



# Superintendent's Report

**January 3, 2024**

I congratulate our re-elected Board members, Melody Finkelstein and Chris Kwon, and our newly elected Board member, Edmund Choi, who were sworn in this evening. Thank you for your service to our school district and the Closter community!

Congratulations to our music teachers, Ms. Pidi, Ms. Abbey, and Ms. Riecken, and our student musicians for their amazing performances in December! The Fourth Grade Chorus and String Ensemble presented a winter concert and cheered everyone's spirit with their songs of the season. Tenakill Middle School presented its magnificent winter concert with impressive performances by the chorus, band, and orchestra. Thank you to all for sharing your talents with the community.

On Tuesday, December 19, 2023, our Board attorney, Stephen Fogarty, conducted an HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying) training for administrators and our Anti-Bullying Specialists. This training focused on procedures, timelines, and interpreting the law related to the definition of HIB in New Jersey. It was a helpful session for all who attended.

Thank you to the Closter Police for capturing the Grinch during the lead-up to the holiday break. They posted a video of their capture of the Grinch on social media. Students at Hillside Elementary School received a surprise visit on Thursday, December 21, 2023, when the police brought the Grinch to school to "pay his debt to society" by greeting students and giving out candy. The students were excited to see the Grinch captured by the Closter Police Department!

During the month of January, students in grades two through eight will be taking the mid-year Linkit! Assessment in language arts and mathematics. Students in grade seven will also take the mid-year science assessment. Each of the tests will take about 45 to 60 minutes. The assessments provide teachers with information about how students are progressing toward grade-level standards. If you have any questions about the Linkit! Assessments, please get in touch with Ms. Zanin at Hillside Elementary School or Mr. McElroy at Tenakill Middle School.

Registration for the Closter PTO Winter ASEP program is opening this week and ends on Friday, January 12, 2024. There are many wonderful enrichment classes for students at Hillside Elementary School. ASEP classes will begin during the week of January 22, 2023. Please check out the [Closter PTO website](#) for more information.

Closter Public Schools will be closed for students on Monday, January 15, 2024, which is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The faculty and staff will participate in professional development on that day.

Looking ahead to February, we are excited to celebrate Lunar New Year on Friday, February 9, 2024. This celebration will occur at both schools with an exciting and educational assembly featuring our students. More information will be forthcoming.

*Vincent Mc Hale*