



# Old Bridge Online

★ A Publication of Old Bridge Township Public Schools ★

## Miller Students Celebrate Respect with Lifesavers!



As a National School of Character, Miller School highlights the Six Pillars of Character at their monthly Character Education assemblies. On November 18, 2019, the assembly recognized the qualities of respect. Students and staff wore gold to represent the Pillar of Respect and why it is so important to be honest, reliable, courageous, and loyal. All of these attributes help to build a good reputation, another feature of respect, one that we want our students to attain.

Dr. Giles opened the assembly with a heartfelt thanks to our Old Bridge firefighters, as our students are learning to celebrate community helpers. Our kindergarten students showed their thanks by bringing in LifeSavers candies for our brave life savers!

Dr. Giles presented Respect Awards to students who were chosen by their teachers as displaying the character of respect in school, to their classmates, teachers, and school community. Congratulations to our respectful students!

Our Old Bridge firefighters shared a video by Sesame Street: Respect-The Word on the Street. In this video Henry Cavill, Elmo, and Murray ask children what they think the word respect means. Some responses were: "Treating people the way you want to be treated." "You would treat people kindly."

Henry said, "Respect is treating someone in a way that makes them feel cared for." The writer of this article knows the feeling of being cared for, as I, Mrs. J. Whitley was named the recipient of the Miller School Teacher of Character award! Dr. Giles recognized me for demonstrating the characteristics of the Pillar of Respect. Thank you, Dr. Giles, and my Miller family peers, for selecting me. A Wawa gift certificate was a thoughtful touch!

Miller staff and students were happy to celebrate this wonderful Pillar of Respect. As our first Miller School Rule states...Be Respectful!

## December 2019

December 1 — 7	December 8 — 14	December 15 — 21	December 22 — 31
	10 — BOE Agenda Session 7:30 BOE Conference Rm	17 — BOE Agenda Session 7:30 OBHS TV Studio	20 — Early Dismissal  Schools Closed for Winter Break December 23, 2019 through January 1, 2020 -

## School Board Recognizes Students, Staff for Hard Work, Dedication

The Old Bridge Board of Education recognized several individuals and groups for their hard work to the district and the community at its October meeting. It also gave representatives from Old Bridge Relay for Life an opportunity to acknowledge participants in the annual event which raises money for cancer research.



Old Bridge Relay for Life boasted 12 Old Bridge teams in 2019 with 96 participants, who helped raise more than \$27,000. This event is 100 percent volunteer driven.

During the board's recognition portion, the following individuals, organizations, and schools were presented certificates for their dedication to the district. They are as follows:

Jovin Percoco, an OBHS sophomore, was presented with a certificate for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. The teen built a habitat for Tania the Turtle, whose home is located at the Ellen McDermott Grade Nine Center EMGNC. While a freshman at the EMGNC, he upgraded the habitat of the turtle's residence, making it larger and equipping it with a basking area and new filtration system. Percoco is a member of Boy Scouts of America Troop 129.



Rory Yakubov, a mathematics teacher at the EMGNC, was acknowledged for being selected as a winner of a \$5,000 classroom makeover contest. To win, Yakubov encouraged everyone she knows to vote for her online in a contest sponsored by National Business Furniture of Wisconsin. And as a result, she was able to garner 20,000 votes. As a winner, she was able to pick out from an on-line store any furniture she wanted for her classroom. She selected 12 white board tables and a set of 30 chairs, as well as two chairs for herself. (continued on next page)





The school board also recognized the entire staff at William A. Miller and James A. McDivitt elementary schools for each earning certification as a Future Ready School of New Jersey bronze level and Memorial Elementary School for reaching silver level.

Future Ready Schools-New Jersey is a certification program designed to promote transformational change in schools and districts throughout New Jersey. FRS-NJ provides the guidance, support, direction, and resources schools need to achieve "Future Ready" goals, while fostering inclusive collaboration within schools and districts, and between them

throughout the state. Representatives from Memorial, McDivitt, and Miller schools were invited to celebrate their achievements with the FRS-NJ community at an awards ceremony on Oct. 22, at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

The Board of Education also commended the following staff members for being named Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts for the 2019-2020 school year. They are: Christopher Burica and Kristen DiGregorio, both teachers at Carl Sandburg Middle School; Andrew Lewis, teacher at Southwood Elementary School; Lynda Naspo, teacher at Miller School; Scott Titmas and James Yanuzzelli, both, technology integration specialists in the district; and Rory Yakubov, a teacher at the EMGNC. by Lori Luicci, District Public Relations Coordinator



## ***Growth Mindset at McDivitt***



Students in 4th grade work in small flexible groups during guided reading. While the teachers work with one group on strengthening skills that may have been a weakness on state assessments, other students use technology to practice reading comprehension and math. Some popular websites used are Study Island, Newsela.com, khanacademy.org, and prodigy. This helps gather data on student growth and allow students to work towards reaching the goals they have set for themselves. Always having a growth mindset is key in 4th grade!

## ***Green Screen Fun at Madison Park***



Fifth grade students at Madison Park School developed commercials based on research they completed on Earth's atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere and hydrosphere. After sharing their research in a jigsaw activity, student groups wrote a commercial script advertising their sphere. They then developed a Green Screen video by importing background photos to highlight the facts from their research and performing their script in front of those backgrounds in front of the Green Screen.



## ***Balloons Over Broadway Invades Shepard Makerspace***



Third Graders at Shepard got to experience their new Makerspace after reading *Balloons Over Broadway* by Melissa Sweet. Just in time for the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, the students learned about puppeteer Tony Sarg, who helped create the famous parade in 1924. The students created their own balloons for the parade and were photographed with them using Do Ink software and a green screen. This simulated each student being in the actual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. After being photographed, Challenge Teachers Mr. Lawrence and Mrs. Washburn helped the students learn how to use the Do Ink software with the iPad. Additionally, the Third Graders programmed Ozobots to follow a parade route, complete with stops and turns.

Next, Legos were used to construct buildings to mimic the cityscape of New York City. After completing all of the Makerspace activities, students wrote about their parade experience using Microsoft Teams. All the students had an amazing time putting a technological twist on a great Thanksgiving tradition.



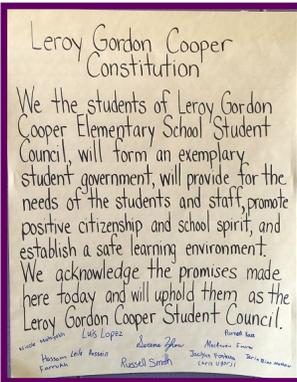
### CIA Students at Southwood



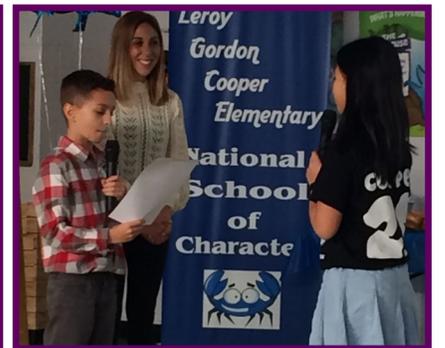
In following with our monthly character pillars, Southwood students were eager to learn about how to be respectful and teach about respect to one another. Our Character in Action team (CIA), which consists of fourth and fifth grade students, had the opportunity to read to their younger peers. The CIA students went into our preschool through second grade classrooms and taught what it means to be respectful. The big kids had a blast getting to read to the little ones and the little ones love following the lead of their favorite big kids!



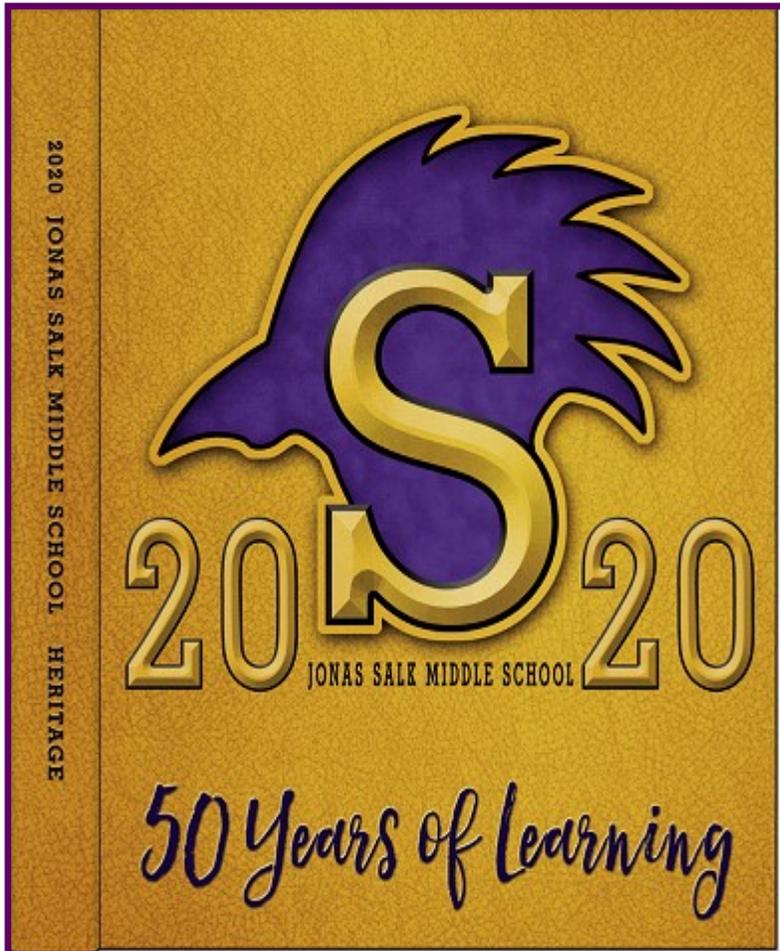
### Cooper Student Council Induction Ceremony



On Wednesday, November 20, Cooper School inducted its 2019-2020 Student Council Executive Board, along with grade 4 and 5 representatives. The event was coordinated by fifth grade teachers Mrs. Dinneny and Mrs. Simbol. The elections started with class nominations. Students then were asked to create poster boards displaying various attributes and school goals, and then write speeches which were recorded using our new green screen in the Makerspace. Once all were ready, the poster boards were displayed in the APR for the whole school to come down to see, and then all speeches were emailed to classroom teachers to play. This year, the whole school had the opportunity to vote for their new board members, and the winners are: President, Luis Lopez, Vide President, Serena Zhou, Treasurer, Leila Hussein, and Secretary, Jaclynn Fontana. Parents were invited to the induction ceremony, and the PTA provided refreshments for all to enjoy. Once the president was sworn in and signed the Cooper Constitution, he then inducted the remainder of the board, as well as the class representatives, who then signed the constitution. The document has been laminated and will be proudly displayed for the remainder of the year. We want to wish the new board the best of luck this year, and congratulations to all.



## Salk "Heritage" Yearbook Club Prepares 50th Anniversary Edition



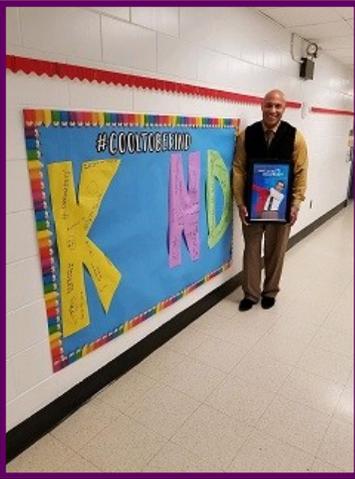
The Heritage yearbook advisor and editor, Lorraine Wehrle started planning this 50th edition during the winter of 2017 when she led a group of interested parents and faculty members through a brainstorming session. Since then a Salk 50th logo was created by 8th grader Katrina Aloquina and is the shining jewel on the 50th anniversary cover. Joanne Cavanaugh, Salk's PTA president, acquired two banners designed by Mr. Nick Andreacci to add to our recognition. Expect to see the larger banner marking our proud building come the new year. The yearbook will include articles about the opening and 25th anniversary celebrations of the past. Teachers have been asked for pictures and many will be interviewed for their fondest memories. The club members are looking forward to decorating the halls with pages of old yearbooks early spring. Special pages will be dedicated to traditions forgotten and those that still ring true a half-century later. The superlatives will have a classic feel with titles such as most likely to succeed and may include the teachers too. In addition, this will be the first year that the 8th graders will have special commencement photos included in the yearbook thanks to Mrs. Nicole Hoelz, Salk's activity coordinator.

## Madison Park's Annual Thanksgiving Feast



Every year, Madison Park's PTA puts together a delicious and traditional Thanksgiving Feast. This year's menu included some traditional items like turkey, stuffing, corn, mashed potatoes and corn bread and, for dessert, the classes were treated to pies and cookies. This tradition was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we want to say THANK YOU to our PTA and parents who cooked, donated, and served us all the yummy food!

## Kindness Day Activities at Memorial School



Mrs. Desiderio’s and Mrs. Yanuzelli’s second grade classes celebrated World Kindness Day by creating a kindness wall and a kindness quilt. Students discussed different ways to show kindness to each other and gave examples of how each of us can continue to show kindness in our everyday lives, both at school and at home. Students also learned about Mr. Rogers and his wonderful television show, “Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood,” in which he shared with children how to be a good neighbor and how important kindness is. Students brainstormed words, phrases, and hashtags to write on their letters for their kindness wall at Memorial School. Once the wall was assembled, students took turns posing in fun ways to represent the letter “I” in the word “kind.” Even Dr. Payton and the teachers joined in on the fun to pose for the kindness wall. Students also worked together with a buddy in class to complete a coloring activity that was put together to make a kindness quilt and proudly displayed it in the hallway. Students agree that it is “Cool to be Kind.”

Students in Mrs. Marshall’s fourth grade class celebrated World Kindness Day by watching a tribute to Mister Roger’s Neighborhood and then completed a Kindness Day writing prompt. Students had to illustrate a picture of themselves as the letter “I” in the word “kind” and then describe two different ways they could show acts of kindness. At Memorial, students practice kindness, not just on World Kindness Day, but each and every day at school.



## Shepard’s Change for Turkeys



Shepard Elementary students came together in November to help make a difference. They collected change to buy Thanksgiving dinners for needy families in Old Bridge. Working with the PTA Presidents’ Council, they collected a total of \$695.53 over one week! This will purchase 11+ dinners. Great job, Shepard Sharks!

## ***Fitness at Schirra School***

All 5th graders in Schirra Elementary School enjoyed an afternoon of Fitness with Mr. Caiazzo. With the help of parent volunteers, the students completed 12 different fitness activities and recorded their information on index cards. Come the spring, the students will complete the 12 fitness activities again to see how much growth they have made this year. The students challenged themselves to climb to the top of the rope, complete crab walk shuttles, scooter shuttle, obstacles course, push-ups, rope jumping and much more. Each and every student showed great sportsmanship by helping each other and pushing their classmates to do their best.



## ***America Recycles Day at Miller School***

The Miller Elementary staff of Old Bridge wore green in honor of the 22nd celebration of America Recycles Day, today, November 15, 2019. The first America Recycles Day was recognized and celebrated on November 15, 1997. It is the only nationally-recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. ARD has helped millions of Americans become better informed about the importance of recycling and buying products made from recycled materials. America Recycles Day is a Keep America Beautiful national initiative. Keep America Beautiful is a coalition that was formed in the early 1950s, promoting the beautification of America.



## ***Madison Park Supports Our Troops***



Once again, the Madison Park community showed their appreciation and admiration of America's Troops, Veterans and First Responders through Operation Gratitude. Beginning with our annual "Halloween Candy Give-Back Program", students and staff donated a portion of their own Halloween candy to be included in Care Packages sent overseas and to First Responders serving their local communities. This program provides every American child the opportunity to learn about service, sacrifice and generosity. Next, the monetary responsibility for shipping over 150 lbs. Finally, after learning about Veterans Day, students created cards and wrote letters for Americans who are currently serving their country, those wounded in their service, veterans, and First Responders. Madison Park is very grateful to those who have served our wonderful country and proud of our group efforts to put our character into action.



## ***Old Bridge High School Presents Fall Comedy***



Old Bridge High School presented the fall comedy, "Out of Order," on November 21st and 22nd.

The cast included: Trevor Flynn-Stead, as the manager; Robert Oakes as Richard Willey; Nick Najarian as the body; Julia Reste as Jane Worthington; Daniel Reda as George Pidgen; Allie Lockhart as Pamela; Karin Daniel as the maid; Chris Roddy as Ronnie; Olivia Reste as Gladys; and Bashler Luxeus as the waiter. The show was under the direction of teacher Jessica Tosonotti and student director Anthony Ferrigno.

## What Lifts You at McDivitt School

McDivitt's art students studied street artist Kelsey Montague. Kelsey is interested in exploring how public art, Interactive Art and Social Media intersect. Her murals invite people into a piece and then invite people to share their experience online. Her beautiful murals can be found all over the world. These feathers were a way to invite Cheesequake students and staff to a new school and to connect everyone together through their art. Just about everyone that attends and works at McDivitt School colored a feather and every single feather was included in this mural for all to enjoy! #whatliftsyou



## Student Led Conferences at Southwood School



With the first marking period coming to an end, Southwood fourth and fifth grade students have the opportunity to reflect on their start to the school year with Student Led Conferences. Southwood teachers give students the opportunity to tell their parents how they are doing at Parent/Teacher Conferences. The students work hard to prepare their progress folders and practice their comments with the teacher. This is a great way for the Seahawks to take ownership of their learning!



## Thanksgiving Cheer at Miller School



Fourth grade students at Miller School spread Thanksgiving cheer by creating personalized cards for the residents at the Reformed Church Home. Each month the students and residents participate in activities fostering a bond between young and old. This month the students came up with the idea of surprising the residents with the cards so that they could keep them in their rooms. One student said they hoped seeing the cards would "make them smile each day." The cards were delivered the Tuesday before Thanksgiving so that all of the residents got to receive one at their Thanksgiving festivities.



HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS

2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR

# Old Bridge Public Library News...



Happy Holidays

The holidays are upon us and that means our annual **Winterfest** is coming! This year, we will be combining this popular family event with our **New Year's Celebration**, and it will take place on **Tuesday, December 31st from 10:30-1pm**.

Our **New Year's at Noon** program will feature an 11:30am holiday story time, leading into a New Year's countdown at 11:59am, complete with bubbles and music. Throughout the day we will have a wide array of games, crafts, delicious holiday refreshments, and plenty of activities for all ages. Winterfest has been well attended in the past, so families are encouraged to arrive early in order to take full advantage of all the event offers.

In addition, we also have a few other special sessions this month geared for students in grades 4-12. There will be an **Electric Winter Wonderland** program on Thurs. Dec. 12 @6pm where kids can create a holiday card of their choice and decorate it with LEDs. On Fri. Dec. 20 @6pm we'll have a **Light the Origami** program where students will learn how to create a paper ornament and a paper circuit to light it up. And then on Mon. Dec. 23 @6:30pm, we'll host a **Quote Along Elf** screening where kids (and adults!) can join in quoting their favorite lines and singing holiday songs from this classic holiday film.

On another note, we recognize that the end of the year is often a stressful time for many people, so we will be offering a new wellness "**Stress Less**" series. These sessions throughout December will allow you to take time for yourself, and enjoy assorted relaxing activities to help de-stress and unwind. We will offer **Puzzles and Coloring** drop-in sessions from 11am-3pm where you can work on a jigsaw puzzle or do some coloring. Bring a friend or two and enjoy each other's company, or come solo for some quiet time. These sessions will be offered on Dec. 3, 18 and 23. In addition, we will have a program on **Reiki and Natural Healing** on Dec. 10th at 11am, and a session on **Mindfulness Meditation** on Dec. 11th at 2pm. Registration is required for both the Reiki and Mindfulness sessions, as well as the Electric Winter and Origami programs, by calling 732-721-5600 x5033 or online at: [www.oldbridgelibrary.org](http://www.oldbridgelibrary.org). Happy Holidays to all!



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[www.oldbridgelibrary.org](http://www.oldbridgelibrary.org)

## Author Talk: Steve Snyder: *Shot Down* Wed. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> @7pm

The winner of 20 national book awards, *Shot Down* details the story of the B-17 Flying Fortress *Susan Ruth* and its heroic crew. Join Steve Snyder as he shares the story of his father, Lt. Howard Snyder, and the Susan Ruth crew, providing in-depth details about many aspects of World War II. The book details the lives and roles of the ten crew members, including Joseph Musial, a former Laurence Harbor resident and nephew of baseball legend Stan Musial. A Q&A session will follow the presentation, and copies of the book will be available for sale.

## Second Saturday Concert Event:

**Vinyl Traction**  
Saturday, December 14th  
@2:30pm



Middletown residents **Robert Lafferty and Frank Tota** make up the acoustic duo **Vinyl Traction**. They perform regularly around the shore region, featuring classic rock songs from the **Allman Bros, Billy Joel, the Doobie Bros, the Eagles, ELO, Eric Clapton, Van Morrison, Train, Santana** and many others.

*Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable, unexpired food donation for the Old Bridge Food Bank to this free event.*