



Superintendent's Report

February 12, 2026

Thank you to the Board of Education for providing this morning's Valentine's breakfast for our entire staff. This thoughtful gesture was greatly appreciated and served as a meaningful reminder of the Board's continued support and recognition of the hard work and dedication our faculty and staff demonstrate each day on behalf of our students and community.

We extend a huge thank you to the parents of the Korean Parents Group, the Lunar New Year Assembly Committee, and our fantastic teachers who helped our students shine during the outstanding assemblies held on Friday, January 30, 2026! The Lunar New Year assemblies were entertaining and informative, featuring everything from singing and instrumental music to drumming and dancing, while providing important insights into the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Horse. Happy Lunar New Year to all our families who will be celebrating on Tuesday, February 17, 2026!

Mayor Glidden, Councilwoman Amitai, and Ruth Rando of the Closter Library visited Hillside on Monday, February 2, to celebrate Groundhog Day with the PreK through grade 2 students. "Closter Chuck," our local groundhog, predicted that we would have six more weeks of winter. Whether he's right or not, our students were all smiles for this special winter tradition.

The Profile of a Closter Learner RUBRIC Committee met on February 3, 2026, and again today to work on our district goal: to develop grade-band-specific *Profile of a Closter Learner* rubrics for pre-K–2, 3–5, and 6–8, and a system for evaluating and documenting student progress on the six characteristics. The committee has drafted observable indicators for the six characteristics of the *Profile of a Closter Learner* and has started drafting grade-band rubrics, with descriptors at three proficiency levels (Approaching, Meeting, and Exceeding) for all six characteristics. With steady progress underway, the committee remains focused and on schedule to achieve its May 2026 goal as identified in the district goal.

Last night was the first session of *Raising the Resilient Child*, a four-part evening parenting series designed to help nurture strong, capable, and adaptable children, aligned with Hillside's ICARE and Tenakill's CharacterStrong programs. We thank Josephine Hunt, a PreK teacher at Hillside Elementary School, for her work in planning and delivering this series. The second session, *Raising Resilient Learners at Home*, will take place on March 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Tenakill Middle School. Parents interesting in attending should register at <https://tinyurl.com/parentseries2026>.

The Closter PTO will host their annual gala on Friday, March 20, 2026, from 7:00 to 11 p.m. at the Edgewood Country Club in River Vale. The theme is a Garden Soirée. Tickets are on sale on the [Closter PTO webpage](#).

The school district will be closed from Monday, February 16, 2026, through Friday, February 20, 2026, for winter break. Have a wonderful break, and we will see everyone back at school on Monday, February 23, ready for a strong start to the next stretch of the school year.

Vincent Mc Hale