

The Garwood Connection

A Link Between Our Schools And Our Community

Winter 2015

A Message From The Superintendent

*"Technology is teaching us to be human again."
~Simon Mainwaring*

We may have a few more snowflakes ahead of us but spring is just around the corner and Lincoln School is ready for the warm weather! I hope that your children have been enjoying their school year thus far and included in these pages are highlights of classroom activities. Our school is filled with exciting and challenging activities as our educators continue to bring new ways of teaching and learning to their classrooms.

This school year has been dedicated to upgrading the district technology. New computers have been installed in our computer lab and technology lab and the entire school has WiFi access. Our technology coordinators have been diligently preparing one hundred and fifty chrome books with google applications for education. These chrome books are on carts to enable all teachers and students the opportunity to use them in the classroom. Thank you to the Garwood PTA who has agreed to provide additional chrome books and a cart for Lincoln School for use next year.

As you know the State of New Jersey has moved the yearly paper and pencil standardized tests (NJ ASK) to an on-line version PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). The 6th and 7th grade have completed the 2015 PARCC test and all students in grades 3-8 will take the test throughout the month of March. Additional information on PARCC may be found on our school website at www.garwoodschoools.org. Please visit our website for all school information.

Teresa Quigley, Ed.D.

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 compliment for students in grades K-5. Information is available from the Director, Shannon McGillis and she can be reached at 908-301-1616.

A Message From The Principal

If you ask any of our students what my favorite word is, I guarantee that the answer you would hear the most would be respect! We model it, we discuss it and we live it each and everyday at Lincoln School. If you have been in our cafeteria, then you have seen the big blue and gold letters spelling out RESPECT! We always strive to be a caring community where everyone feels safe and has a sense of belonging. To facilitate this effort we continue to implement a state endorsed school wide safety program called Bully Proofing Your School with the "Bully Busting Curriculum." The program includes six essential lessons which our teachers use as a stepping stone for future topics discussed in class. The main topics of the lessons include recognizing bullying and normal conflict, recognizing aggressive, passive and assertive behavior, using "I" messages, telling/tattling vs. reporting/ratting, conflict resolution, and bystander/upstander strategies.

In addition to this program, this year we are using the children's story, "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" with our entire student body. We introduced it during one of our "Lincoln Links" days where the older students paired up with our younger students. It is a heartwarming sight to see our students in grades 5-8 work with our younger students as they read along with them and discuss the themes of the stories. We believe that these activities help our students build a foundation for success in life and are a daily focus for our entire Lincoln School community.

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

~ Desmond Tutu

Mary Emmons

2015-2016 Kindergarten Registration

Registration for kindergarten for September 2015 will take place Monday, March 23rd to March 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

To expedite registration, forms may be obtained from the Garwood Schools website at www.garwoodschoools.org. Children turning five by October 1, 2015 may be registered for kindergarten. Continued on page 2.

2015-2016 Kindergarten Registration (continued)

The following documents are required for student registration: an **original** and a copy of the child's birth certificate and current immunization records.

The following are required proofs which may be used to establish residency and/or domicile in Garwood:

1. Mortgage, lease or rental agreement with Garwood address;
2. Two or more of the following:
 - a) Utility bill in your name with a Garwood address
 - b) Credit card bill in your name at a Garwood address
 - c) Voter registration card in your name with a Garwood address
 - d) Driver's license in your name with a Garwood address
 - e) Vehicle registration in your name with a Garwood address
 - f) Bank account in your name with a Garwood address
 - g) Federal or State income tax returns indicating domicile in Garwood
 - h) Child custody order placing the child with a Garwood resident

You will NOT be asked for any information or documents protected from disclosure by law, or pertaining to criteria that are not legitimate bases for determining eligibility to attend school.

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.

If you are concerned about your child, or know a child who may need assistance, please call the Garwood School's Child Study Team at 789-0331 ext. 2109 for further information.

Garwood PTA

The Garwood PTA is a proud supporter of Lincoln School, providing our students with enriching school assemblies, team t-shirts, Scholastic Book fairs and family nights. For more information on the PTA, please visit their website at www.garwoodpta.my-pta.org.

Education Foundation of Garwood (EFG)

The EFG was developed in 2004 to provide funding for programs that could not be supported by the district's regular operating budget. The EFG Grants Program has enabled teachers at all grade levels to purchase new equipment and materials for use in their classroom. The Foundation also provides scholarships for Garwood students at the elementary and high school level. The EFG fundraiser is on April 23rd at the Westwood to honor the Educator of the Year and Garwood People Making a Difference. Additional EFG information can be found on the school website at www.garwoodschoools.org.

Language Arts Literacy – Mrs. Benc

Middle school students in Mrs. Benc's LAL classes used multiple sources to research and write an argument piece on this question: Are real or artificial trees more ecofriendly? Be sure to ask a student his or her opinion. You may be surprised by the students' conclusions! Grade seven students are comparing fictional portrayals of life in the middle ages (from novels in the Crispin series) to non-fiction sources containing similar information about personal hygiene and cleanliness. The students worked in groups to prepare large timelines entitled, "The Evolution of Washing." Grade eight students are keeping a moon journal based on their observations of the moon and writing a personal journal from the perspective of a main character in the novel The Little Prince.

Fourth Grade – Mrs. Elias

The fourth grade science classes of Lincoln School have been enthusiastically learning about the relationship between magnetism and electricity. We began our unit studying the properties of magnetism and moved on to the properties of electricity. We are now using what we have learned and are currently building electromagnets in class. The students have learned how to build and increase the strength of an electromagnet. We will complete this unit by using all the skills we have learned and build a telegraph and communicate with each other using Morse code on the telegraphs.

Fourth Grade – Mrs. Parkhill



The fourth grade classes recently started a unit on Colonial life. We began with how immigrants traveled to New Jersey and for what reasons. Once the immigrants were here, they immediately needed to build homes. These homes were usually made of logs. To help the students understand how the homes were made, each student used pretzel sticks, icing and a pint milk carton to recreate a colonial home. Not only did they figure out how to put the "logs" close together to build a sturdy home, but it was also a delicious treat while learning. What a great way to learn about New Jersey's past!

Garwood PTA Playgroup

Kids in training ages 0-4. Meets every Friday at the Presbyterian Church, 341 Spruce Avenue. For more information please contact garwoodplaygroup@gmail.com.

Second Grade – Mrs. O'Connor

It's time for dinosaurs in second grade! The students in Mrs. O'Connor's class spent many weeks learning all about these fascinating creatures. They then created and presented dinosaur dioramas. They are now researching, writing, and illustrating dinosaur books. The next time you see a second grader, make sure you ask them for some dino facts!

Second Grade – Mrs. Florio

Mrs. Florio's second graders have been very busy "travelling" to urban, suburban, and rural communities in Social Studies, "rocketing" through the Solar System in Science, and reading their way through many different genres in Language Arts. In the upcoming months, our second graders will continue their journey as they go back in time and explore the world of dinosaurs, and visit the Monmouth Museum for a fabulous field trip featuring "Ancients to Astronauts: How We Communicate."

Third Grade – Mrs. Cipoletto and Mrs. Ristau

March is Women in History Month. To commemorate this month, third graders will be doing a book report and project on a famous woman of their choice. Students in Mrs. Ristau's and Mrs. Cipoletto's classes will come together to present their reports and projects to their classmates to increase their knowledge of famous women.

First Grade – Mrs. Dohner

Mrs. Dohner's first grade class has adopted an Atlantic Puffin! The students worked hard to collect proofs of purchase in order to make the adoption. It took only a couple of months for the students to collect enough. The class suggested many names for their new class pet and agreed on Fluffy. The students have been reading about and researching the Atlantic Puffin and will do a month long study on the bird and its habitat now that they have reached their goal!

Social Studies – Mrs. Monaghan



Wow! We are having a great time learning about Egypt in sixth grade. A couple of highlights so far were making pyramids out of marshmallows and toothpicks, and recently learning about the steps involved in the mummification process by playing games, and creating mummification wheels.

Science – Mrs. McCarrick

Seventh grade Science classes focus on the concepts of biology, stressing the inter-relations of all living things. Students develop the concept that Science is not learned by memorizing random facts in isolation, but rather by integrating concepts that evolve sensibly from what came before. Mrs. Karen McCarrick's students enjoy projects such as *Recycle A Cell* where they create a model of a plant or animal cell (including all inner parts) out of recycled materials. *Mitosis For Dummies* requires students to work in groups to explain the concept of cell division using trending songs, television shows, or skits. This year the class especially enjoyed *It's All About That Mitosis* a parody of Meaghan Trainor's *It's All About That Base*. An exciting year of seventh grade Science will culminate with students working to dissect a fetal pig in late May.

Fifth Grade – Ms. Naples

Ms. Naples' 5th grade science class is exploring the Earth's changing surface. So far students have experimented with cornstarch and water to create a substance with properties of both a solid and liquid, as found in the mantle of the Earth. Earthquakes and volcanoes are next! Keep your eyes open for Pangaea puzzles, rock blocks and volcano models.

Math – Mrs. Spagnuolo

Students in Mrs. Spagnuolo's Algebra class have been solving algebraic equations using various methods. The students combined both Algebra and persuasive writing to create advertisements describing their preferred method. Students developed slogans and logos to increase their advertisement's effectiveness. Great job, 8th grade!

Spanish – Señora Parkhill

The seventh and eighth grade Spanish students in Señora Parkhill's class have been earning "el viernes divertido" for their hard work in class. Each Friday we divide up into smaller groups and participate in various centers throughout the classroom. Some favorites are *Spot It*, where we find matches to Spanish vocabulary words and pictures and *Verbo*. *Verbo* is an educational form of the popular game Uno. Players practice Spanish grammar and verb conjugations while making matches and having fun.



Physical Education – Mr. Burke

In PE class we just conducted our annual Free Throw shooting contest and our winners in each age group were: 10 yr olds: Joe Carney & Samantha Libman, 11 yr olds: Peter Knutson & Caitlyn Miller, 12 yr olds: Luke Barranger & Erin Hak, 13 yr olds: Stephen Reid & Maggie Carney, 14 yr old: Vito Galluzzo & CC Puentes. The boy's and girls middle school basketball teams have just finished a terrific season! The boys record was 10 wins and 4 losses, while the girls won a record breaking 13 games! Students have just completed the Fitnessgram tests that tests their level of physical fitness. This is part of the Healthy U program provided by the Westfield area YMCA. Healthy U is dedicated to educating children on physical activity and proper nutrition for a healthier lifestyle.

Kindergarten 100th Day Celebration – Mrs. Linken and Ms. Mandy



On Wednesday, February 11th our Kindergarten classes celebrated the 100th day of school. The children began counting our days in school in September and were so happy that the 100th day had finally arrived. Our great event for the 100th day included many fun filled learning center activities. The children worked in small groups painting 100 dots, creating 100 day crowns, making 100 eyed monsters, and counting out 100 snacks to create a wonderful trail mix. They sorted 100 objects by 10's, built buildings with 100 red solo cups, decorated 100 book marks, and wore their 100th day ties proudly. The children were so excited to share their 100th Day experience with us and many of our parent volunteers. Oh, what a wonderful adventure we had. Hooray for the 100th Day!



100th Day Celebration – Mrs. Zatorsky

Mrs. Zatorsky's class celebrated the 100th day of school on February 11th. The children enjoyed working in centers designed around the number 100. The centers consisted of a variety of language arts and math activities. Some of the activities were: creating a list of 100 questions, identifying 100 nouns and verbs, estimating manipulatives, counting tens trail mix, identifying a mystery bag of 100 objects, and building with 100 pieces. The day concluded with a prediction of what they would look like and what they might be doing at 100 years old.

First Grade – Mrs. Koch

The week of February 9-13 proved to be a very busy week in first grade celebrating the 100th Day, Valentines Day, and President's Day. The 100th Day seemed to be the favorite. The students participated in numerous Math, Language Arts and creative skills activities. The most popular activities being the 100 eye monster group project as well as the 100 Cup Sculpture Challenge. A great day was had by all!

Art – Mrs. Planer



Students in the art room have been using recycled materials to create masterpieces. Seventh grade students clipped images from magazines and created compositions around those clippings. Eighth grade students used free paint swatches from the local hardware store to create eye-catching mosaics. Who knew everyday items could be used to create such beautiful work!



Math – Mrs. Arsiwala



Students in Mrs. Arsiwala's math classes have been working hard to achieve the monthly, Khan Academy Master Student Award. The student with the highest points each month wins the award. For the month of January, Chelsea Gentile (6th grader) and Lauren Raftree (3rd grader) earned the highest points. Congratulations!