

The Garwood Connection

A Link Between Our Schools And Our Community

Winter 2016

From The Superintendent:



I had just completed my column for this newsletter which included information about the retirement of Kathy O'Connor when Therese Cipoletto announced her retirement. I revised my column to include Mrs. Cipoletto and right before I sent it to the printer Diane Ristau let me know of her retirement plans! I revised my column once again and was ready to hit the send button when there was a knock on my office door. Janine Koch said, "well I guess you know why I am here", and at that point I rewrote my column for the fourth time!!

I have had the privilege of working in the Garwood School District since 1989 first as teacher and for the past fifteen years as an administrator. Throughout my career I have always felt that this district is a wonderful place to work because the staff is like a second family. The average staff member has been teaching at Lincoln School for almost twenty years and they have a wonderful camaraderie. All of our staff work hard each day to provide your children with a caring safe environment that challenges them to be the best they can be!

At the end of the school year, we will say good bye to four of our finest teachers all of who have won the distinguished Teacher of the Year Award. Between them they have over one hundred years of teaching experience and will be greatly missed at Lincoln School.

Diane Ristau is a proud graduate of Lincoln School! She began her teaching career in 1979 as a basic skills teacher and then started the preschool program at Washington School. In 2004 she moved to third grade where she has been working hard ever since! Our next retiree, Therese Cipoletto has been Mrs. Ristau's grade level partner for seven years and they are a great team! Therese Cipoletto began her career as a paraprofessional in 1989 while her own children were attending Lincoln School. She worked hard during the day and at night attended Kean University to complete her teaching degree. In 1999 she began teaching kindergarten and has taught third grade since 2008. Janine Koch also began in Garwood as a paraprofessional working in the kindergarten at Washington School while her children attended Lincoln School. She returned to the classroom as a teacher in 2001 and has been teaching first grade for the past five years. Kathy O'Connor returned to teaching in 1993 after having her family. First she was a part-time basic skills teacher and then taught kindergarten and has been teaching second grade since 1999.

Each of these retiring teachers have brought their unique gifts to the students and staff of Lincoln School and we are all better for having known them. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with them and I wish them much happiness in their retirement!

If you would like to learn more about Lincoln School or to see this newsletter in color, please visit the school website at

www.garwoodschoools.org

From The Principal:

As always, there are so many wonderful things happening at Lincoln School. I hope you can take some time to read about some of the fantastic events that clearly show that Together Everyone Achieves More!

The Great Kindness Challenge

The Lincoln School community participated in the Great Kindness Challenge which is one school week devoted to performing as many acts of kindness as possible. Small acts of kindness can make a big difference. That's the message behind the "Great Kindness Challenge, which took place from **Jan. 25-29, 2016**. This awesome idea came from Kids for Peace, a global non-profit organization. As part of the Great Kindness Challenge, students at Lincoln School performed random acts of kindness. Pictured here are Lincoln School students who helped to put up a "Bucket Filler" display based on the Character Education book entitled, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?- A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids*"



Souper Bowl of Caring

The day after the "Big Game" between the Denver Broncos and the Carolina Panthers, staff and students at Lincoln School in Garwood participated in their 10th annual "Souper" Bowl of Caring. The Souper Bowl of Caring utilizes Super Bowl weekend in America to mobilize young people to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. Lincoln School community "took the field" to carry out their game plan of helping fight hunger in the region by collecting donations for their "Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive." Donations were sent to the local food pantry sponsored by the Garwood Knights of Columbus.



Garwood Board of Education Members



The Garwood Board of Education is made up of nine members, elected by the public to serve a three-year term. Terms are overlapping to ensure continuity of leadership. The nine member board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Lincoln School cafeteria. **Miss Christine Guerriero** has been the Garwood Board of Education president for the past three years. She is a life long resident of Garwood and a proud graduate of Lincoln School! A high school nurse, Miss Guerriero knows first hand the challenges that face public school districts in New Jersey. **Mrs. Amanda Langston** has just begun her second term as a Garwood Board of Education member and is serving her first term as the vice-president of the board. She is the proud mother of 10 year old twin boys and the former special education parent liaison for the district. **Miss Linda Koenig** has been a member of the Garwood Board of Education for almost twenty years. The town historian, Miss Koenig is the only member of the board to receive the title of Master Board member from the New Jersey School Board Association. **Mrs. Susan Groning** has been on the board of education for nine years and has been on the finance committee since joining the board serving as the chair for the past seven years. As a lifelong resident of Garwood and a taxpayer, Mrs. Groning is diligent in reviewing the yearly school budget and its tax impact on the community. Completing his second term, **Mr. Brendan McDermott**, a high school teacher in Elizabeth, has worked diligently to ensure that our students are being prepared to be competitive in the global economy through the use of technology. **Mr. Aaron Watkins** moved to Garwood in 1996 because he liked the small town community. A member of the Knights of Columbus, Aaron is enjoying his second career as a catholic school teacher in Elizabeth and his second term on the board of education. **Mrs. Kim Ficarra** was appointed by the board of education in 2014 when there was an open seat. She was interested in volunteering for the board, as the board's main goal is to work with the community to improve student achievement. Mrs. Ficarra is also an active member of the Education Foundation of Garwood. (EFG) **Ms. Kathleen Patterson** won a three year board seat as a write-in candidate in the November election. She is excited to learn about the role of a board member and to make sure the Garwood School District provides the best possible education to our students. **Ms. Tracey Roland** was appointed to the Garwood Board of Education in December 2015 and is excited to volunteer for the school community. The past president and current member of the EFG, Tracey is committed to educating the children of Garwood. To view the board members complete biography or to learn more about the board please visit the district website at www.garwoodschoools.org

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.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for kindergarten for September 2016 will take place Tuesday, April 5th to Tuesday, April 12th 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, 2016 may be registered for kindergarten.

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 2½ -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.

Alumni News

Lincoln School graduate, Ryan Baron, was presented with the Kutztown University President's Citation. Ryan Baron was selected as the first student to receive the President's Citation because of heroic actions performed on August 24, 2015, the first day of fall classes at Kutztown. Exiting the Boehm Science Center, Ryan noticed a student in medical distress. Having worked as an emergency medical technician during the summer, he administered emergency care until university police and an EMS team arrived. The recipient of the President's Citation must be a current student who has performed an exceptional act of service that directly benefits the well-being of others.

Save the Date: Thursday, April 21, 2016

EFG Dinner at the Westwood honoring the Educator of the Year and the Garwood Person Making a Difference!

School Notes

Mrs. Hak's **preschoolers** are explorers looking for treasures! A treasure map was found in the classroom and students went on an adventure to find the letter X. The map had numbers to follow and clues along the way. After figuring out the clues, the students were lead right to the treasure! **Second Grade** is Dino-Mite! Did someone say T-Rex? Mrs. Florio's class just started a unit on dinosaurs so stay tuned because on March 18th room 208 will be filled with some awesome dioramas as the children become junior paleontologists. Can you name a favorite activity of Mrs. O'Connor's second graders? It would probably be using Chromebooks. From the moment the cart is wheeled into the room, you can feel the excitement. They might be improving reading skills with Reading Eggs, practicing keyboarding with Typing Club, or having fun in math with Math Playground. The one thing they all have in common is realizing that learning can be fun! Mrs. Zatorsky's class has been busy learning about the U.S. government and the Constitution. The children have enjoyed learning how our government works and why we have a Constitution. The class has learned rap songs, developed fact flip books, used the think, pair, share strategy to reinforce concepts, as well as created interactive notebooks to study. The children truly enjoyed this social studies unit and are now looking forward to learning about the election process.

Our **Third Graders** in Mrs. Cipoletto's and Mrs. Ristau's classes are enjoying using the chrome books for many activities. They have been using sites such as Fun Brain, Study Island and PARCC Games to reinforce math facts and reading skills. They have been practicing their keyboarding skills in preparation for the upcoming PARCC test. Recently they started using the Chromebooks to keep up on current events by reading the Scholastic News. Students in Ms. Cafiero's **fifth grade** math class have been working on adding and subtracting fractions using various methods. The students worked to create fraction strips that were used to find equivalent fractions and completed a Jog-A-Thon math task in which they used their skills to solve a real-life application problem. Students will use their previous knowledge moving forward as we dive into multiplication and division of fractions. Look out for our Multiplying and Dividing Fractions Choice Board Project in which students choose three mini-projects to practice their new skills! Mrs. Dally's **fifth graders** have been working hard in Social Studies researching an influential African American. The first step of the research was to create a trading card on the person they are researching and then they will write a biography on their influential African American.

Creating a successful board game is an extensive process in the field of leisure and entertainment today, and Mrs. Benc's sixth grade **language arts literacy** class learned a little about that process when they constructed their own board games. Students selected a topic introduced in the level six Wordly Wise book (like the water cycle, silkworms, the Statue of Liberty) and created a board, questions, and an overall design related to that theme. Seventh grade students are reading their fourth novel, *Crispin: The End of Time*, set in the Middle Ages. As an extension to the unit of study, they have also read a packet entitled "The History of Washing" and charted advancements in hygiene and cleanliness from prehistoric times through the present. Eighth graders in Mrs. Benc's class have read a wide variety of novels from different genres and will be comparing the plot of the Newbery Award-winning novel *The Giver* to the recent big screen version. After viewing the DVD, students will write a letter to the director of the movie, expressing their opinion of the differences between the text and movie versions. Students in Señora Parkhill's **Spanish** classes have been working hard integrating their Chromebooks into everyday lessons. The students have worked on sharing documents to create descriptive paragraphs while demonstrating their knowledge of the Spanish vocabulary and grammar that they have learned. A favorite student website is Duolingo, which helps students strengthen their basic vocabulary skills with repetitive and engaging activities on the Chromebook. A class favorite is Quizlet where students practice the unit vocabulary while trying to beat each other's scores.

Mrs. Planer's **art** students were introduced to recycled art; specifically sculptures constructed out of recycled materials. The class looked at examples of recycled sculptures from all over the world and viewed a documentary on a group of people in Africa who were making their living selling their recycled sculptures. Students used plastic caps, plastic parts from the ceiling lights in the school, and other various materials to create 3-D works of art. All roads lead to Rome in seventh grade **Social Studies**. Students have been learning about Rome through project based learning. Projects featured were Roman inspired shields, recyclable Roman forts, mosaic designs, and building catapults culminating with a marshmallow shooting contest. Mrs. Monaghan's students worked in groups creating Google slideshows on a variety of topics of their choosing. Some of the topics presented included Roman food and desserts, weaponry, clothing, music, holidays and volcanoes. During **PE Class** the students have completed their Fitnessgram testing and are involved in indoor activities such as volleyball, basketball, & floor hockey. Coming in March the students will be starting archery. Over Winter Break, the boy's and girl's basketball teams attended a Monmouth University Women's Basketball game and got to play on the court during halftime. Lets gooooooooooooo Mustangs!!

Garwood Board of Education
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www.garwoodschoools.org

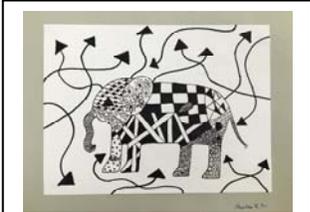
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STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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.



Mrs. Planer's 7th grade students created their own zentangle images.



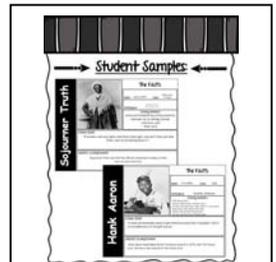
Over Winter Break, the Lincoln School's basketball teams attended a Monmouth University Women's Basketball game and got to play on the court during halftime.



Mrs. Benc's 8th graders are completing some research during their LAL class.



3-D works of art made from recycled materials.



Here are some samples of the trading cards Mrs. Dally's 5th grade created with their Chromebooks.