AND RUN! Last, I would WISH for a robot laser eyes that protect my house. Happy St. Patrick Day!



IF I FOUND A POT OF GOLD

Author: Karter Mauter

One day I found a pot of gold outside. First I will check around if a leprechaun is around. Next I will go to my favorite pizza spot Pizza hut. Last I will wish something good to eat and a million pizzas for a year or so.





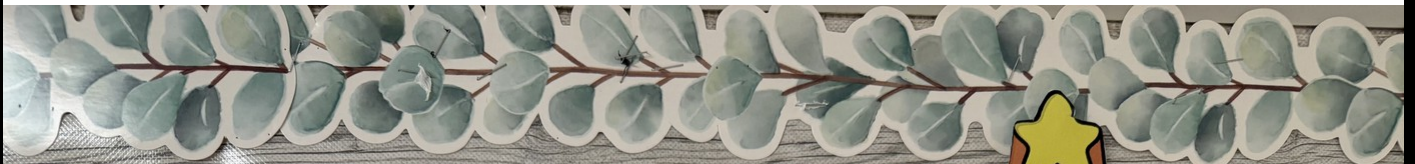
IF I FOUND A POT OF GOLD

Author: chinmayi

One day I found a pot of gold outside. First I hid it under my bed so no one will steal it. Next I will look for the most shiniest ones and trade it for 1000 robux. Then I will ask my mom for a brand new room makeover. Happy st. patrics day!



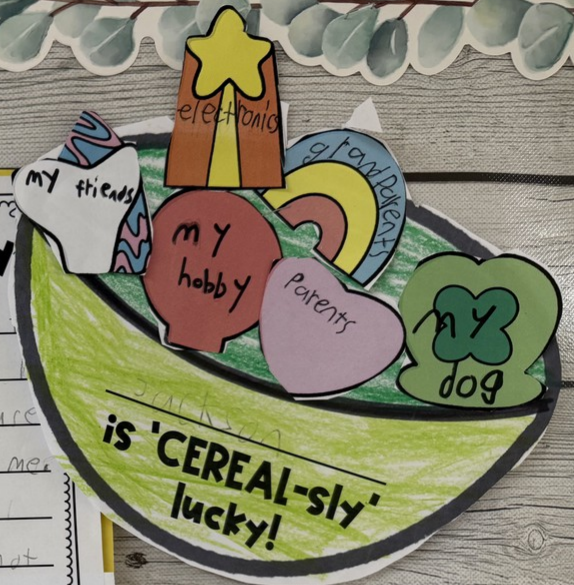
I am LUCKY because....







I am 'CEREAL-sly' lucky

I am lucky for many peple and in my life. First, I am lucky to my friends exaple zayan because he's nice and likes spots like me. Next, I am lucky to have my electronics because I would not beable to live without them. Finally I am lucky to have my grand parents





because they bascly give what ever I want. I am lucky for many peple and this in my life.

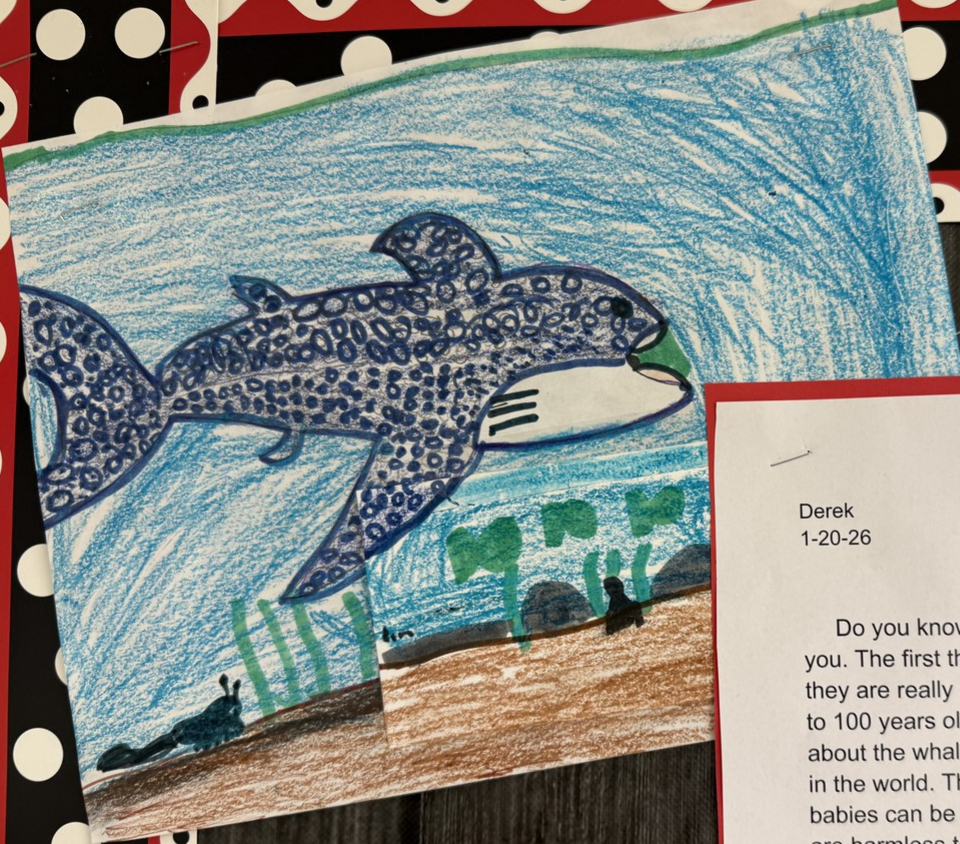




-  because he is so cute & I like for
-  because I love myself.
-  because they keep me safe
-  because they are so fun



-  because they are nice and kind.
-  because I have friends.
-  because my teacher is nice to me.
-  because they take care of me.



Derek
1-20-26

Whale Shark

Do you know about whale sharks? If not, I will tell you. The first thing to know about whale sharks is they are really old. Did you know they can grow up to 100 years old or more? The next thing to know about the whale shark is they are the biggest animal in the world. The mother can be 40 ft. or more, the babies can be 16-24 inches long. Also, whale sharks are harmless to humans because their throat is 1 inch long. The last thing to know about the whale shark is they have 100 babies. Don't you agree the whale shark is cool?

Juliana
1-16-26

Cheetahs

Do you know about cheetahs? I will teach you. First of all, cheetahs can run and chase up to 200-300 miles! That's so fast! In fact, cheetahs prey are Antelopes, Birds, and Rabbits. Another way this animal is special is because their weight can be up to 75-140 lbs.! That's as much as a big dog! Also, female cheetahs can give birth up to 2-8 cubs at a time! Finally, the black lines on a cheetah from their eye to their mouth reduce sun glare and help them spot prey. Don't you agree that cheetahs are cool?

Juliana Mendosa



Ace
1-16-26

Glowing Jellyfish

Stratus



Cirrus



Cumulus



Cumulonimbus



March Madness Slam Dunk Books!



NJSLA-A Testing Dates

Our 3rd grade students will be participating in the NJSLA-A state testing on the following dates:

- Tuesday, April 28 & Wednesday, April 29 – Reading
- Thursday, April 30 – Writing
- Tuesday, May 5 & Wednesday, May 6 – Math



Please mark these important dates on your calendar. It is essential

that 3rd grade students are present and on time each day of testing. We kindly ask that you try to avoid scheduling doctor or dental appointments on these dates whenever possible.

Being on time each day is always important, but especially during testing days, as it helps students feel prepared and ready to do their best.

Thank you for your continued support at home, we truly appreciate it!

Message from Ms. Dittloff, Music Teacher

Our 3rd grade students will be bringing their recorders home next week. They have done an amazing job learning notes and songs, great work!

Spring Break is the perfect time for students to share what they've learned with their families and show off their new musical skills.

Enjoy the music!



PreK & K Open Enrollment



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.

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

REGISTRATION BEGINS
JANUARY 15TH



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.

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.

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.

Los estudiantes deben estar matriculados antes del 20 de marzo para poder participar en el sorteo.

LA INSCRIPCIÓN COMIENZA
EL 15 DE ENERO.



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

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





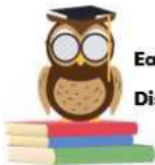
QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
Please call us at (973) 598-0005 to speak to one of Maschio's Registered Dietitian Nutritionists.

FOLLOW US:
@MASCHIOFOOD

[T](#) [I](#) [G](#) [F](#)

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 Read Across America Week • Creamy Mac and Cheese • Fresh Veggie Dippers • Soft Pretzel Stick	3 Breakfast for Lunch • Mini Cinnamon Waffles • Juicy Breakfast Sausage • Crunchy Hash Brown	4 NO SCHOOL No School	5 Lucky Tray Day • Crispy Chicken Parm Sliders • Roasted Parmesan Broccoli	6 Pizza Day • Stuffed Crust Pizza • Freshly Prepared Spring Mix Salad
9 MEATLESS MONDAY • Grilled Cheese Sandwich • Tomato Soup	10 Breakfast for Lunch • Mini Maple Pancakes • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Crunchy Hash Brown	11 BURGER DAY! • Juicy Hamburger on a Bun or • Juicy Cheeseburger on a Bun • Crinkle Cut French Fries	12 International School Meals Day • Seasoned Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla • Black Bean & Corn Salad	13 • Mozzarella Sticks • Freshly Prepared Maschio's House Salad
16 • Egg and Cheese on an English Muffin • Crunchy Tater Tots	17 St. Patrick's Day • Chicken Tenders • Sweet Potato Waffle Fries • Shamrock Pretzel	18 Pasta Day • Pasta with Meatballs and Marinara • Fresh Dinner Roll • Freshly Prepared Garden Salad	19 • Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potato Bowl • Fresh Dinner Roll	20 Spring Equinox Pizza Day • NY Style Bella's Pizza • Freshly Prepared Caesar Salad
23 • Hot Turkey and Cheese Melt on a Croissant • Maple Cinnamon Carrots	24 Scoop-A-Bowl • Seasoned Beef Scoop-A-Bowl with Rice, Cheddar Cheese, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Salsa and Tostitos Scoops • Black Bean and Corn Salad	25 • Cheesy Baked Ziti • Italian Green Beans	26 Breakfast for Lunch • Mini French Toast • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Crunchy Hash Brown	27  Early Dismissal Pizza Day • Personal Cheese Pizza • Freshly Prepared Spring Mix Salad



Spring Break



Spring Break

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**

 <p><small>*MASCHIO'S IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.*</small></p>	 <p>QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Please call us at (973) 598-0005 to speak to one of Maschio's Registered Dietitian Nutritionists.</p>	<p>FOLLOW US: @MASCHIOFOOD</p> <p>  </p>	<p>Healthy meals grow <i>healthy kids!</i></p>
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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

Dave & Buster's Power Cards Fundraiser

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

<https://www.groupraise.com/offer-campaigns/73297-cliffwood-pt0-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

2. GET YOUR POWER CARDS!

3. GET YOUR POWER CARDS!

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

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



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

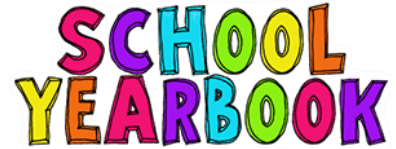
If you're interested in joining a committee or just want to learn more, please fill out our volunteer form or reach out to CliffwoodPTO422@gmail.com

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
Middlesex-Union 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

- 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
- 4/ 28- NJSLA-A Testing (Reading) for 3rd Grade Students
- 4/29- NJSLA Testing (Reading) for 3rd Grade Students
- 4/30- NJSLA Testing (Writing) for 3rd Grade Students
- 5/5 - NJSLA Testing (Math) for 3rd Grade Students
- 5/6 - NJSLA Testing (Math) for 3rd Grade Students
- 5/23-Fun Day & Early Dismissal Day
- 5/25- School Closed Memorial Day



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional
School District

