



Superintendent's Report December 6, 2023

Congratulations to the Board of Education candidates Melody Finkelstein, Chris Kwon, and Edmund Choi who are the official winners in the November 7th election. Mr. Choi was the successful write-in candidate, announced by the Bergen County Clerk on November 20, 2023. The newly elected Board trustees will be sworn in at the January 3, 2024, reorganization meeting.

I thank our outgoing Board trustee, Lukshmi Puttannah, for her devoted service since 2021. On behalf of the Closter community, I thank you for your knowledge, skill, and dedication, which ensured that our schools remain among the best in New Jersey. I wish you well in your future endeavors, and I know you will continue to be a welcome volunteer in our schools! Again, thank you for all that you do for our school community.

Tenakill Middle School welcomed Dusti Bowling, author of *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*, on Thursday, November 30, 2023. Everyone at TMS read the novel as part of the One School, One Book Reading program. Ms. Bowling gave a presentation to students about her life experiences that led to her writing the novel and the process she uses to tell stories in the best way possible. She emphasized to students that excellent writing involves many edits and rewrites. She also encouraged students to put down their phones and computer screens so they can be attentive to others and to experience life. We thank the PTO for helping to fund Ms. Bowling's visit to TMS.

Hillside Elementary School presented *The First Grade Thanksgiving Concert* on Tuesday, November 21, 2023. It was a wonderful musical celebration of having a gratitude attitude! Ms. Pidi and the first-grade teachers did an outstanding job of rehearsing and preparing students for their performances.

The Tenakill Middle School will present its *Winter Concert* on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Abbey, Ms. Riecken, and the students are preparing for a great concert! All are invited to attend.

The Closter PTO organized a holiday boutique at both schools this week. Thank you to all the volunteers who made holiday shopping a bit easier for our students. The PTO is also conducting a holiday fundraiser through www.HomeBakedLove.com. You can find the perfect holiday treat at the website, and 20% of every purchase will go to the Closter PTO by using code 20CLOPTO when placing your order. The PTO is also selling spirit wear through their website: www.closterpto.membershiptoolkit.com. Please support our PTO – they do so much for our students!

Closter Public Schools will have a half-day session on Friday, December 22, 2023. We will be closed for the holiday recess from December 25 – January 1, 2024. Schools will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

I wish a happy festival of lights to all celebrating Hanukkah, which begins tomorrow night. To everyone in our school community, I wish you a joyous holiday season! Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year!

Vincent Mc Hale