

# Copper Hill Elementary School

March 2022 Family Newsletter

100 Everitts Road  
Ringoes, NJ 08551  
908-284-7660  
908-284-7671 (fax)  
908-284-7665 (attendance line)

**Mr. Jesse Lockett**, Principal

**Mrs. Amy Switkes**, Vice Principal

**Mrs. Rebecca Moeri**, School Counselor - ext. 57669

**Mrs. Lisa Maslankowski**, School Nurse - ext. 57670

## Dear Copper Hill Families,

Fingers crossed that the old proverb is true..."March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb!" We are hopeful that we are beyond winter, as we are eager to welcome spring, flowers, baseball, and longer days. More importantly, we are excited to continue to move into a level of normalcy and welcoming all stakeholders into our wonderful school.

At our February town hall meeting, we focused on inclusion and pride. Inclusion helps to ensure that every student and staff member at Copper Hill is an important part of our school community, it is about honoring diversity and how we are all different, and it helps us to ensure that everyone feels included and that their needs are being met. Pride is having a feeling of being good and worthy, having self-respect, and celebrating our differences because we are all unique! We take pride in ourselves, our family, our school, and our community.

What's happening in March?

- The Copper Hill Physical Education Department will hold their annual "Safety Town" unit this month, which our students absolutely love!
- Please see important details below regarding a blood drive that we will be holding for a former Copper Hill Cougar and her family. Your support for our school and community is always appreciated!

- Please sign up for "Cougars on the Court" PTO event, as this will be fun for our students and families.

<https://www.frsd.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01001104/Centricity/Domain/281/Cougarsonthecourt.pdf>

Effective March 7, 2022, masks will be optional. If you have not already done so, please communicate with your child's teacher if you have a specific request that they can support regarding mask wearing. We will discuss with our students respecting the choices of our classmates and their grownups at home. The hope is that we set the stage for kindness and acceptance of the choices of others, and that rudeness or criticism of anyone's choice to wear or not to wear a mask will not be tolerated at Copper Hill School. This is a change for everyone, and many different feelings may arise.

Our Cougar community continues to be BRAVE, SMART, KIND, & TOGETHER!

With great appreciation,

Jesse Lockett and Amy Switkes



## **BLOOD DRIVE**

The Copper Hill School Community is rallying for one of our former students. Megan Weingarten is a 12-year old battling Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS-EB) with Monosomy 7, a blood cancer similar to Leukemia. It is extremely rare for pediatric patients to receive this diagnosis—between 1-4 children out of every million. In just over a month, Megan has needed over a dozen blood transfusions and has many, many more to come. There are so many others like Megan, so your blood donation is needed. Give the gift of life and donate a "Pint of Love" in honor of our girl!

May 8, 2022.

Volunteers and donations are needed.



## **PRESCHOOL PARKING**

We have designated eight parking spots for preschool parent drop off and pickup. These parking spots are currently designated by cones in front of the preschool entrance.

## **NEW DRILL GUIDANCE**

As per new guidance from the NJ Department of Education Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning, we will be notifying you each month when we have our monthly security drill. We will continue to approach these drills in a kid friendly manner with developmentally appropriate language, while promoting the safety and security of our students and staff.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**2/28/22 to 3/4/22- Read Across America Week**

**3/7/22- Staff Professional Learning Day (School Closed for Students)**

**3/8/22, 3/9/22, 3/10/22- Grades 2 and 4 CogAT**

**3/11/22, 3/14/22, 3/15/22- Grade 3 CogAT**

**4/1/22-Cougars on the Court**

## **Parent Class Request 2021-2022**

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

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, 2022***

## Important Updates from Nurse Maslankowski

Please continue monitoring district guidance and correspondence as we continue to navigate the updated Cali Report and the local and federal guidance.

## Free Breakfast and Lunch for 2021-2022

Breakfast and lunch options are available for all students this year at no cost to families. Please visit [Maschio's website](#) for updated menus and other important information.

### Lunch Information:

For safety purposes, please refrain from sending in glass bottles or glass tupperware.



## Safety and Security



- Please do not hold any doors for visitors.
- Please use the crosswalks in the parking lot.
- Please obey the 15 mph speed limit in our parking lot.
- Student drop off begins at 8:45 am. Please wait at the stop sign, until being waved on by one of our staff members wearing bright green vests.
- When exiting the drop off area please be aware of buses that may still be entering the back parking lot or leaving the school.
- If you are dropping your child off after 8:55 am, please park your car in the main parking lot and walk your child into the building and check in with the main office.
- Please **DO NOT** park your vehicle in the front driveway of the building.
- For the safety and security of our staff and students, monthly fire and security drills are conducted.
- Staff wear bright green safety vests during drills as well as during bus duty.

## 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 **908-284-7665** or report an absence online [here](#). 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 pm will be marked as an early dismissal. Please note, three tardies or 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 do not 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 YOUR CHILD'S ROUTINE.**

## LOST AND FOUND

Please label all of your child's belongings (lunchboxes, jackets, glasses, 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 not been claimed will be donated at the end of the school year.



## PTO Updates & Calendar

### *Valentine grams were a success*

What a fun way to share some love between family and friends. We hope everyone had a wonderful Valentine's day!

### *Donuts, donuts, donuts!*

Our donut fundraiser was a success. We hope you enjoyed your donuts and were so pleased to share donuts with our community and teachers along with some wonderful drawings and cards the students created.

### *Cougars On The Court Friday, April 1st, 5-7pm*

**VOLUNTEERS** sign up here.

<https://signup.com/go/oOzHyRV>

**Dancers On The Court**

<https://signup.com/go/BpFpSFS>

**K-2nd GRADE PLAYERS** sign up here <https://signup.com/go/OGtkwvZ>

**3rd-4th GRADE PLAYERS** sign up here <https://signup.com/go/KehrmOE>

**Teacher/Staff PLAYERS** sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/MVxpUMj>

All teams are encouraged to wear matching color t-shirts or get creative and design your own.



### ***Behind the scenes with your PTO***

Generous fundraising has allowed your PTO to continue to support our teachers and students. We're happy to once again supply our school with library bags for incoming kindergarteners and new students. This September we will continue to greet new students with welcome bags from the PTO. Elf Bucks and Scholastic Dollars for free and reduced allowed each student the opportunity to shop at the Holiday Store and Book Fair. The PTO has updated The Teacher Of The Year Plaque with last year and this year's teachers name plates. The return of assemblies is near. All the hard fundraising makes this possible. We couldn't be happier and more excited to fund these in school events once again.

### **Meet with the PTO / Community Meeting**

The PTO will meet via Zoom Thursday March 24 from 7-8pm . We will review what we've done, where we're going, and how you can help. Looking forward to lots of spring activities ahead!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://frsd.zoom.us/j/82545628054?pwd=YnFHZGNGM3c4VWhlQ2JzNXRudWkwZz09>

Meeting ID: 825 4562 8054

Passcode: 822134

Please feel free to contact us with questions, suggestions and feedback at:

[copperhillelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:copperhillelementarypto@gmail.com).

### **Facebook**

Have you joined our FaceBook Page? Use the link below or search "Copper Hill Elementary School PTO". Make sure to answer the 3 security questions.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/546291015501685/?ref=bookmarks>

***Please feel free to contact the PTO with questions, suggestions and feedback at***

**[copperhillelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:copperhillelementarypto@gmail.com)**.

**Co- President** Jacqué Beason

**Co- President** Lauren Levin

**Co-Vice President** Alyssa Kayser

**Co-Vice President** Caitlin Ryan Persche

**Co- Treasurer** Tara Kraatz

**Co- Treasurer** Angelique Parashis

### **Secretaries**

Michelle Blane

Robin Cooper

Christina Eliades

Katherine Sun

Candice Testa