



BACK TO SCHOOL





– ADVERTORIAL –

Njswim offers year-round swim lessons for children of all ages and abilities

Their state-of-the-art aquatic centers feature large heated indoor pools, parent viewing areas, and fantastic pool parties for birthdays or other celebrations.

“Our back-to-school swim programs are absolutely the best method of teaching kids of all ages the fundamentals of water safety and how to feel comfortable in the water, how to be safe, and really learn how to swim,” says Njswim Founder Joe Oehme.

It’s no wonder families are flocking to Njswim in Brick and Manasquan - their experience and education for swim instruction is second to none. Njswim offers semi-private swim lessons with a 3:1 student to teacher ratio ensuring each child gets the attention they deserve. All staff members are experienced, certified swim teachers who have completed coursework in lifeguard training, water safety, first aid, personal fitness training, psychology and early childhood education.

Their passion to teach safer swimming has fueled growth and expansion in New



ly with custom changing rooms, stroller parking and hair drying stations. The beautiful indoor pools are heated, with top-of-the-line water and air filtration systems.

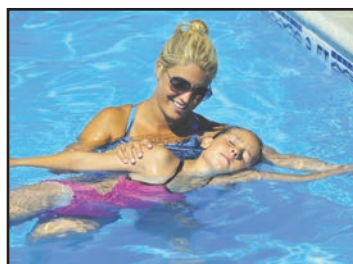
Njswim offers year-round swim lessons



for people of all ages and abilities. Their award-winning “Water Babies” curriculum is for 3 to 15-month-old

babies and is taught entirely with parental assistance. This program is designed to provide families with a safe and positive introduction to an aquatic environment with the goal of achieving a relaxed demeanor in the water for both the children and parents.

The next progression is for children of 16 to 30 months with a goal of weaning children into lessons with less parental



assistance. profile Njswim is a different kind of swim school experiencing tremendous growth throughout New Jersey, and this year is celebrating its 21-year anniversary of making learning to swim fun. With over 130 teachers and more than 5,000 lessons per week they care about water safety

and the families they serve.

Safety swim lessons for preschoolers are the first level where children are independent of their parents with a teacher and are taught breath control, supported floating and how to enter and exit the pool safely. A free swim evaluation is offered to help teachers determine the best class level and options for each child.

Njswim offers flexible year-round rolling memberships, allowing families to jump in at times that best suit their busy schedules and have spots reserved as they go through the year. Njswim Turnersville features a very popular “intensive Summer Swim” program, a 5-day program designed to help children improve quicker than weekly lessons. A week of Intensive Swim gives students over a month worth of lessons in one week with amazing results.

Njswim is a founding member of the NJ Swim Safety Alliance, National Drowning



Jersey and their “learn to float” philosophy has made Njswim one of the largest year-round swim schools in the state of New Jersey.

Njswim is family and water-baby friend-



Prevention Alliance, Safer 3 Water Safety Foundation, and on the board of directors of Stop Drowning Now, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to water safety.



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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — BRIELLE

Brielle superintendent introduces Dean of Students Stephanie Pennetti

STAR NEWS GROUP

As the Superintendent/Principal at Brielle Elementary School, I am very excited to be making final preparations for the 2024-2025 school year.

It has been a very busy summer at Brielle Elementary School. Our students were involved in a variety of great programming, and our staff engaged in a range of professional activities that will enhance students' learning experiences throughout the next school year. Our maintenance and custodial staff

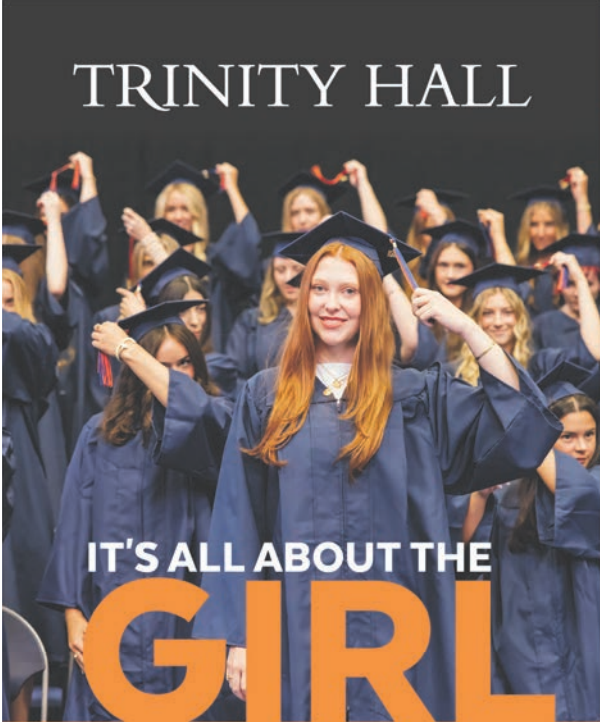
have worked diligently to make preparations for September, including the restoration of our school media center, and our office staff has contributed tremendously to ensuring a smooth start to the school year.

We are looking forward to the addition of Stephanie Pennetti, as our Dean of Students, for the upcoming school year. Given her experience and professional background, Mrs. Pennetti will be a great asset to Brielle Elementary School.

As we move into the new school year, I would like to thank the Board of Education and all stakeholders who support our efforts to provide students with an excellent education. The partnership with our school and community organizations contributes to the success of our mission, and we look forward to a productive and successful school year for the students of Brielle.

Sincerely,
Stacie Poelstra
Superintendent/Principal

TRINITY HALL



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Wednesday, November 6, 2024

ENTRANCE EXAMS:
Saturday, October 19, 2024
Saturday, November 16, 2024
Saturday, January 25, 2025

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MARK R. SULLIVAN STAR NEWS GROUP

SUPERINTENDENT AND PRINCIPAL RICK PAPER HYPES STUDENTS UP

At the start of the 2023-24 school year, Superintendent/Principal Rick Papera high fived students as they prepared to enter the halls of Sea Girt Elementary for the first time that school year.



The Atlantic Club
Manasquan



Junior Tennis Programs
at The Tennis Center

Exciting News! Our PTR-certified instructors are in the USTA's Coach Youth Tennis program, offering top-notch training for kids 12 and under. Get your kids trained by the best!



Junior Pickleball Programs
at The Pickleball Center

Join the Fun! Our Pickleball Junior Program for ages 9-15 teaches the ins and outs of Pickleball, including dinking, dropping, attacking, and scorekeeping. Enjoy on-court drilling, cooperative play, and exciting live ball games!

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Tryout Dates:
August 14th @ 5:30pm
August 17th + 24th @ 10:00am

SCAN 



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Sarah Takash Photography

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 www.springlakeschoolofdance.com

SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — SPRING LAKE
Spring Lake Superintendent shares updates for new school year

STAR NEWS GROUP

As we flip the calendar to August, we find ourselves eagerly preparing for the 2024-2025 academic year. This year holds the promise of abundant opportunities and significant growth for all students who attend H. W. Mountz School.

Visitors will discover numerous exciting additions and improvements designed to enhance the learning experience for our students. These changes reflect our commitment to providing the best possible environment for academic and personal development.

We extend our gratitude to the Boosters organization who generously supported the scheduled refurbishment

of our outdoor basketball court, enhancing a wonderful space for the students to engage in sports and stay active. We are also thrilled to unveil our new district website, designed to enhance communication and provide valuable resources for our school community. Additionally, we appreciate the dedication of our faculty who continues to engage in teaching, completing committee work and revising curriculum throughout the summer.

Our dedicated custodial team work every day towards ensuring that students return to gleaming floors and pristine facilities that are both inspiring and conducive to learning.

We look forward to a continued mission of guiding students along their personalized learning journeys. Whether they aim to grow academically, explore passions in enrichment or uncover athletic talents, each student has a unique path to follow. Our objective is to equip each of them with the resources and support needed to realize their individual goals and dreams.

Let's strive for an academic year marked by great achievements, significant growth, and unforgettable experiences for all of our students.

Stephen LaValva, Ed.D.
 Superintendent/
 School Business Administrator



MARK R. SULLIVAN STAR NEWS GROUP

STUDENTS RETURN TO H.W. MOUNTZ TO BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS

Parents like Orly Vallario walked with her children, Lyla and Nia, on their first day of school at H.W. Mountz last year.



SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — BRADLEY BEACH

Kicking off the 24-25 school year in Bradley Beach

STAR NEWS GROUP

As the start of the '24-'25 school year rapidly approaches, the Bradley Beach Elementary School community is brimming with anticipation. Our diverse, small-scale learning environment, rich with a variety of programs, clubs, and supportive services, sets the stage for another exciting year of academic excellence and overall student success.

This year, we are happy to announce the launch of our Dual Language Pre-K program. This innovative program aims to immerse our youngest learners in a bilingual environment, fostering language development and cultural awareness from an early age. We believe this will set a strong foundation for our students as they progress through their educational journey.

In addition to the Dual Language Pre-K program, we are expanding the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program to include Grade 8. This program is designed to equip our middle school students with essential skills for high school, college, and beyond, enhancing their organizational capabilities and academic foundation. We expect this expansion to significantly boost our students'

readiness for future educational endeavors. We are also excited to introduce a new Phonics program for Grades K-2. This initiative will provide our young learners with a solid grounding in reading skills, ensuring they have the necessary tools for literacy success.

Continuing our commitment to family engagement, we will be again hosting a series of parent workshops throughout the year. These workshops will cover a range of topics, including health and wellness and the high school application processes. We believe that by empowering parents with knowledge and resources, we can enhance the overall educational experience for our students.

Our vibrant athletic program remains a cornerstone of student life, offering activities such as baseball, softball, basketball, soccer, and cheerleading. Beyond sports, we have a variety of clubs and activities to cater to diverse interests, including a student-run newspaper *The Tides*, Computer Club, Student Council, Garden Club, National Junior Honor Society, Environmental Club, Yearbook Club, and Safety Patrol. On the artistic front, we continue to support creative expression through our

performing arts groups, including Drama Club, Band, Guitar Ensemble, Chorus, and Percussion Ensemble. These programs provide students with valuable opportunities to develop their talents and showcase their skills.

We are also proud to maintain strong collaborations with local Bradley Beach community organizations, enabling us to host enriching events like 'One Beach, One Read,' and our DARE program. Our focus on student wellness is reflected in the support services we offer, including a school counselor and our innovative SOLE program, which encourages positive character development among all students.

As always, Bradley Beach Elementary School accepts tuition students. Spaces are available across various grade levels; interested parties are encouraged to contact the school at 732-775-4413 or info@bbesnj.org.

Lastly, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our active Board of Education and our PTA for their unwavering support. Together, we look forward to a productive, engaging, and successful 24-25 academic year.

Michael Heidelberg
Superintendent/Principal



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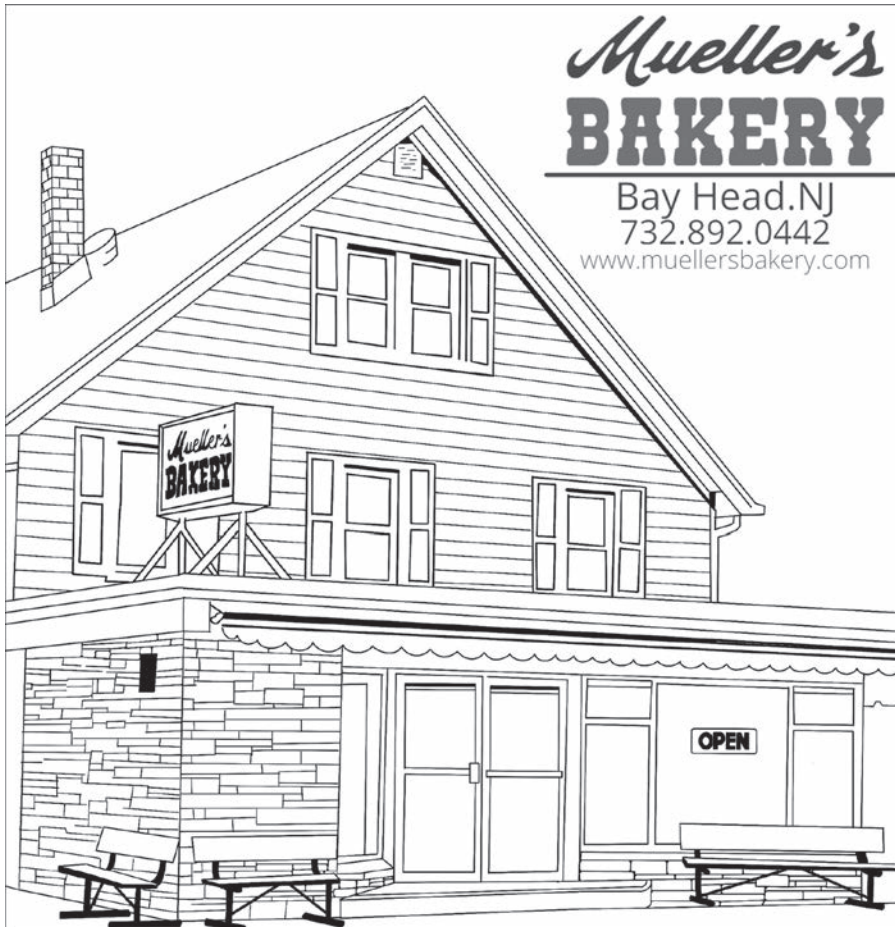
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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — WALL TOWNSHIP

Wall superintendent discusses exciting curricular endeavors on horizon

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear WTPS Community,

I hope that you and your families are having a wonderful and rejuvenating summer. With the 2024-2025 school year approaching, I wanted to remind the WTPS families that summer assignments are available online (optional and in some cases, required) and grade level/course supply lists for the 2024-2025 school year are available on our website as well.

Wall Township Public Schools administration, staff and faculty have been very busy this summer preparing for our upcoming school year. This summer, we continued to move forward with some key improvements/upgrades to our facilities, largely funded by the December 2022 Referendum. Again, thank you to the residents of Wall Township for valuing and supporting the much-needed investment in our schools. To view photos

of district-wide building upgrades and projected timelines, please visit the "Referendum" tab on our website (www.wallpublicschools.org)

Once again, WTPS has some exciting curricular endeavors on the horizon. In English/Language Arts (ELA), the implementation of the science of reading methodologies will officially launch in grades 3-5 (K-2 implementation took place during 2023-2024 school year). This year, mathematics will be a major focus as we begin a multi-year, K-12 study. We plan to collaboratively research and engage with new resource materials so we can implement the very best practices for our students. Next school year marks the second year of the implementation of the district-wide 7 Mindsets program. This year we will build upon last year's foundational work through more student-initiated experiences, as well as increased community engagement.

Wall High School opens with a new master schedule (same arrival and dismissal times) to optimize instructional time for all students. Also, Wall High School will launch a new dual enrollment partnership with Stockton University so our students can earn college credit for classes taken at WHS. Our special services department has been hard at work preparing for our new RISE program at WHS to address specialized educational needs for high school students requiring a small and restorative setting. Special Services and WHS are also excited to offer a Unified Physical Education class to further develop Unified Sports activities and inclusivity.

Reminder: Follow us on your preferred social media platform for important updates (including Hot Off the Press Snow Day announcements!), community and family programming and District-wide school news (visit wallpublicschools.org for details). We at WTPS look forward to welcoming our students on Wednesday, Sept. 4. I hope the remaining weeks of summer will be filled with lasting memories, lots of laughter and great health.

Sincerely,

Tracy R. Handerhan, D.Litt.

Wall Township Public Schools Superintendent
#walltogether

Since 1907, Oratory Prep has provided young men in grades 7-12 with true balance through rigorous academics, challenging athletics, clubs for many interests, and opportunities to serve the community—all rooted in the Roman Catholic tradition. Visit our beautiful 11-acre campus in Summit, NJ and experience for yourself what makes Oratory Prep the ideal place to embark on your future.

2024 Open House Dates
September 29th at 1:00 p.m.
October 24th at 6:30 p.m.

www.oratoryprep.org/admissions





SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — BELMAR

Belmar school leaders welcome families to another new school year

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear BES Families,

On behalf of the Belmar School District administration, faculty, and staff, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our students and their families as we begin the 2024-25 school year. We are looking forward to partnering with you to ensure high levels of growth for all students.

As we embark on this school year, our strategic plan remains the cornerstone of our journey. By utilizing both internal

assessments and state testing results, we aim to identify our areas for improvement and celebrate our successes. Through innovative scheduling and a collaborative, all-hands-on-deck approach, we are dedicated to addressing the individual needs of every student, ensuring their growth and success in the years ahead.

Belmar Elementary School has made significant upgrades to our facilities. We are currently replacing the entire roof with a new metal roofing

system that will last decades. We expect to complete the project before the first day of school and are excited to see the results. Additionally, we relied on Belmar Plumbing for a crucial repair that restored our facility to full functionality.

We are dedicated to creating a safe environment where students can develop during these essential years. BES is excited to introduce new initiatives and programs designed to emphasize empathy, communication skills, and the develop-

ment of healthy relationships. These efforts aim to help students balance their in-person experiences with the demands of 21st-century life. We will continue to create positive Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons, and the SOAR program will remain a significant part of our wellness plan.

In preparation for the 2024-25 school year opening, please log in to the Genesis Parent Portal, which will be open on Monday, August 19, 2024 and complete the necessary documents

and forms to view your child's classroom placement. If you require assistance accessing Genesis Parent Portal, please email helpdesk@belmar.k12.nj.us.

Our first school day for students is Wednesday, September 4th, 2024. On September 4th, 5th, and 6th we will have a 12:30 dismissal. Lunch will be available on those days. September 9th is the start of our full-day schedule from 8:05 -2:55 for students in grades K-8 and 8:05-2:00 for all students in preschool.

Breakfast will be available to students every day from 7:40 to 8:00 in the large cafeteria.

We look forward to meeting all of our families at Back To School Night on Wednesday, September 25th at 6:15 p.m. We hope you enjoy the last few weeks of summer!

Jimmy Alvarez, Superintendent

Sarah Wilton, Principal

Lauren Vasile, Director of PreK/Supervisor of Special Services



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RANNEY SCHOOL

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Ranney School, an age 3 through Grade 12 college preparatory school in Tinton Falls, has a strong commitment to STEAM and hands-on learning is evident in all three academic divisions—from early childhood’s exploration of scientific concepts in the school’s community garden to international travel and other unique experiences as part of the Upper School’s two-week long Maymester. Ranney is also home to state-of-the-art spaces including a finance lab with Bloomberg terminals, a new CoLABoratory for Lower Schoolers to engage in interdisciplinary project-based learning, an observatory, and a new Lower School library and learning commons.



Private tours available: www.ranneyschool.org/discover

SUPERINTENDENT’S WELCOME — SEA GIRL

Sea Girt school chief welcomes back students

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear Students, Families, and Members of the Sea Girt Community,

Hello, Patriots! I hope you and your family are having a wonderful summer! It is going by quickly. I have gotten to hear about some of your adventures from those of you who have attended our summer programs or have been outside playing in the Boosters Stickball League. I can’t wait to hear from the rest of you when we return to school on September 4th!

As always, it has been a busy summer here at

SGES. We have had students in the building participating in Brain Camp, Summer Music, Lego Camp, Babysitting Certification, Gardening, Archery, Pre-High Summer Reading, and more. Dr. Russo and I took a trip over to rec one day and loved getting to see all of our students who were having fun there. We also loved seeing our graduates working as counselors.

Our new Sea Girt PTO board has gotten off the ground running! They are working with representatives from other

groups, such as the Class of 2025 parents, to plan for a fun and exciting school year!

Please join me in welcoming any new families to the SGES community! We look forward to getting to know you!

If you have any questions as September approaches, please feel free to reach out.

See you on September 4th. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,
Rick Papera
Superintendent/Principal



MARK R. SULLIVAN STAR NEWS GROUP

MANASQUAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Manasquan High School students filed into the front door last year on their first day of school.



SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — POINT PLEASANT BEACH

Superintendent Smith previews '24-'25 school year at the Beach

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear Students, Parents, and Community Members,

Our Geometry for Advancement course and Summer Enrichment programs at Point Pleasant Beach High School and G. Harold Antrim Elementary School are fast approaching their conclusions, and more and more high school athletes are dotting the fields for morning training sessions. These are sure signs that the start of the school year is just around the corner. I enjoy the fresh perspective and clear mind that accompany September's arrival and the eager energy and enthusiasm that staff and students bring back to school. September marks the first steps in a new journey for everyone!

Last year, we began our Middle States re-accreditation process, and we are enthusiastic about how this strategic planning process is shaping the District's goals. In recent years, the District was fortunate to have earned Future Ready and Sustainable Jersey for Schools recognitions, and in 2023 we were awarded our first AP School Honor Roll Gold Medal. We are eagerly awaiting news about the outcome of our Apple Distinguished Schools

renewal application. We are proud that these distinct programs have identified and celebrated innovative classroom and operational practices throughout the Beach.

One program at Point Pleasant Beach High School that remains particularly popular for students and their families is Gull Flight School, a partnership with Ocean County College that offers college credits to students who enroll in one of 50 dual enrollment courses. Gull Flight School is open to all students and provides students the opportunity to earn both college and high school credit concurrently. As a personalized, comprehensive high school, Point Pleasant Beach High School offers something for everyone — from computer science to chemistry, entrepreneurship to the history of rock n' roll.

G. Harold Antrim Elementary School takes its responsibility for foundational learning seriously, aspiring to build future Gull leaders with a character first approach. The introduction of a book vending machine last year yielded tremendous enthusiasm from students and was part of a schoolwide effort to develop a strong PK-8 student community. Antrim will once again feature a One School, One Book

program that will bring the school community together in the exploration of literature and life. Antrim will also be introducing a new reading/ELA series for K-4 students this year. Explorations in the STEM and performing and fine arts areas will continue to push students to extend their knowledge through experimentation and performance.

When you do arrive back at school, you will find beautiful new gym floors at each school and a resurfaced track ringing the Donald T. Fioretti Field within the Pine Belt Athletic Complex. The F. Thomas Crawley auditorium has received a new sound system, and our maintenance team has been busy transitioning us to energy efficient LED lighting fixtures throughout the District.

We look forward to sharing even more great news over the course of this year. I hope to see you cheering for the Garnet Gulls this autumn. School begins for students on September 5th. I wish everyone a wonderful and inspiring school year, and I thank you for your continued support of Point Pleasant Beach schools.

Sincerely,
William T. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Are you interested in learning audition techniques or improving your craft as a triple threat in Theatre Workshop? Do you hope to elevate your talents in various dance disciplines including Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary and Hip Hop? Join the SPRING LAKE THEATRE & DANCE ACADEMY for our 41st year of childrens' arts education where building confidence and instilling kindness are part of our core values!



REGISTRATION

Returning Students: August 26th
New Students: August 27th

Registration for new students will be in person. We believe that our students benefit from the personal connection between our teachers, parents and students as we begin a brand new school year.



THEATRE WORKSHOP

Our Theatre Workshop Program allows children (grades 2-12) to excel in their strongest theatrical skills of singing, dancing or acting, while also learning and growing in the other facets of theatre.



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**SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME —
POINT PLEASANT BOROUGH**

**Point Boro superintendent
welcomes students back
on their 'Panther Paths'**

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear Point Pleasant Borough District Families,

As the days grow shorter, we find ourselves beginning to look toward and prepare for the 2024-2025 school year. It promises to be one filled with opportunity and growth for all our Point Pleasant Panthers, from kindergarten at our community elementary schools to the halls of Point Pleasant High School.

This past year, we witnessed outstanding scores on Advanced Placement (AP) exams at the high school level. We have exceeded levels of success in AP and dual enrollment that were not previously accomplished in our district. This academic achievement is a testament to the dedication of our students, the unwavering support of our teachers, counselors, and families, and a K-12

educational environment that promotes passion and resilience through diverse and challenging learning opportunities. Accomplishments like this are a powerful reminder of the exceptional educational experience we offer at Point Pleasant Borough District.

Also, you'll find some exciting additions and improvements throughout the district. At Ocean Road Elementary and in partnership with the PTO, the swing sets are being upgraded and replaced, and a new larger swing set area will be ready to go for September. Nellie F. Bennett Elementary School is receiving a crucial electrical system upgrade to accommodate HVAC installation and other critical improvements. This work will be completed throughout the fall. At Memorial Middle School, creativity and critical thinking take center stage with the design and installation of a brand-new open-learning STEAM lab. This innovative space will foster collaborative learning and ignite curiosity in our young minds.

As you prepare to send your Panthers back to school, you can be assured that all our buildings, Ocean Road to Memorial Middle School to Point Borough High

School, have been meticulously cleaned and prepped. Throughout the summer, our dedicated buildings and grounds team has been working tirelessly to maintain the beauty and functionality of all our schools. Freshly waxed floors and sparkling facilities will greet students on the first day, creating a bright and welcoming environment in safe, nurturing, and inclusive schools.

As we embark on this new academic year, let's continue to help students find and navigate their "Panther Paths." Whether it's excelling in academics, pursuing a passion for fine and performing arts, discovering athletic talents, or simply exploring the endless college and career opportunities in and out of the classroom, there's a path waiting for every student in our district.

As a hub of the community, let's all remain committed to guiding students toward developing leadership, interpersonal, social, and academic skills as they strive to achieve their full potential. Together, let's make this year a roaring success!

Sincerely,
Adam L. Angelozzi, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Point Pleasant Borough District





SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — BAY HEAD

Another 'fin-credible' year of learning upcoming at Bay Head School

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear Bay Head School Community,

As we are midway through another summer season, I'm thrilled to welcome you back to another exciting year at the Bay Head School, home of the Sharks!

This year promises to be particularly special. We're not just preparing for a new school year but making a splash with some fantastic additions.

First, we're excited to announce a new pre-K program in partnership with Point Beach Prep! This exciting collaboration allows us to welcome even younger learners into the Bay Head School family, fostering a love of learning and preparing students for Kindergarten.

Secondly, the tennis courts are receiving an upgrade due to previously awarded grant funding. From fencing to

resurfacing and the addition of pickleball courts, our outdoor recreation and physical education areas have received a much-needed upgrade. The new courts will provide a fantastic space for students to develop their skills and enjoy healthy competition.

As usual, you'll be happy to know that our dedicated custodial and grounds staff have been working to ensure the entire school is sparkling clean. Freshly waxed floors and clean learning environments will create a safe and welcoming atmosphere for all our students.

However, what truly makes the Bay Head School unique is something far more valuable than any new program or facility. It's the spirit of our school community. We are a close-knit school where teachers, staff, students, and fam-

ilies work together to create a supportive and enriching learning environment. In addition, groups like the Home and School Association, the Education Foundation, and the Bay Head Yacht Club all support amazingly immersive learning opportunities that our students are fortunate to experience throughout their time at the Bay Head School.

As we enjoy the latter half of the summer, I look forward to seeing our returning students and staff members and welcoming the newest Sharks to our school.

Prepare for a "Fin-credible" year of learning, growing, and making memories together!

Enjoy the rest of your summer,

Adam L. Angelozzi,
Ed.D.

Superintendent, Bay Head School

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — LAVALLETTE

Lavallette super highlights district's uniqueness

STAR NEWS GROUP

Lavallette Elementary School is excited to welcome back our students, staff, and families to the 2024-25 school year! Together with the support of the Lavallette Board of Education, our parents and families, the PTO, our partnership with the mayor and council, our police department,

public works, and community organizations, Lavallette Elementary School is a thriving, safe, caring and academically challenging environment where students develop the confidence and competencies to become socially responsible, civic-minded citizens who think critically about the world around them.

Located just one block between the picturesque Atlantic Ocean and the Barnegat Bay, Lavallette Elementary School provides an idyllic setting in which students can explore the community and surrounding ecosystems. Students have access to our state of the art aquaponics garden, an innovative STEAM lab, and our daily focus on children's social emotional learning. Known for our small class sizes with teachers who are passionate about providing the very best learning experiences, our students enjoy challenging, yet supportive learning environments. Using multiple measures of data, our team of educators use a research-based Response to Inter-

vention framework and evidenced-based co-teaching practices to ensure that each student is challenged to meet their unique potential, while providing the interventions or enrichment needed to do so.

What makes Lavallette Elementary School special?

In addition to serving the residents of Lavallette and Seaside Park, Lavallette Elementary School welcomes tuition students from neighboring communities whose parents seek a high-quality academic experience for their child, complemented by a wide range of both co- and extracurricular activities that challenge and engage

children to achieve their full potential.

In Kindergarten through Grade 4, each day begins with a social emotional framework called Circle of Power and Respect, that builds community in the classroom and helps students develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals. Additionally, our school counselor provides additional support for all students through classroom lessons, small group, and individual sessions that address the unique needs of all students.

Our ACES gifted and talented program is designed to identify and serve high-achieving students

in accordance with their capabilities, providing enrichment programs in literacy, mathematics, and STEAM. Our Career Awareness and Exploration Program (CAEP) provides students with an opportunity to explore their own personal interests, their talents and skills, while learning about careers in proper context.

Our aquaponics garden and innovative STEAM lab provide a visual, hands-on experiential learning opportunity for students. Whether it's harvesting the 133 heads of lettuce grown monthly in our aquaponics garden, or

SEE LAVALLETTE PAGE 15



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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — AVON-BY-THE-SEA

Returning, new students and families welcomed in Avon

STAR NEWS GROUP

Dear Avon Tigers and Families,

The Avon School District is preparing to welcome our students and staff back for the 2024 - 2025 school year. The promise of a new school year always brings a welcomed fresh start.

The planning and preparation by our staff is in full swing as everyone eagerly anticipates the arrival of our returning tigers and those new to our school community.

We have used the summer months to prepare a rich learning environment that provides our students with the curriculum and activities necessary for even more achievement and success. Attention to the academic needs of our students, their health and well being, and continued growth is what we strive to deliver at the Avon Elementary School.

This year, programs will be available for our

students to help support them and their emotional well being. We will continue to be steadfast in our Social Emotional Learning curriculum, as well as with our peer led leadership, The Wingman Movement, which has continued to provide a well empowered student body that positively impacts our school community. "Flex" courses, school clubs and activities, and student participation in a variety of after school opportunities will allow students to expand their interests outside of the traditional academic setting.

Our school community will continue creating learning experiences for our students that integrate various outlets of expertise as well as partnerships with community stakeholders and resources. Optimizing channels of communication with the Avon community and promoting the many accomplishments and celebrations

of the Avon Elementary School and its students. We will always work to cultivate respectful, responsible, and caring students who are empowered to think creatively, critically, and work collaboratively to positively impact their community.

We are very grateful for the support of our Board of Education, teachers, support staff, the Avon Home and School Association, our Education foundation, and of course our wonderful and supportive community.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and the break you deservedly earned. We look forward to seeing everyone rejuvenated, well rested, and ready to take on the challenges and expectations that accompany a new school year.

Sincerely,
Michael-John Herits,
Ed.D.

Chief School Administrator

LAVALLETTE FROM PAGE 14

learning robotics through Sphero, our curriculum encourages exploration, imagination, and perseverance through STEAM and computer science. Students also enjoy a comprehensive menu of learning experiences for students, including school-wide literacy projects, related arts, meaningful field trips,

and athletics for students in grades 6-8.

We are proud to offer New Jersey's first and currently only Montessori Preschool program for both Lavallette residents and out-of-district families. Our program follows the highest standards for Montessori implementation through the support of Montessori Public Works, with AMI trained teachers.

In partnership with our school community, Lavallette School District is committed to providing and preserving a safe and personalized environment where each student embraces learning and strives for excellence.

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Dr. Lisa J. Gleason, Superintendent



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Campi Dental holding student sponsor program

BY ALEX LAMATTINA
STAR NEWS GROUP

If you know a student who is without supplies heading into the 2024-25 school year, Campi Dental may just be able help.

The office's Sponsor-a-Student has been running for roughly 15 years, Vice President of Marketing and Community Affairs Karen Campi told The Coast Star, and it's back for another year to help collect backpacks.

"This is just one of our programs," Campi said. "It's been going on for years and years... our patients would run to Staples and bring in notebooks and pens and pencils, it's just great."

Campi Dental recommends a \$30 donation per person, but accepts any monies provided



COURTESY OF CAMPI DENTAL

Campi Dental's signature Sponsor-a-Student program is back for another year, with the goal of helping as many local students obtain as much school supplies as possible. The office is taking \$30 donations from its patients, which equates to \$75 worth of school supplies; notebooks, pens, papers and the backpacks of Becker School Supplies, of Pennsauken.

for the drive. Last year, it increased its goal to sponsor 90 children and provide them with 90

backpacks in honor of their 90th anniversary. Campi told The Coast Star that the final tal-

ly reached 110 students fundraised for.

The dental office partners with their patient Kurt Becker for this campaign. Becker is a longtime patient at Campi Dental and owner of Becker School Supplies, a multi-generational family owned business, who has offered the needed school supplies at a below cost rate for this program. Instead of donating the supplies themselves, patients are now asked to donate funding for it.

"Everyone in our community is just so generous and loves to give," Campi said. "This is a great opportunity to support (the kids)."

Three local organizations - the Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County, of Asbury Park,

Collier Youth Services, of Marlboro and the Mercy Center, of Asbury Park - will be provided with the filled backpacks and distribute them to children who are in need of supplies.

Donations can be made by visiting the Campi Dental office at 2041 Route 35. Patrons can also call the office at

732-449-2228 to make a donation over the phone. The office website is campidental.com

Campi said, "When you have the opportunity to do this with some of the team members, or doctors and family members, you can tell these nonprofit organizations are grateful."

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WILLS AND DETAILS ON PAGE 1

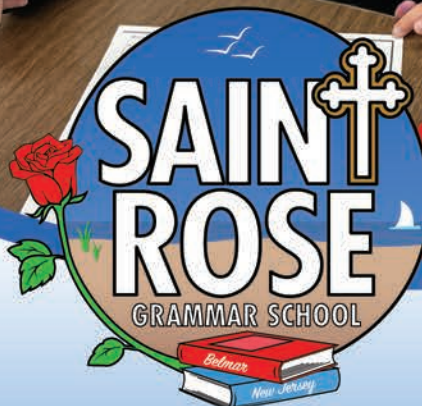
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School reps discuss takeaways from AP conference

BY ALEX DYER
STAR NEWS GROUP

While school is still out for the summer, the administrative and educational faculty of Point Beach school district have been keeping busy, with officials recently returning from both the 2024 AP (Advanced Placement) Annual Conference and a strategic leadership forum.

The AP Annual Conference is held by the College Board — the nonprofit which runs programs like the SATs and AP classes — each year, this year taking to the Venetian in Las Vegas from July 23 to 26 for the professional development event.

“(It) brings together AP teachers from around the world, along with school administrators and other AP-affiliated folks, to attend workshops and general sessions about their practices, in particular expanding access to AP programs and making them even better,” said Point Beach Superintendent Will Smith.

According to the agenda for the April 30, 2024 board of education meeting, expenses totaling \$5,533 were allocated for three people to AP Annual Conference trip. According to the agenda for the Feb. 20, 2024 board of education meeting, expenses totaling \$7,788 were allocated for eight people to attend the strategic leadership forum trip.

AP courses are high school classes which are equivalent to college-level courses, and thus carry a more rigorous course load for students. At the end

of each course is an exam that is graded from 0 to 5, with 5 being the highest. There are three levels to the AP Scholar Award: AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honors and AP Scholar with Distinction.

Mike McGee, a Point Pleasant Beach High history teacher who leads the AP World History program at the school, told The Ocean Star about the presentation he made to the conference, where he introduced the school’s initiative of AP courses for freshmen.

“It was quite an opportunity,” said McGee. “The College Board was interested in Dr. Smith and Mr. Wilson and I speaking about the open enrollment AP program we have over at Point Beach High School, and our program where we actually have freshmen open enrollment in AP World History; I’ve been teaching the AP world history course for about seven or eight years now.”

“Over the past seven or eight years, we’ve been collecting data on how... well students that take my class do; both in my class and further down the road, in other AP classes,” he said. “(This is) particularly in the humanities: things like AP U.S. History, AP Literature, AP Composition. (We ask) if we’ve been seeing a difference between how those students who take AP world history as freshmen perform, compared to the students that decided not to take that as freshmen.”

McGee said that the cumulative data showed a pattern: that students who took AP world history as

freshmen did better in other subjects’ AP tests later on than students who did not take it in ninth grade — regardless of their actual performance on the world history exam.

“What we’ve found is, we’re somewhere between one or two points higher later on down the road on the AP exam for students who took the course as freshmen,” he said. “Once the College Board got a hold of that data, I think they were interested in passing that along to other districts from around the country.”

“Even though maybe you’re not going to get a 4 or 5 on the AP exam as a freshman, the data show that the benefits of the earlier introduction to the academic rigor that comes with taking an AP course as a freshman does pay dividends down the line,” he said. “We’re starting to compile data as to how students are doing even post-high school into college, and how it’s affecting their performance there.”

The superintendent said that by offering a more rigorous curriculum earlier on in their high school careers, students are being prepared for “successfully engaging” with the material later on, regardless of the score they receive.

“Our session was about what we’ve seen and what recent research has shown us about building a culture of confidence, so that students can be successful engaging the rigor of an AP course,” Smith said.

“All the AP courses are open access — it’s not



CONFERENCE FROM PAGE 18

just for a select few kids," he said. "But it's also that AP goes right alongside (sometimes in the same course) with all of our dual enrollment courses, of which we are offering 50 this year. All of our students have access to those courses, and everybody's capable of doing at least one...That's our aspiration; that every kid has that opportunity."

LEADERSHIP FORUM

The leadership forum attended by the district's administrative staff from July 8 to 9 was a retreat to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Smith told The Ocean Star that during the several-day forum, the administrators participated in numerous team-building activities, which included group lectures with a Navy SEAL, a retired rear admiral and retired captain in the Navy.

"Alongside two other districts, we spent two days learning about leadership from several active duty and retired naval officers," he said. "In addition, on this team leadership retreat we had the opportunity to command a two-mast sailboat in the Chesapeake Bay and collaboratively develop annual goals based on a model provided by our partners at Apple Education."

"We designed the strategic leadership forum from scratch, in house, with the aim of extending our concept of building the resilience, wellness, and capacity of educators by thinking holistically about what makes highly effective teams and leaders," Smith said.



COURTESY OF
SUPERINTENDENT WILL SMITH

This year's AP Annual Conference was held at the Venetian Resort in Las Vegas, pictured here, fresh from the conference floor, are District Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction Christopher Wilson (from left), AP history teacher Mike McGee and Superintendent Will Smith.

Brian Savage, the business administrator for the Point Pleasant Beach Board of Education, said that the program went "beyond expectations" with regard to its practical takeaways.

"It was a fantastic event," he said. "It went even beyond my expectations. This is the first time we've done an event like this strategic leadership forum, and it was everything we expected and more."

"What I love about it is what I call 'nuggets of knowledge.' I was getting these little bits of knowledge that I pieced together. My goal has always been to continue my education; I'm always looking for another piece of information to make myself better in whatever I do... the great thing is, I got a bunch of those 'nuggets.'"

G. Harold Antrim Elementary Principal Tara Weber echoed Savage's comments on the utility of the retreat, saying that she felt "reenergized" about the upcoming school year after leaving Annapolis.

"The strategic leadership forum exceeded my expectations," said Weber. "It reenergized me as a leader and I'm really ex-

cited to incorporate some of the strategies they gave us.

"I think my biggest takeaway was that strong leadership is not just a style of leading, but a whole mindset; leadership is character, so it encompasses so many things. And I think that when we think about just what a strong leader is, we think about how they manage things, but it's not just about that; it's about how they take care of themselves and their words and their actions," she said. "It was so eye-opening...It gave me excitement to start the school year (and) promote the ideas not just for the faculty and staff, but students as well."

Smith said that by using the methods and skills developed at the forum, he feels the administrative team for Point Beach's school district is more prepared than ever to share what it is learning about leadership.

"What really resonated for me was reminding ourselves that leadership is not just the guy or gal at the top," he said. "It's not just your principal; it's not just your superintendent; it's not just your administrators. We're all leaders — especially in an educational setting — in every capacity...Because of that responsibility, you have to adopt positive leadership traits that are going to help you be effective in that role."

"I think it's easy for folks to cede leadership to someone else," said Smith. "We came away from the (forum) really being asked to think about how we can help train everybody at every level to have good leadership skills."



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