

Congratulations to our middle school math team members who participated in the Math Counts Competition in February. The competition was held at Bergen Community College and there were over 250 students participating from Bergen County. Congratulations to our seventh grader, Brian Ding, who placed in the top ten! We also placed third in the team competition with over 40 teams competing. Our team members were Jacob Lee, Sophie Chen, Colin Ding, and Jaehyun Hwang. We are so proud of our students!

All parents are encouraged to attend the Internet Safety Presentation by the Bergen County Cyber Crimes Task Force, a division of the Prosecutor's Office. This program will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tenakill Middle School auditorium. The program will discuss the serious issues online affecting pre-teens and teenagers and how to avoid the issues. Topics will include social networking, sexting, and cyberbullying. Please come to learn how to ensure your children are using the Internet safely.

The PTO-sponsored Read-a-Thon is in full swing at Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School. There is still time to register, so please see the PTO website for more information. The PTO has also announced the date for the annual dinner dance. This year's event, Aloha on the Hudson, will be held on Friday, May 19, 2023, at Pier 701 in Piermont, NY. It is always an awesome night so be sure to save the date! If you are interested in assisting with planning, please email <u>cloptodinnerdance@gmail.com</u>. Thank you to Jackie Morgan and Jill Herling, 2023 Dinner Dance Co-Chairs, for their efforts in leading this major fundraiser for the PTO.

The Closter Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) will be meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Tenakill Middle School Media Center. The SEPAG is a parentdriven group charged with providing input to the school district on our special education programs and related services. All parents and community members are invited to attend, but the meeting may be especially helpful to anyone with a student eligible for or receiving services under an IEP or 504 plan, a student currently being evaluated, or those considering a request for an evaluation. If you would like to be a member of the SEPAG, please complete the membership form at https://tinyurl.com/ClosterSEPAG.

Our administration and Board Finance and Physical Plant Committee have been spending considerable time over the past few months putting together the 2023-2024 preliminary budget that Floro Villanueva will present this evening. This preliminary budget maintains all student programs we offer, maintains our excellent facilities, and is mindful of the impact on our taxpayers. I want to thank Floro Villanueva for his outstanding work and leadership in preparing the preliminary budget for 2023-2024. I also applaud the great work of the Board Finance and Physical Plant Committee, who worked diligently to ensure that our students continue to have an excellent education in safe, up-to-date facilities with all necessary resources.

Vincent Mc Hale