



Superintendent's Report December 8, 2022

Our music programs continue to thrive! Hillside Elementary School presented *The First Grade Thanksgiving Concert* on Tuesday, November 22, 2022. The students did an outstanding job in singing and reciting poems about Thanksgiving, turkeys, and being grateful. Kudos to Ms. Pidi and the first grade teachers for all of their work in preparing our students to shine! Tenackill Middle School will present its *Winter Concert* on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Abbey, Ms. Riecken, and the students are preparing for a great concert! All are invited.

District Goals Update

- Administrators have created a framework for programs to develop programs that develop students in relevant life skills, being good citizens, promoting anti-bullying skills, supporting mental health, and developing social-emotional wellness. I have shared the document with the Board trustees. We will continue in the next months to identify other programs to develop these skills.
- Mr. Tantom and the middle school team are working on the items on the High School Preparedness Plan for 2022-2023. Each middle school grade level team has identified specific goals for improving students' skills in note-taking, organization, self-reliance, and/or researching. All teachers have also identified in their Professional Development Plan two executive function skills about which they will learn more information. Mr. Tantom provided staff training during the staff development day in September on strategies for teaching notetaking. At December's faculty meeting, Mr. Tantom shared with teachers that he will be scheduling review meetings to discuss grade-level progress on their goals and to identify topics for further staff development.

I want to thank our outgoing Board trustee, Ruchi Kothari for her devoted service to the Closter Public Schools since 2017. On behalf of our entire Closter community, I thank you for your contributions that have ensured our schools continue their tradition of excellence. I wish you well in your future endeavors, and please continue to be the strong champion of our schools that you have been!

Thank you to our PTO for arranging a holiday boutique at both schools. This event allowed students to purchase holiday gifts for family members. When I visited the boutique at Hillside School, first graders told me it was great, with one student saying, "I did all of my holiday shopping, and I still have \$11 left!" This shopping experience gave our young learners an authentic shopping experience in which they had to make many decisions in managing the money to make the purchases they needed!

While mentioning shopping, kudos to the sixth-grade students on an amazing TREP\$ event last night. Under the guidance of Ms. Sunshine and Ms. Nikol, the students demonstrated their savviness as entrepreneurs – creating products to sell, designing beautiful displays of their products, and practicing their sales strategies as many people filled the TMS gymnasium for the event. It was great seeing our students demonstrate all they learned from this project-based learning experience in business!

Closter Public Schools will have a half-day session on Friday, December 23, 2022. We will be closed for the holiday recess from December 26 – January 1, 2023. Schools will reopen on Monday, January 2, 2023.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy new year!

Vincent Mc Hale