

# COPPER HILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September 2014

Character Trait: Responsibility

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Dear Copper Hill Families,

It does not seem to be that long ago when all of the students were in our gymnasium watching the end of year video. All summers go quickly but this one seemed particularly quick. That being said, it is great to see over 525 students enter the school once again. Everyone is geared up for another great year.

This year we are welcoming several new staff members to the Copper Hill community and there are others who have moved from one position to another. The personnel changes include:

Kathy Griffith	Vice Principal Maternity Leave
Lindsay Lehman	Integrated Preschool
Brittney Johnson	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Autism
Jaclyn Cleaver	Speech
Kim Veneziano	.5 Resource Room Maternity Leave
Marge Mayers	Art Maternity Leave
Dori Ross	Project Happy (From Barley Sheaf to Copper Hill)
Mary Genovese	Project Happy (From Barley Sheaf to Copper Hill)
Irina Dmitrenko	ESL (From Desmares to Copper Hill)
Dorothy Yoos	First Grade to Kindergarten
Pat Kurylo	First Grade to Kindergarten
Jeff Moore	Third Grade to First Grade
Christi Staikos	Fourth Grade to Second Grade
Lisa Niles	Second Grade to Third Grade
Deborah Scanlon	Integrated Preschool TA
Deb Hagar	Preschool Autism TA
Melissa Kasper	Preschool Autism TA
Susan Stillwell	Project Happy TA
Tracy McDonald	Project Happy TA
Greta Meiners	LEAP TA
Gary Linnemeyer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade TA
Carolyn Vandegiessen	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Autism TA

This year, we will have three staff members either not starting the year or leaving very shortly after the opening of school to begin their maternity leave. Mrs. Servetnick, Ms. Griffis and Mrs. Ahmed will all be out for all or part of the this year. We want to wish each of them all the best as they are all expecting their first child.

As in years past, each family will be receiving a copy of the Copper Hill Parent Handbook. Please take a few moments to review the various policies and practices we have in place to ensure a physically and emotionally safe environment for our students. Below are some of the practices and procedures I would like to highlight which tend to have the most immediate impact. Please review carefully.

**1. In order to maintain a learning environment which is healthy and sensitive to our students with severe food allergies; the following practices will be put into place:**

- **Daily classroom snack and birthday parties may consist of a fruit, vegetable or dairy product.**
- **Food for grade level parties and special events will be at the discretion of the teacher, school nurse or building administration and will remain in line with the district's wellness policy.**

- *Classroom teachers and the school nurse have the liberty to limit specific snacks based on a food allergy specific to their classroom.*
  - *Birthday treats must be pre-approved with the classroom teacher.*
  - *At no time are students to share their snack with another student.*
2. *Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their own child(ren) in the Sky Light Café. If a rest room is needed, parents should return to the front office. Please do not enter the office through the rear doors. Students may use the restrooms in the third grade hallway. The following guidelines also need to be followed to assure the great opportunity for parents and students is managed appropriately:*
    1. *Please provide a note to your child's teacher indicating the date of your lunch plans with your child.*
    2. *To keep all of our students safe the sharing of food is not permitted.*
    3. *Please be mindful that classes are in session and use an indoor voice level.*
    4. *Children should demonstrate respectful Cougar Character and remain seated at the lunch table.*
    5. *If your child is going to meet their class for recess, they must first check in with the Cafeteria Teachers in the cafeteria before going outside.*
  3. *Please note the drop-off and pick-up procedures mentioned in the Parent Handbook. As many of you are aware, Copper Hill is a very busy place at arrival and dismissal. When entering and leaving the building during these times, please utilize the cross walks and do not cut in-between buses and vans. If you are dropping your child off after the start of the school day, please remember that you need to accompany your child into the building to sign them in. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.*
  4. *The Raptor Security System is new this September in all Flemington-Raritan Schools. Please review new procedures for entering the building which are highlighted in the Copper Hill Parent Handbook.*

We look forward to seeing everyone on either September 17<sup>th</sup> for Kindergarten Back-to-School Night or September 18<sup>th</sup> for Back-to-School Night.

As mentioned earlier, it is great to have the students filling our hallways and classrooms with their energy. Everyone is ready to get the year started and make it another wonderful year!

Welcome Back!

Kevin McPeek  
Principal

#### **RAPTOR SECURITY SYSTEM COMES TO FRSD THIS YEAR**

One of the district's new security procedures this year is the introduction of the visitor registration system; *Raptor*. When you visit our school and come into the office, you will be asked to have your driver's license scanned. The program will prepare a badge, with your picture, which must be worn the entire time you are in the building. The system will allow us to maintain an electronic roster of who is visiting our school and help us, if needed, at dismissal time. Finally, the scan will immediately be reviewed by a national sex offender database in Houston, Texas, and will alert school staff if a match is found.

All visitors and volunteers must use the front door, sign in at the main office and obtain an identification badge. To gain access to classrooms and hallways, visitors must be processed with the Raptor check-in system. Visitors will be asked to present a valid driver's license from any state, an official state photo identification card or military identification card for scanning. At the end of the visit, you must return the badge and you will be signed out of the system. You will only be asked to present your photo ID at our school one time.

After that, you will be a registered visitor in our secure database. District-wide protocols have been developed to further support this new program. We appreciate your ongoing support of our security procedures as well as your patience and cooperation in our building.

### 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 3:10 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 procedure 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.**

### CAFETERIA INFORMATION

Checks sent in for lunches should be made out to FRSD Board of Education and need to include the student's first and last name and PIN number. If you would like your child to only be able to purchase lunches with money put on account (and NOT snacks) write "lunches only" on the check.

### LOST AND FOUND

Please label all your child's belongings (lunchboxes, jackets, etc.) Any items that are found with a name on them will be returned. The lost and found is located right outside the office. Valuables (such as money, jewelry, eyeglasses etc.) will be kept in the office. Items that have been claimed will be donated to charity over winter break.

### COPPER HILL WEBSITE

Visit our Copper Hill Website for any of the latest news, flyers and calendar updates. Got to: [www.frsd.k.12.nj.us/copper](http://www.frsd.k.12.nj.us/copper)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup>	PTO Back to School Social
Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Kindergarten Open House 6:30-7:30
Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Early Dismissal</b> (grades K-4) Back to School Night (grades 1-4)
Sept. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Board of Education Meeting - JP Case
Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	School Pictures
Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	School Pictures
Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>School Closed</b> (Rosh Hashanah)
Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>	School Pictures

**SEPTEMBER'S CHARACTER EDUCATION TRAIT IS:  
RESPONSIBILITY**

