



February 12, 2021

Dear Oaklyn School Community,

Happy Friday! Hoping all is well and you've each had a great week. As you begin your weekend, I wanted to take time to share some of the wonderful things taking place across our school community.

Preschool Penguins

The Preschool Penguins Program had a very successful Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting (ECAC) on Tuesday evening. There were multiple community stakeholders from community-based organizations, faith-based groups, and businesses, along with teachers and school nurses from Collingswood and Oaklyn. We'd like to acknowledge that the ECAC is the responsibility of Community and Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS) Alan Trotty. Mr. Trotty's creativity and ability to connect with people led to the first meeting's success.

Oaklyn School

We'd like to acknowledge the efforts of the PTA and OMAVSC. This week they teamed up with Oaklyn School to encourage everyone to spread kind messages for Random Acts of Kindness Week. Oaklyn students decorated hearts and wrote kind messages to different public service organizations like the Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works, Food Bank, VFW, and American Legion.

Collingswood Middle School

On January 27th, the Collingswood MS Future Cities Team took part in the annual Future Cities Regional Competition. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year the event was completely virtual. Led and prepared by Collingswood MS STEM teacher, Mr. Chad Meyers, the Collingswood MS team of James Birmingham, James Coyle, Nate Durst, Jimmy Kantarakis, Ajay Ostrem, and Jack Shinkarow had an exemplary performance and won special awards for Most Sustainable Use of Lunar Materials, and Regional Planning.

Recently, two of our students participated in the [FAA Airport Design Challenge](#). This is a STEM competition run by the Federal Aviation Administration. Nathan and Lillian Schwehm won 1st place in the K-6 age bracket. One attends CMS and the other Zane North.

Collingswood High School

Abigail Walker (11th grade) was selected for the Widener University High School Leadership Award - this award recognizes high school students who have demonstrated leadership by standing up for what is right, finding a way to address a wrong or making a difference in a significant way. Aidan DiMarco (10th grade) was selected to be a HOBY Youth Leadership Seminar Delegate.

Each week the Counseling Department puts out an announcement on Twitter and Instagram of senior acceptances (Senior Roll Calls). Below is the list of colleges/universities and trade schools that students have gotten into so far.

Bard College	Immaculata University	Rutgers - Newark
Bloomsburg University	Kean University	Rutgers - New Brunswick
Camden County College	LaSalle University	Saint Joseph's University
Coastal Carolina University	Lebanon Valley College	Seton Hall University
Columbia College of Chicago	Monmouth University	St. Olaf College
DeSales University	Montclair State University	Stockton University
Drexel University	Neumann University	Susquehanna University
Elizabethtown College	New Jersey City University	Temple University
Elon University	Northeastern University	Thomas Jefferson University
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Penn State	University of Buffalo
Flagler College	Pennco Tech	University of Delaware
Full Sail University	Ramapo College of NJ	University of North Carolina - Wilmington
Harcum College	Rider University	University of Pittsburgh
Hofstra University	Rowan College of South Jersey	University of Scranton
Holy Family University	Rowan University	University of the Sciences
Widener University	William Paterson University	

Special Services

We'd like to acknowledge our related service providers (Speech, Physical, and Occupational Therapy Staff). They have been traveling to multiple buildings each week, working around the blue and gold schedules, and the safety requirements to provide in-person support services to our students. Dr. Whitehouse and the team have worked collaboratively to adapt services so that it works for students. We are thankful to have such caring and compassionate professionals supporting our students.

Building Services

We'd like to acknowledge our building services staff for supporting our schools during this challenging winter season. These dedicated professionals have taken time away from their families to ensure that our schools were safe for students and staff. Special thanks to Supervisor Keith Higginbotham and the entire building services team.

Celebrating Valentine's Day?

As we approach Valentine's Day, it is helpful to reflect on what's most important. Fancy chocolates, flowers, and gifts are nice, but the quality time spent with our loved ones matters more. If 2020 has taught us anything it's to value the time we have with those we care about most. Listed below are a few resources to help you celebrate with your loved ones:

Collingswood Middle School Choir Valentine's Day "Everybody"

<https://youtu.be/wqWtbuFjTtA>

30 Valentines Activities for Kids

<https://artfulparent.com/valentine-crafts-activities-kids/>

Shop Local for Valentine's Day in Collingswood

http://www.collingswood.com/things_to_do/shopping_and_dining/shop_local_for_valentine_s_day.php

Collingswood Restaurants Offer Takeout for Valentine's Day

<https://patch.com/new-jersey/collingswood/these-collingswood-restaurants-offer-takeout-valentines-day>

Expressing Warm Thanks on a Cold Friday

On a personal note, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for level of hospitality shown towards my family and me. We are overwhelmed at the thoughtfulness of so many and have been made to feel welcome at every level of this outstanding school community. We were warned by Dr. Oswald that we would be joining the most dedicated school leaders, talented staff members, and amazing students who are supported by the best families in New Jersey. And it is safe to say that you have not disappointed. The level of care and compassion in our school community is truly to be admired and we are so happy to be a part of it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank E. [unclear]", written in a cursive style.

Superintendent
Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools