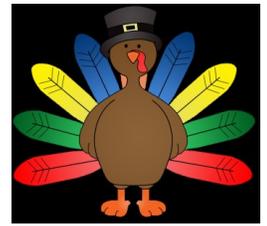


Flemington-Raritan School District Parent & Community Newsletter



November, 2019 Edition 4 of the 2019-2020 School Year
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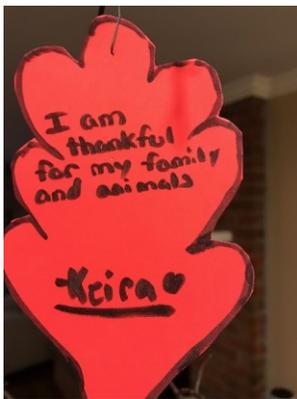
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Thanksgiving is coming up quickly, and for the majority of us, the holiday brings thoughts of family togetherness, fabulous food, and traditions. Thanksgiving is a time when so many of us remember what we are thankful for. One of my favorite traditions in my house is our "Thankful Tree." The Thankful Tree is displayed inside our home. The "tree" is a broken limb found outside that is small enough to bring inside but large enough to have many smaller branches jetting out from the main broken limb. Merely finding the perfect tree branch encourages our youngest children to get out of the house in search of this year's Thankful Tree.



Anytime a visitor comes to visit in the month of November, they are invited to choose a foam leaf and, with a marker, write their name and the date on one side of the foam leaf and something they're grateful for on the other. We use an ornament hanger through the stem of the foam leaf and hang it on the tree. Every year we enjoy looking through the leaves to see what was written year's prior. Some of the nieces and nephews in my family who are now all grown up and married, laugh and giggle at the things they wrote on their leaves from years all the way back to 2002, everything from "toys" and "my doggie" to "clothing" and "good books" to the more traditional responses, "family" and "good health."



The leaves on the Thankful Tree memorialize special relationships in our children's' lives; best friends, first loves, and cherished relationships that may not remain any longer. Rather than putting the leaves aside, we still hang up them up,

for each one holds a memory of growing up in our home and special times in our lives.

At the end of the Thanksgiving season, I take each leaf and place it in a Ziploc baggie until the following year, cherishing the memories, saving new memories to reflect upon and treasure the next Thanksgiving season.

As you gather around the table this year, I hope the time-honored traditions you have established with your family help to make the holiday season even more memorable.

From my table to yours, I wish you the most glorious Thanksgiving.



HUNTERDON COUNTY SECOND ANNUAL SAFETY SUMMIT

On November 19th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at J. P. Case Middle School the Second Annual Safety Summit will take place.

Student and staff safety continues to be a top priority for the District. The District has two district safety specialists, Mr. Peter Sabilia, Vice Principal at J.P. Case Middle School, and Mr. Jesse Lockett, Vice Principal at Copper Hill Elementary School. Both faculty members attend specialized training to hold the title of District Safety Specialists. Mr. Sabilia and Mr. Lockett both serve as chairpersons on the District Security Committee and assist the Superintendent in decision making on safety and security in the District. The District has three other people that are instrumental in the safety and security of our staff, faculty, students, and facilities; Officer Harry, Officer Mike, and Officer Craig. All three are Class III officers, retired police officers that serve in our schools to provide safety and security to staff, students, and building security.



In collaboration with Mr. Sibilio and Mr. Lockett, the District will hold the second annual Hunterdon School Safety Summit this week on Tuesday evening. This year's summit will feature guest speakers Dr. Thomas Gambino and Mr. Robert Sensi, both from the New Jersey Department of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning, and our featured keynote speaker, Lisa Hamp; a survivor from the Virginia Tech school shooting on April 16, 2007. This event is open to the public from throughout Hunterdon County.

Click [here](#) to reserve your tickets to register your attendance and reserve tickets. If you have questions, contact Laura Bruhn at lbruhn@frsd.k12.nj.us.



Presenting the two-question bond referendum to our community was a decision based on many factors; all that revolved around doing what is best for students, staff, faculty, and the community's investment in the school district's facilities. The unofficial results of the vote have passed both questions on the bond referendum.

Unofficially, question number one voting resulted in 3,882 "yes" votes to 3,176 "no" votes with a difference of 706 votes between the "yes" votes and the "no" votes. Question number two voting resulted in 3,657 "yes" votes to 3,396 "no" votes with a difference of 261 votes between the "yes" and "no" votes. The ballots mailed to the county clerk's office are still being tabulated with results expected at the end of the month.

I am so very grateful for the community members that came out in support of the two question bond referendum. The passing of the bond referendum authorizes the selling of bonds to raise funds for the school projects outlined explicitly in the referendum projects. The bond debt is paid off by the taxpayers over twenty years. You can find online news reports about the referendum passing [here](#) and [here](#).

Question 1: Safety, Security, and Structure Upgrades

Question 1 included upgrades for all schools, including the following:

- Additional security cameras;
- Security equipment;
- A 21st-Century communication system (telephone and security system);
- Door/alarm upgrades including door ajar notifications systems;
- Roof replacements at all schools with the exception of J.P. Case Middle School (their roof is in good shape);
- Window replacements primarily at RFIS;

- Parking lot repairs; and
- Sidewalk repairs.

Question 2: Indoor Air Quality (HVAC and dehumidification systems)

Question 2 included heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC), and humidity control measures for five schools. (J.P. Case already has these measures in place.)

The successful passage of the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District referendum has involved many members of the community coming together to support the measure. Members included school board members, administrators, teachers, advisory council members, business leaders, parents, and students. It takes a lot of dedication, time, and hard work to pass a bond issue. I am grateful for the driving forces behind our school bond issue. Many people were out into the community, building relationships and keeping people informed about what was happening in the district.

As your superintendent, our schools are the focal point of my conversations with our community. I am working hard to continue to forge positive relationships with the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District community. My communication with the district continues to be honest. Prior to the referendum passing, I shared with property owners how much taxes would increase if the bond issue passed. You can find that information [here](#). I will be keeping all of you and our community informed through additional updates, pictures, written communication, and drone aerial footage of the projects taking place.

Next Steps:

In consultation with bond counselors, we expect to have the Board adopt the authorizing bond resolution at its November 25, 2019 meeting, and schedule the sale of the bond the week of December 9. We are working towards the bonds sold and closed before the end of the calendar year to ensure the District receives its debt service aid quickly.

We will begin a timeline of activities and keep the community informed through the monthly newsletters available [here](#) and the Superintendent's Roundtable Discussions [here](#). The referendum link on the District homepage will remain active with updates posted on the link [here](#). As I have more information I will share with the community.

Remember: Wednesday, November 27th is an early dismissal day for students, staff, and faculty. The District will be closed for the Thanksgiving holidays on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29. School will reopen on Monday, December 2.

