



Superintendent's Report January 18, 2023

The Professional Development Day held on Monday, January 16, 2023, was a full day of learning for our faculty and staff. For the morning sessions, there were school-based workshops, and the special education department had a workshop for all special education teachers. In the afternoon session, there was a district-wide session on suicide prevention, which is a state-mandated requirement for all staff to have once every five years. Eileen Corvelli, a licensed clinical social worker from West Bergen Mental Healthcare, provided the suicide prevention session. Thank you to our administrators, teachers, and staff for their diligent work on this professional learning day.

Everyone is excited to celebrate Lunar New Year on Friday, January 20, 2023. This celebration will take place at both schools with an exciting and educational assembly featuring our students. The Hillside assembly will start at 10:00 am. The Tenakill assembly will start at 1:30 pm. The board trustees are welcome to attend! Thank you to the Lunar New Year Committee who have worked tirelessly to put this all together, and kudos to our students who will be performing in the assemblies!

Students in grades two through eight are continuing to take the mid-year Linkit! Assessment in language arts and mathematics throughout this month. Each of the two tests will take about 45 to 60 minutes. The assessments provide teachers with information about students' progress toward grade-level standards. If you have any questions about the Linkit! Assessments, please get in touch with Ms. Zanin at Hillside Elementary School or Mr. McElroy at Tenakill Middle School.

We have received the Start Strong assessment results for fall 2022. Our administrative team will prepare a district-level report on the scores, with aggregated and disaggregated subgroup data. This data will be presented at the first Board meeting in February.

On Friday, January 6, 2023, *The Record* published an article about New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) scores from spring 2022. They ranked each district based on ELA and math scores. Closter has performed very well. Our district was the tenth-highest performer in English Language Arts and the twelfth-highest in mathematics! Congratulations to our students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the Board of Education for their collective work in ensuring that Closter is consistently among the best school districts in New Jersey!

Please be aware that there was a slight increase in COVID-19 cases in the Borough of Closter last week. For the week ending January 13, 2023, there were 14 cases in town, and there were nine cases the week prior. At this time, masking is still optional, but it is strongly encouraged to prevent the spread of COVID-19, flu, and colds.

Stay healthy!

Vincent Mc Hale