By Scott T. McCue, Superintendent of Schools

This school year Eatontown Public Schools is implementing a Social and Emotional Learning initiative called, “Supporting Eatontown Learners.” The main goal of this effort is to ensure students’ social and emotional well-being is addressed during the course of the school day. As a community, the first step to addressing students’ social and emotional needs is to recognize that times have changed.

Today’s students face an educational environment that is very different from the past. Students encounter the pressures associated with high-stakes testing each day. Children come to school in a time when school violence and terror attacks are widely reported in the news media on a consistent basis. Due to economic pressures, some students lack the basic necessities to support effective learning: shelter, food, and access to healthcare. Currently, schools are supporting and managing students from grades PK—12 who suffer from anxiety, depression, or other conditions.

Due to these factors, developing a school culture that systematically and meaningfully addresses students’ social and emotional needs is paramount to effective learning and teaching. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is not telling every student they are great or removing consequences for inappropriate behavior. SEL is about meeting students where they are socially and emotionally and authentically working with children to help them grow in the areas where growth is needed.

“The SEL Competencies Wheel can be found online at CASEL.org.”

As we approach the holiday season, I hope to see you at many of the school programs and activities that are planned. Please remember that your involvement and connection with the school are extremely valuable and beneficial. Students perform better when a parent is involved with their child’s education.

Have a happy and joyous holiday season!
HOW FAMILY INVOLVEMENT LEADS TO STUDENT SUCCESS

By Mrs. Tara Micciulla, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education

Studies of individual families show that what the family does is more important to student success than family income or education. This is true whether the family is rich or poor, whether the parents finished high school or not, or whether the child is in preschool or in the upper grades. Children with engaged family members are more likely to earn higher grades or test scores, develop self-confidence and motivation in the classroom and have better social skills and classroom behavior.

As part of the Every Student Succeeds Act funding, schools are required to host family involvement nights. During the month of October, we had two ESSA funded family involvement nights. On October 8th, the English as a Second Language (ESL) Department held a Parent Night for our families. At the Bilingual Parent Advisory Night, the teachers discussed the ESL program, how parents can help their child learn to read, and technology they can use at home to improve English skills. While families were learning, students were given the opportunity to play reading games and watch a movie while enjoying snacks. On October 22nd, a Literacy Night was held at Meadowbrook School for families of students in both Meadowbrook and Woodmere Schools. The evening began with dinner and a book swap as well as a Title I program presentation given by Mrs. Micciulla. Then, students and families went to the classrooms where they were taught literacy skills they can use at home using play-dough. Teachers led these presentations based on the grade levels of the students. Both nights were exceptional communication and learning nights with families. We will be having a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) family involvement night on January 14th and another Bilingual Parent Advisory Council meeting on January 14th. More information about these nights will be provided in the future. We encourage our families to attend both of these wonderful nights.

We also are in the process of creating a District Family Advisory Council. Members of the District Family Advisory Council (DFAC) will meet three times a year to work with the administration to engage as meaningful partners in the educational process. DFAC members will share input on upcoming ESSA policies and best practices, discuss parent perspectives on ESSA funded programs, and be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the ESSA funded programs. If you would like to be part of the Eatontown Public Schools’ District Family Advisory Council, please reach out to Mrs. Micciulla by email at tmicciulla@eatontown.org. When families are involved, we all win!

Nurse’s Corner

By Mrs. Susan Hartman, School Nurse

HOW TO STAY HAPPY AND HEALTHY THIS SCHOOL YEAR

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. We are looking forward to a healthy and happy school year and here are a few suggestions to help make that happen.

1. Have an annual physical and make sure your immunizations are up to date. With the recent increase of communicable diseases (especially measles and whooping cough) it might be a good time to discuss with your family physician any declined immunizations.

2. Encourage and support physical activity, eat healthy, get plenty of rest, and limit use of technology.

3. Stay home if you are ill and remember to wash your hands often with soap and water.

4. As we enter flu season, discuss receiving a flu shot with your doctor. Flu is a contagious disease that can lead to pneumonia or worsening of chronic conditions. Remember some of the most contaminated areas in the home are the phone, faucets, light switches, appliances, and the TV remote.

NEW TO EATONTOWN: BPAC MEETINGS

By Mrs. Brooke Mindnich, ESL Teacher

What is BPAC you might ask? It is the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee. Meetings are for parents of English Learners and are held three times each year in the evening at Memorial School.

The first meeting in October served as a Back to School Night for the ESL program and was tailored to the needs of our families who may be new to the educational system in the United States and Eatontown. We provided an overview of the district and its linguistic and cultural diversity. Did you know that our ESL program services 74 students across 15 languages? The Eatontown district as a whole is even more diverse with 31 languages other than English spoken at home!

Keeping this in mind, as well as the importance of parent involvement, we helped parents download a useful app called “Talking Points” to encourage more parent communication with teachers, staff and administrators. The parents can write in their native language and the app translates to English and back again.

We also talked about what it means to be an English learner and how each student is accounted for and serviced each day with support inside and outside of the classroom. We monitor and document growth in language proficiency through ACCESS (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State) each year in the spring. Test scores hold us accountable to high program standards.

Parents new to the community learned about local resources found in and around Eatontown like the public library, health clinics, and security in the schools. They were given tips on how to help their children learn at home and the importance of attending Parent/Teacher Conferences which may be a new concept for those from other countries.

Most importantly the BPAC meetings serve as a venue for parents to connect with each other and with the schools where their children learn. Our goal is to create a place where they can feel comfortable enough to ask questions and get the support they need as they raise their families in a new country.

Our next BPAC meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM in Memorial School. We will be discussing computer-based learning programs to use at home and Eatontown’s “Parent Portal.” We will specifically help parents access this resource through their phones. If you have a child in the ESL program or one who recently exited, please feel free to attend.
On September 19, 2019, Meadowbrook School held its annual Back-to-School Night. The reading specialist, Mrs. Jamie Johnson and Librarian, Mrs. Stephanie D’Agnese hosted a reading informational resource table. Families were given free books, an opportunity to sign up for an Eatontown Public Library card, and went home with free educational literature on the importance of reading at home and ways to further enhance their at-home reading experience.

The theme of the table was, “20 minutes a day!” The educational literature presented along with the posters surrounding the table reinforced the importance of reading 20 minutes a day.

Research has shown that students who read 20 minutes a day, with a fluent reader or on their own can greatly enhance their overall vocabulary, comprehension, and success on future standardized tests.

The table also highlighted the importance of parents reading with their child at home. The US Department of Education reminds us that reading books with children is one of the most important things that parents can do for their children to become readers (2005). Research suggests that children should be read to from birth and even long after they are able to read the words on their own. Reading aloud to a child who can already read allows opportunities to extend vocabulary and improve pronunciation of words.

For more information on the importance of reading aloud to your child see Rebecca Bellingham’s TEDxYOUTH talk on, “Why we should all be reading aloud to children” (2015). It can be found at: https://youtu.be/ZBuT2wdYtpM.

The Eatontown School District once again applied and received a Safety Grant from New Jersey Schools Insurance Group in the amount of $9,932.15 for this year. This grant money will be used for security upgrades including additional security cameras.

Mr. Kenneth Dioguardi joined the Eatontown School District Leadership Team as Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds in September. Since then, he has been very busy with the opening of the schools and the required operations and facility needs of the district.

The Eatontown School District once again applied and received a Safety Grant from New Jersey Schools Insurance Group in the amount of $9,932.15 for this year. This grant money will be used for security upgrades including additional security cameras.
In order to highlight Hispanic Heritage Month in Art and Spanish classes, students learned about the Peruvian-American artist, Mario Torero who sought to preserve South American culture. His role was significant in the aesthetic and cultural value in Chicano Park in Los Angeles.

Eighth grade students painted a wooden shape with Peruvian influence or with a message of racial equality, similar to the work of Torero. Seventh graders translated and wrote facts about Mario Torero by writing in Spanish. Lastly, the wooden pieces were assembled for a mosaic of a sun with the seventh grade facts presented around the mosaic.

According to the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics website, Hispanic Heritage Month takes place September 15 to October 15 every year as a time to recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of the American Latino community.

Congratulations to our newly inducted members of the Eatontown Public Schools’ Memorial School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. To be invited to apply for membership, students must maintain a 4.0 to 4.5 GPA through seventh grade. At the beginning of eighth grade, students who maintained this GPA are invited to apply. Students who excel in scholarship may be selected into membership provided they meet the requirements of leadership, service, character, and citizenship. The following students have been chosen as members by the Faculty Council as exemplifying these qualities: Gerard Flynn, Morgan Cook, Lily Micciulla, Lauren Spence, Ashley Rescinio, Janat Ali, Gianna Cavalluzzi, Cibella Tvrdik, Hannah Jacobs, Elyssa Vasquez, Rebecca Bagagem, Briana Hughes, Nathalia Garrabrant, Rosa Davi, Chloe Nguyen, Yuanne Chung, Ishman Rahman, and Sarah Kairige.

Eatontown Public Schools recognizes and embraces the fact of our future: that Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) are critical subjects for students to begin understanding the world around them. In order to make STEM subjects an integral part of the learning environment, our district has implemented many different programs and adopted new technologies for our students’ success.

Below, Memorial School students have been learning about the growth mindset in math class. The students spend time reading articles, watching videos, and completing activities to understand how the brain grows through hard work and determination. As each class completes assignments on Khan Academy, the Learnstorm tracker fills up and students celebrate together.
The Memorial Girls Soccer Team concluded a very successful season in which they won 7 games and had only 3 losses. The team scored 37 goals and only allowed 12 goals against all year. The girls made the league playoffs this season after a multi-year absence. The team showed tremendous progress and development due to hard work and dedication by all the players. A special acknowledgment to our eighth-grade players who are moving on. They provided a great amount of leadership for the younger players and were excellent sportsmanship mentors. We wish them all the best as they move on to high school. We are looking forward to continued success and development next year. Go Hawks!

CSA held their first fundraiser of the year by hosting Super Hero Day on October 30, 2019. Students paid a dollar to wear super hero shirt, pants, or even hats to school. Money raised will be used to buy supplies to make blankets for Project Linus, an organization that gives blankets to children and infants in local hospitals.

Our school homerooms are currently competing against each other to see who can bring in the most food. It is our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive to help the Eatontown Food Bank. Top two homerooms will receive a pizza party courtesy of the Eatontown Drug Alliance.

Members will be selling snacks and drinks at all upcoming basketball games to help raise money for a charitable cause. They are giving up their free time to help others.

The Memorial Boys’ Soccer Team was coached by Mr. Guiliano for the second consecutive season. The team was led by five captains. The eighth grade captains were Jayden and Jaylen Harris, as well as Cesar Bautista-Rojas. The seventh grade captains were Jayden Gomez and Taevaar Walker. The captains did an outstanding job leading the team by giving verbal feedback in our team meeting discussions as well demonstrating their athletic abilities and skills on the field. The team showed progress by winning two more games than last season and played competitive soccer throughout the season. The team also has many players eligible to return again for next season. The boys also demonstrated sportsmanship to our opposing teams and learned how to play with class and dignity even though we fell short of making the playoffs. This positive attitude will help guide these young men for years to come. They will achieve future accomplishments in all aspects of their lives as they continue to grow and represent our community.

The Memorial School 2019 Cross Country Team had a great season this year! The Boys’ Team finished the season 2-6; while the Girls’ Team finished 4-4. The leading runners for the Mighty Hawks were Taysaun Wilson, Dylan Ramsey, Jordan Hom, Jack Hennelly, and Esai Destinoble. The other committed runners on the Boys’ Cross Country Team were: Brady Hennelly and William Pisano. In addition, Taysaun Wilson finished in 8th Place at the All-Star Championship Meet in Marlboro! The top female runners for the Mighty Hawks include: Ciara Torry, Cibella Tvrzik, Carlie Simon, Mia Loxton, and Isabella Delgado. The other hard-working runners were: Anastasia Anikeev, Brianna Davenport, Xiara Romano, Morgan Rescinio, and Yasmin Said. The Team Manager was Courtney Nempsey who did an outstanding job all season! The Cross Country Team was proudly coached by: Mrs. Terri Krszczkowski and Ms. Megan Drury. The coaches attribute each student’s hard work, dedication, and work ethic to a successful season!

The Memorial School Environmental Club is off to a fast start! The trout eggs arrived on October 22, 2019 and our members have been busy tending to them and testing the water. This is our fifth year participating in the program which restocks local streams with rainbow trout.

Mrs. Bilotti and Ms. McNelis are very excited and happy to announce that Memorial School was one of four schools chosen by Monmouth Conservation Foundation to receive a tower garden, an aeroponic growing system that is the “future of urban gardening.” It uses no dirt, 90% less water and yields fruits and vegetables in less time than in soil. Our members will be tending the garden, checking the pH of the water, along with the proper amount of nutrients, planting seeds in the rock wool and harvesting the crops. Members will be visiting Beyond Organic Growers on November 20, 2019 in Freehold to learn how grow and maintain our tower garden.

On November 12, 2019, former Memorial school student Maggie Stager, who works with Monmouth County Planning, came to teach our students about a watershed. Students completed hands-on activities showing how pollutants reach our waterways. We look forward to having Maggie back in December for another presentation.

Finally, we have been in contact with Freeholder Arnone who will be assisting us with planning a trip to Allaire Community Farm in Wall in the spring. At the farm, students will learn about gardening and the benefits of eating fresh vegetables.
The beginning of the school year has been a very busy time at Meadowbrook School. There have been many wonderful opportunities for our Eatontown Families to take advantage of at the school. In September, the Eatontown Lions Club performed eye screenings on our students to detect various types of eye disorders. These screenings resulted in fifty-four follow up visits with an ophthalmologist! Meadowbrook School also participates in the Sight for Students Program which supplies free vision screenings and eyeglasses for the children. This program is sponsored by the National Association of School Nurses and has been utilized several times already this year. The students of Meadowbrook School also were provided free sneakers by Shoes That Fit, a non-profit organization that provides shoes to students at schools and community centers in the United States. Mrs. Craig, the School Nurse, was able to work with this amazing organization and measure thirty students for brand new sneakers. Students were delighted with the hip and colorful designs! Finally, a new swing set was installed at Meadowbrook School. The swings were paid for by Title I funds, as well as a generous grant from the Eatontown Foundation for Excellence in Education (EFEE). These swings are equipped with handicap seats for our disabled students. This was a much needed addition to the playground. We would like to thank all of these wonderful organizations and Mrs. Craig for organizing these supportive events.

The start of the school year had a positive feel to it. Students were excited to either start a new school or return to a familiar place. Each September there is a new vibrancy that spreads for both staff and students. Woodmere prides itself on becoming better than the year before. With that said, the new initiative for not only Woodmere, but also all of Eatontown Schools is Social and Emotional Learning. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) provides a foundation for safe and positive learning, and enhances a students’ ability to succeed in school, careers and in life. By embracing Social and Emotional Learning, Woodmere School has taken the next step for our student’s future success.

Teachers have been given the tools and the knowledge to make SEL happen inside the classroom and school. Some components of SEL that we incorporate at Woodmere are, The Helping Hands Program, Mindful Yoga, positive behavior groups, Activity Days, Sensory Hallways, Flexible Seating, Positive Behavior Room, Assistance Periods, YMCA groups and much more. Not all students have to participate, but we offer these things to help students learn how to cope, self-regulate, and be mindful of their behaviors and how things affect them. What has really been a positive addition is the Mindful Yoga. Mrs. Corregano takes individual classes and incorporates breathing and movements to assist students. Whether they had a bad morning or something is troubling at home, Yoga helps them relax and think more clearly. We have received some great feedback and the students love it.

The teachers have really supported the SEL initiative and we think it is going to greatly benefit the students. With so much going on in our community and the world, these students really can use the help and we owe it to them to incorporate SEL into daily lessons.
The month of October has been very exciting at Memorial Middle School. As a district, we celebrated Week of Respect, Anti-bullying Week, Anti-Violence Week, and Red Ribbon Week. For Week of Respect, students wrote “thank-you” cards to somebody they are grateful for. We participated in “Spirit Week” where students and staff dressed up depending on the theme of the day. In Health classes, students reflected on a time they helped someone and how this made them feel. For Red Ribbon Week, all homerooms participated in a door decorating contest. The theme was “Life is your Journey: Travel Drug-Free.” The 8th-grade Art classes created paintings that reflected on a drug-free life. Our talented students did an amazing job on this project. As an effort to include parents in this month-long campaign, we invited the WellSpring Prevention Center to present to parents about the effects of vaping. Below are the winners for the student painting contest. Student winners were: Ana Clara Batista Mota, Stephanie Mahns, Yuanna Chung.

Ana Clara Batista Mora, 8th Grade
“My painting was made in the shape of the peace symbol and the various symbols and meanings that make the world better. I gave several examples such as: the rainbow represents god’s purpose, the symbol of infinity represents the concept of eternity, the musical notes are the symbol that music will always make us happy, the hearts mean we must always love those around us, the figures mean friendship among all, the bond means unity, the sun means everyday there is a new beginning, and the bird means peace in the world.”

Yuanna Chung, 8th Grade
“The dove coming out of the cage symbolizes being “set free” from a life with drug addiction. The elephant with the cut rope on its leg symbolizes cutting ties from drug use. The seagulls flying in a sunlit sky symbolizes “flying with no boundaries or restrictions without drugs.” The heart and rainbow symbolizes joy and happiness after quitting the use of drugs.

Stephanie Mahns, 8th Grade
“Although I painted a picture of a woman and her addiction, I included a dove, which symbolizes hope, and a pretty sunset. I also included the consequences of drinking in the bottle to provide others information about drinking.”
On Monday, November 11th, the Memorial School Band under the direction of Memorial Band teacher, Mr. Michael Rosa, performed at the Eatontown Borough Veterans’ Day Program. The Mayor and Council invited the Memorial School Band to play as part of the Veterans’ Day Recognition Program. This opportunity for the young musicians to perform on Veterans’ Day has been a long-standing tradition between the school system and borough. Mr. Rosa accompanied by many 7th and 8th grade students performed patriotic songs to help remember all those men and women who have provided service and protection to this country throughout history. Eatontown Public Schools is very proud of our veterans and also proud of our students for their dedication to this special program each year.

**DECEMBER EVENTS**

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<td>Memorial School Winder Concert at 7:00 PM</td>
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<td>Margaret L. Vetter School Winter Concert at 6:30 PM</td>
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By Mr. Scott T. McCue, Superintendent