

# The Garwood Connection

## A Link Between Our Schools And Our Community

Spring/Summer 2017

### A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As the school year comes to a close I can't help but reflect on my ten years as the superintendent of the Garwood School District. I assumed the position the same year the iPhone was launched. Ten years ago all our classrooms had a chalkboard and now chalk is only used for fun on the playground! All of our classrooms have Smartboards and our middle school students all have their own Chromebook! Some educators believe technology has completely changed education, but I agree with the quote by George Couros, *technology will never replace great teachers, but technology in the hands of great teachers is transformational*. The terrific teaching staff at Lincoln School uses technology everyday while teaching our students to be lifelong learners, good citizens, and involved community members. Through technology we empower our students to reach their potential and be the best that they can be!!

Garwood, the small town with a big heart, resonates daily at Lincoln School! Some of our noteworthy 2016-2017 school events are included in this newsletter, the last newsletter to appear in your mailbox. Technology and going green goes hand in hand. Visit our website [www.garwoodschoools.org](http://www.garwoodschoools.org) for future newsletters and all school information.

I want to thank the Garwood community for their support of Lincoln School! You can be proud of the progress that our district continues to make. It takes a lot of dedication from the teaching and support staff, the board of education, the administration, the students and the parents. The support of the community is also of critical importance. Your interest and support for your community's school system will keep both the school and the community strong.

Wishing everyone a healthy, safe, and enjoyable summer!

~Teresa Quigley, Ed.D.

### GARWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDACY INFORMATION

The Garwood School District has information available for citizens interested in running for the Board of Education. There will be three vacancies in the November 7<sup>th</sup> Annual School Election. A full term on the school board runs for three years.

A candidate must file a nominating petition with the Union County Clerk in order for his or her name to appear on the ballot. The deadline to submit the nominating petition is 4:00 p.m. Monday, July 31, 2017.

Nominating petitions and information on running for the school board can be obtained from the board office located in Lincoln School, 400 Second Avenue, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call 908 789-0331, x2122.

### WELCOME TO GARWOOD



Mrs. Buono, Mr. Gilstrap, Mrs. Drummond, Mr. Beatty, Miss Lopes and Ms. Mata (not pictured) have brought their special talents to our school and we are thankful for them! When asked what they like about Lincoln School the group responded that they not only get to educate young minds, but they are also part of a great school community. A big shout out to Mrs. DelConte who has worked in the district for almost twenty years and just completed her first year as a teacher!

## GARWOOD PTA

The first week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week sponsored by the PTA. This year the theme was, "We think our teachers and our school is the best in the world!" Members of the PTA decorated the classroom doors with themes from other countries. Thank you to the PTA for making our staff feel special and for all that you do for the entire Lincoln School community. Visit the PTA website at [www.garwoodpta.my-pta.org](http://www.garwoodpta.my-pta.org).

## EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF GARWOOD



The EFG hosted its annual appreciation dinner at the Westwood on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Susan Naples was honored as the Educator of the Year. A special education and elementary educator, Ms. Naples has taught in the district for over twenty years. Honored for their volunteer work in the community, Mr. and Mrs. Toth and Mr. and Mrs. Spina were honored as the Garwood Persons Making a Difference.



## FALL AND WINTER SPORTS

The Garwood Mustangs soccer team had a stellar season posting an 11-3 record. Coach Burke states that this was the best season in over ten years for the team! Not to be outdone, the boys' and girls' basketball teams coached by Mr. Burke both recorded winning seasons. The Lady Mustangs boasted a 12-4 record while the boys' team went 11-7. **GO MUSTANGS!!**

## PROJECT CHILD FIND

Do you have or know of a preschool child age three to five that may have a developmental delay? If so, our district's Child Study Team can help.

A community-wide effort to find and help preschool age children who may be developmentally delayed and in need of special education services is under way. In many cases, a child who is identified early can be helped with interventions. Sometimes parents are not aware that help is available.

Do you have or know any child from age 5 through 21 who lives within Garwood and may have a disability? The child may currently attend any elementary or secondary program, including non-public schools, or be home-schooled or be highly mobile such as migrant and homeless.

## PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AT YMCA WASHINGTON SCHOOL

The Garwood Family Center Y is located at the former Washington School, 500 East Street. The Y provides a safe and nurturing environment for children to learn, grow, develop social skills and realize their potential. Currently available: full and part time early learning programs for children ages 2 ½ - 5 years old; before and after school complement for students in grades K-5. Information is available from the Director, Shannon McGillis and she can be reached at 908-301-1616.

## SCHOOL BUDGET INFORMATION

The school budget is no longer voted on separately since the State of New Jersey has established a 2% cap. The Garwood School District for the second year in a row is below the 2% cap and has the lowest portion of total property taxes in all surrounding towns.

Garwood	45.1%
Mountainside	46.8%
Clark	49.6%
Kenilworth	54.6%
Cranford	54.6%
Westfield	57.6%
Scotch Plains	63%

\*Above data based on the 2017 Municipal User Friendly Budgets.

The Garwood Board of Education meets the Third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Lincoln School. All citizens are welcome to attend.



**LINCOLN SCHOOL  
AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS**

As a complement to our regular curriculum, Lincoln School has offered many afterschool clubs during the 2016-2017 school year. Ms. Naples continues to inspire our students to give back to their communities with the *Pay It Forward Club*. This year, Ms. Naples worked with our students to collect unused crayons and repurpose them into “Earth Day” crayons. They sold their creations during recess and donated the profits to the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life and other noteworthy organizations.

Mr. Gonzalez added to his repertoire of handling all things musical at Lincoln School by starting our *Glee Club*. This club gives our students an additional opportunity to hone their singing skills while gaining confidence in performing.

Mrs. Benc hosted an *Election Club* for our middle school students in the fall and what an exciting election it was! The students followed the candidates, trends in polling, and designed t-shirts to reflect which candidate that they were supporting. Mrs. Benc had great turn-outs at every meeting as they discussed current issues. The students even had a final viewing party of the presidential inauguration.

One of our newest additions to the Lincoln School teaching staff, Mrs. Buono, established a *Chromebook Club*. The students in chromebook club had fun typing their original compositions while practicing their typing skills. Students also enjoyed being creative and learned about Google docs and sharing their work with their peers.

The most recent addition to our afterschool clubs is our *Backstage Crew Club* run by Mrs. DelConte. The students in this club learn about the behind the scenes work that goes on during play productions. The students helped backstage with the PTA’s “Garwood’s Got Talent” show and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade play, “The Lion King”.

**FOND FAREWELL**

As we say goodbye to the 2016-2017 school year, we bid a fond farewell to three outstanding staff members! Miss Dana Mandy, kindergarten teacher, is retiring after thirty-six years in education and over twenty-two years of service to the district. Mrs. Karen Rosenberg has served the district as a speech language specialist for twenty-one years and Mrs. Lynda McCarrick has been the payroll clerk and confidential secretary to the superintendent since 1987! Although they will be missed, we wish them well on their retirement!



**NEWSWORTHY STUDENTS**

Ms. Cafiero’s math classes recently participated in an online math competition sponsored by *IXL Learning*. Ms. Cafiero’s class was recognized for answering over 100,000 math questions this year! Also making the news were Mrs. Paolino’s math classes for organizing our school to collect pop tabs as a fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House charities. Mrs. DelConte’s Little Bites Pouch brigade was honored as one of the top collectors in the Entenmann’s Recycling Program.

Congratulations to Maria Sophia Mormile the Jets Upstander of the week, Elaina Ficarra and Catherine Dustin Union County Arbor Day poetry contest winners and all of the Lincoln School Students of the Month!

**Garwood Board of Education**  
400 Second Avenue  
Garwood, NJ 07027  
[www.garwoodschoools.org](http://www.garwoodschoools.org)

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**STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

The Garwood Board of Education is committed to equality of opportunity in every aspect of the operation of this school district and will not condone conduct that discriminates among staff members or pupils on the basis of race, gender, age, national origin or ancestry, religion, handicap, or social or economic status.

**The Tradition Continues.....**

Continuing the honored tradition of our annual Eighth Grade Play performance, the Garwood Public Schools Class of 2017 presented *Into The Woods, Jr.* on the weekend of November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Fourth graders performed *The Lion King* to a packed house on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Lincoln School students were introduced to the fundamentals of theatre production and performing arts, including vocal music, dance and drama.

