



# Flemington-Raritan School District Parent & Community Newsletter

June, 2020 Edition 10

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## HELLO, FAMILIES!

The last day of school is usually bittersweet. As educators, we are pleased with all that our students have achieved over the school year and feel a great sense of accomplishment in our students' learning. Yet, there is a bit of melancholy as we think about our students leaving us either to begin their next year as high school students, as in the case with our eighth graders or to move on to the next grade level.

Our last day of school is tomorrow, Tuesday, June 23, 2020. Monday, June 22nd and Tuesday, June 23rd, are both early dismissal days from school. Use your child's school schedule for guidance on the daily schedule for these two days of school.

This year, COVID-19 has brought unprecedented challenges that have caused many of us to feel an even greater sense of melancholy. I am hopeful that with New Jersey's continuation of flattening the curve for cases of COVID-19, our reopening of businesses and establishments will continue.

Flemington Raritan Schools will continue to adjust to meet our families' and students' needs. Please take a moment to take a brief remote learning survey as we continue to plan for September: [Student Survey Link](#) and [Parent Survey Link](#).

## RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER WITH CONFIDENCE

This week I expect to receive information from the State of New Jersey's Department of Education on guidelines to reopen our school doors. We have planned for four different scenarios for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year:

1. All students in our physical buildings with social distancing in place;
2. Some students in physical buildings and some students virtual (An AM/PM or "A" Day/"B" Day Split Session);
3. All students virtual; (remote learning);
4. Intermittent virtual (a quick shift from in-person instruction to remote instruction).

If you are interested in serving on the Superintendent's Re-Opening Committee, please contact Mrs. Laura Bruhn at [lbruhn@frsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:lbruhn@frsd.k12.nj.us) to serve on a committee. There are four opportunities to serve for committee work. Committees will provide recommendations, concerns, and strategies to the Superintendent of Schools. The first meetings will occur the week of July 6<sup>th</sup> and organized by the Committee Chair.

- Operations and Governance (Think Tank on rapid response plan for COVID-19 response, refusals &

homeschooling remote instruction, classroom design, facility issues.)

- Finance (Think Tank on purchases for PPE, health & hygiene needs, transportation, meals, and food distribution.)
- Personnel (Think Tank on schedules, workday, compliance, social distancing measures, remote learning.)
- Physical and Mental Health (Think Tank on social distancing, counseling needs, health & safety.)

As I have information and guidelines to share, I will keep our community informed. Thank you for your patience and support.



## CELEBRATING OUR RETIREES

On behalf of Flemington-Raritan Regional School District, I share my sincere congratulations with the faculty and staff members who are retiring this year. I so admire and respect the devotion and passion these staff members have demonstrated in the service of our students and families over many years. They are an integral part of our district's legacy. I wish them the very best in all the joy that awaits each of them in their retirement years. We will miss them all next year and wish good health, happiness, and restful days.

- Linda Amato, *Administrative Secretary*  
Francis A. Desmares School
- Oliver Blay, *Grade 8 Science Teacher*  
J.P. Case Middle School
- Jodi Brush, *Grade 4 Teacher*  
Francis A. Desmares School  
*Completed 30 Years of Service*

- Thea Chalikis, *Family & Consumer Sciences (Fabrics) Teacher*  
J.P. Case Middle School
- Debra Davis, *Grade 5 Teacher*  
Reading-Fleming Intermediate School
- Lisa Garrabrant, *World Language (Spanish) Teacher*  
J.P. Case Middle School
- Patricia Hillebrecht, *Reading Recovery Teacher*  
Robert Hunter School
- Patricia Kurylo, *Kindergarten Teacher*  
Copper Hill School
- Mitra Mandal, *Cafeteria Aide & Supervisor*  
Francis A. Desmares School
- Ellen Rogers, *Autism Teacher*  
Copper Hill School
- Jane Roosa, *Resource Center Teacher*  
Copper Hill School
- Melanie Rosengarden, *School Nurse*  
Reading-Fleming Intermediate School  
J.P. Case Middle School
- Kathryn Scheffels, *Health & Physical Education Teacher*  
Reading-Fleming Intermediate School
- Audrey Spies, *Instrumental Music Teacher*  
Reading-Fleming Intermediate School  
(effective September 30th)
- Barbara Stewart, *Grade 3 Teacher*  
Francis A. Desmares School
- David Thomas, *Instrumental Music Teacher*  
J.P. Case Middle School
- Michele Tonge, *G&T Math Teacher*  
Francis A. Desmares School
- Ameloisa (Amy) Martinez-Wright, *ESL Teacher*  
Reading-Fleming Intermediate School  
J.P. Case Middle School

### **FACILITIES, OPERATIONS AND REFERENDUM PROGRESS**

The roofing company, Pravco, is proceeding steadily with the roof replacement at Barley Sheaf Elementary School. The roof is almost finished

with only a few remaining items to address. Roof-flashing abatement work, metal flashing replacement and related masonry work has been completed at Barley Sheaf Elementary School. Pravco had the benefit of

beautiful weather in the past few days.

The old brick chimney on the top of Barley Sheaf was removed. A new double-wall metal flue was installed to serve the hot water heater.



Work has been concentrated at Barley Sheaf for a few weeks but has moved to Robert Hunter for the next four weeks or so. In the coming weeks, work will shift to Robert Hunter Elementary School and Copper Hill Elementary School.



Materials for roof work have been delivered and are stored on-site of schools.

The playground at Robert Hunter has packages of large insulation that will be placed on the rooftop. Referendum work and construction are currently ahead of schedule.



Manor II Electric has also been moving right along in their work. Installation was successful for new conduits above the ceilings in schools.

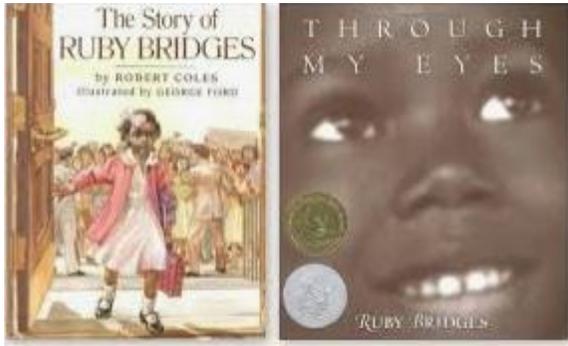


### **ANTI-RACISM & EQUITY RESOURCES**

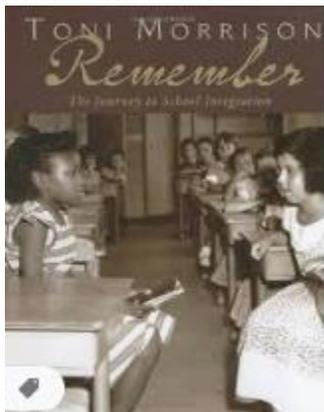
Our district school counselors have compiled an array of resources for parents that can be referenced when discussing topics related to cultural diversity, race, and racism. Access these online resources using [this link](#). Also, parents may wish to refer to [this list](#) of book titles from each grade level that our students read with themes surrounding equity.

Two of my favorite books are the picture books, *Through My Eyes Ruby Bridges* by Margo Lundell and *The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles. The articles and interviews in the book *Through My Eyes Ruby Bridges* were compiled by Margo Lundell. The story is all about the world of civil rights

and human rights. *The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles is the same theme, but an appropriate text for younger students, ages 6-10. Talking with children about the courage that Ruby Bridges had as she climbed up the steps to become the black child in an all-white school can lead to discussions about other acts of courage. Conversations such as these can help children to open hearts and minds to the millions of people in our world.



Another favorite picture book is *Remember The Journey to School Integration* by Toni Morrison. The author collected a treasure trove of historical photographs. I used *Through My Eyes Ruby Bridges* by Margo Lundell and *Remember The Journey to School Integration* by Toni Morrison in conversations with adolescent readers. My sixth, seventh, and eighth-graders were able to handle the conflicted emotions they felt when reading.



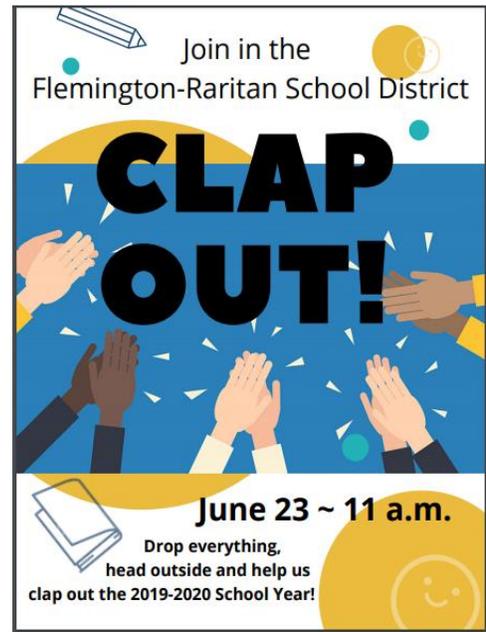
Emotional connections with the nonfiction characters helped readers to bring strong opinions in conversations about contentious subjects. These conversations allowed students to grow and learn about civil rights and human rights.

Both of these books spark conversations that lead to questions. I encourage families to talk together and lean on school guidance counselors for support.



**SUMMER READING**

Our district's updated summer reading link is available [here](#).



**REMINDER: DISTRICT-WIDE CLAP OUT**  
**JUNE 23, 11 AM**

Our district invites our students, families, staff members, and the entire community to drop everything and help us clap out the end of the 2019-2020 school year. On June 23rd, at 11 AM, drop everything, head outside to your porch, patio, driveway, balcony, front yard, or even on your doorstep as we collectively clap to mark the dismissal of all students on their last day of school. Celebrating through the Clap Out is just one more way we can come together to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and effort of all of our students, parents, teachers, and employees. Mark your calendar and come on out to the CLAP OUT! Let us hear from you!

**HEALTH OFFICE FORMS**

Our school district nurses have summer hours to help assist with incoming students' enrollment and medical needs. While they do not have regular, in building hours during the summer, they will continue to review any periodically and all health-related forms received to the school's address. Any health forms required for new registrants and in-coming kindergarten students, immunization records, or medication forms should be mailed to your child's home school address. For preschool-age children, please mail health-related documents to the attention of the Copper Hill Health Office. You may also scan your forms to your child's school nurse; however, please ensure the documents are clear and legible. Please submit all forms on or before August 1, 2020, except for any sports physicals for fall athletics, which have not been determined at this time.