



Superintendent's Report April 4, 2023

Our Kindergarten registration for the 2023-2024 school year is underway. All information is on our district website, www.ClosterSchools.org. The link is on the main page – it is the first banner on the right hand side, entitled, Kindergarten Registration 2023-2024. If you have questions about Kindergarten registration, please call Ms. Cheryl Boehm at Hillside School. If you know of any families with students who will be registering for Kindergarten, please encourage them to register soon!

Save the date for the Closter PTO Annual Dinner Dance, *Aloha on the Hudson*, to be held on Friday, May 19, 2023, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Pier 701 in Piermont, NY. The PTO seeks sponsors and donations of goods, coupons, and services to include in the raffle and silent auction. Please reach out to cloptodinnerdance@gmail.com for more information. Thanks to Jackie Morgan and Jill Herling, 2023 Dinner Dance Co-Chairs for leading the planning of this event, which is the PTO's largest fundraiser.

Our proposed budget for the 2023-2024 school year has been approved by the New Jersey Department of Education Bergen County Office. The public hearing on the budget will be at our next Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2023. Thank you to our Business Administrator, Floro Villanueva, his staff, and the Board of Education Finance and Physical Plant Committee for their continued work on preparing a fiscally responsible budget that ensures we maintain the excellence of the Closter Public Schools.

This month our schools are observing Arab American Heritage Month. Students will be learning about contributions by Arab Americans, reading books with Arab and Arab American protagonists, and creating artwork and music from Arab cultures. The principals will report all the observance activities from both schools at the next Board meeting. I was pleased to attend Closter's Ramadan Lighting Ceremony on Monday, April 3, 2023. It was a beautiful event attended by many community members to celebrate and learn about Ramadan. Several of our students were guest speakers, and all children attending assisted Mayor Glidden in counting down to the lighting of the crescent moon stand.

District Goals Update

Goal #1: Both schools have identified programs they are using to develop students in relevant life skills, being good citizens, promoting anti-bullying skills, supporting mental health, and developing social-emotional wellness. The programs focus on supporting and developing the whole child.

Goal #2: Mr. Tantum and the TMS faculty continue implementing the High School Preparedness Plan for the 2022-2023 school year. As reported in February 2023, grade-level teams identified study skills strategies to teach students, gathered resources to teach the skills explicitly, and identified and shared best practices for teaching study skills. The teachers will be engaging in vertical articulation meetings beginning the week of May 30, 2023, and ending the week of June 13, 2023. Mr. Tantum will provide a year-end summary of the implementation of the High School Preparedness Plan.

Goal #3: The faculty and staff have created a "culture of consistency" document for each school to identify a return to the practices that existed before the COVID-19 pandemic and new practices to

enhance academics through enrichment activities. I have shared the documents with the Board of Education trustees.

Goal #4: In February 2023, we surveyed teachers and certificated staff to determine their thoughts on professional development, participation on district committees, level of engagement, and morale. The survey data was shared with the personnel committee. The next step will be to partner with teachers and certificated staff to design solutions for challenges identified through the survey. This work will continue in the 2023-2024 school year.

Ramadan Mubarak to all of the families observing Ramadan this month. Chag Pesach Sameach to families observing Passover, beginning tomorrow, April 5, 2023. Happy Easter to families celebrating on April 9, 2023. Wishing everyone all the best during this holy season for so many!

Schools will be closed for spring recess from Friday, April 7, 2023, through Sunday, April 16, 2023. Have a wonderful vacation! Schools will reopen on Monday, April 17, 2023.

Vincent Mc Hale