

COPPER HILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2020

Character Trait: Diligence/Perseverance

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Dear Parents,

January has been full of fun and celebrations at Copper Hill! We had an amazing turn out at our Family Coding Night, facilitated by our computer literacy teacher, Mrs. Cook, and our technology integration specialist, Ms. Flavin. We had over 42 families join us for an evening of coding, squishy circuits, Legos and robotics! Our Fourth Grade Chorus and Chimes students shared an amazing performance of *Animal Imagination!* with our school community and their families. Ms. Golding works so hard with her students to not only teach them the music, but also instill a love for the arts. We look forward to their next performance in the spring! Several of our Copper Hill artists' work is on display at the Hunterdon Art Museum Young Artist Showcase, courtesy of Ms. Griffis, our fabulous art teacher. An opening reception was held for these talented artists and their families.

We congratulate Ms. Jane Roosa and Mrs. Laurie McKenzie, as they have been chosen as Teacher of the Year and Educational Services Professional of the Year, respectively. Ms. Roosa is a special education teacher in first grade and Mrs. McKenzie is a speech and language specialist. Staff are chosen for these awards after being nominated by colleagues and parents, and then a committee review, which includes parents, teachers and administration. Both staff members are invaluable to our Copper Hill Community and are well-deserving of this special recognition!

We kicked off *The Great Kindness Challenge* at our January Town Hall to promote acts of kindness and to make a difference in the lives of others. We also honored the many individuals who worked behind the scenes to install two Sensory Paths in Copper Hill; one in our preschool wing and one in our back hallway. We thanked our Flemington-Raritan Education Foundation who purchased the paths and our Maintenance and Custodial Departments for preparing the floors for us. We also had a team who cut out the many decals, another team who planned the layout of each path, and yet another team who came into school on December 27 to install the decals, and our PTO who provided support. The paths look fantastic and are used by all of our Copper Hill students each day! Thank you to everyone for their dedication and assistance!

We had many service learning projects underway and the generosity of our school community was overwhelming! Through the Super Bowl Challenge for the Food Pantry and the Harvest Family Success Center, our students demonstrated kindness, good sportsmanship and respect, collecting 525 items for local families in need. A special collection was also held, "*Be the CHANGE you want to see in the world!*" and we had jugs full of change to donate to the American Red Cross. Thank you for making a difference in our community!

As we look ahead, we are excited for our PTO's first Copper Hill Winter Jam, which will be held on Friday, February 21 from 6:30-8:30; parents must accompany their child(ren). Our PTO is also creating a Copper Hill Cookbook, which all are welcome to contribute to! More information on both PTO fundraisers can be found on virtual backpack and flyers sent home.

As we move into the second half of the school year, we thank you very much for your continued support of your children and all of our school events!

Sincerely,

Vanessa Ahmed
Principal

Jesse Lockett
Vice Principal

School Closed

School will be closed on **Friday, February 14th** for Staff development and **Monday, February 17th** in observance of Presidents' Day.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration will be held on **Tuesday, Feb. 25th** from 9:00 am-11:30 am and from 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm (Snow date will be **Tuesday, March 3rd**) Children must be 5 years old by October 1, 2020. Please bring your child's original birth certificate and proof of residency in addition to the Kindergarten Registration Packet.

ABSENCES AND CHANGES IN YOUR CHILD'S ROUTINES

- If your child is **ABSENT** or **TARDY** for any reason, please call the Copper Hill **ATTENDANCE LINE** by dialing **284-7665 Option 1**. Leave a message detailing the nature of the absence, your child's name and his/her teacher's name. Messages may be left at any time of night or morning and are retrieved on a daily basis.
- If your child needs to be **DISMISSED EARLY**, please send a note to school with your child in the morning listing the time for pick-up and the reason. Children leaving school prior to 3:25 will be marked as an early dismissal. Three early dismissals count as one absence.
- If your child normally rides the bus but will need to be **PICKED UP** at dismissal time, please send a note with your child that morning.
- Please **DO NOT** leave information regarding your child's change in dismissal on a **teacher's e-mail or voicemail**. They often don't have an opportunity to check their e-mail during the day and your message may not be communicated.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE SEND A NOTE WITH YOUR CHILD IN THE MORNING FOR ANY CHANGE IN PROCEDURE SO THAT CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION IS NOT INTERRUPTED WITH A PHONE CALL.



Gym Excuses

A parent note stating the reason for a gym excuse is required. A doctor's note is required if your child will be excused from gym 3 or more days. If your child is unable to participate in gym they will rest in the nurse's office during recess.

Parent Class Request 2020-2021

Creation of class lists is an important responsibility that classroom teachers, content specialists, guidance and administrators take very seriously. A great deal of time and effort goes into creating classes, which are well balanced academically and socially. Many factors are considered in making placement decisions, including both desirable and undesirable social combinations of students, numbers of students requiring academic support or enrichment and overall number balance.

Placement decisions are not made casually. Because it is not as simple as placing a student with a teacher without considering all of the dynamics of each class, as well as the individual and collective needs of the students, the Flemington Raritan School District does not honor parental requests for specific teachers.

Parents may write a letter to the principal stating specific needs that their child may have and which may be considered when placing the student. The letter should state facts to consider and not include a request for a specific teacher.

LETTERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 1, 2020

Important Safety Notice- Emergency Contact Information for Every Child

Does your child know your emergency plan????? Now that winter is here, it is quite possible that school could be cancelled early due to inclement weather. Please be sure that your child knows where to go if you are not home when he or she arrives. If you are not home in time to let your child in the house, please be sure your child knows where to go and what to do. Please continue to review this plan with your child.

Additionally, it is absolutely critical that we have current phone chain information for every child. Cell phone and work phone numbers tend to change. As neighbors move, designated emergency contact persons may change as well. Please be sure to provide the office with prompt written notice of any work, home or cell phone number changes for you or the individuals you designated as emergency contact persons for your children. This is essential information in our emergency contact procedures, and we appreciate your cooperation. Additionally, remember that the YMCA After School program is cancelled on emergency early dismissal days. Thank you.



