



Superintendent's Report May 12, 2022

A huge thank you to the Parent Teacher Organization and the Korean Parent Group for their generosity to teachers and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week! They provided breakfasts, lunches, coffee and pastry from Zing mobile coffee shop, smoothies, and a beautiful insulated lunch bag. Everyone is grateful and feels appreciated!

The PTO sponsored Porchlight Production of *Peter Pan, Jr.* was held last Saturday. There were approximately 60 students from grades 3 – 6 who performed in the musical. Every student did an excellent job acting, singing and dancing as they took the audience on a journey to Neverland. Congratulations!

The New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) for English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science began last week. Third and fourth grades have completed their assessments. Fifth grade has completed the science assessment. Seventh and Eighth grade students began the ELA assessment this week and will take the math assessment next week. Fifth and sixth grade students will begin ELA and math on Wednesday, May 18, 2022. Eighth grade will take the science assessment on May 25 and 26, 2022. Students who are absent for testing will have an opportunity to make up any assessment they missed. Our students are prepared and we know they will do their best!

Today our third grade students had a virtual visit with Schele Williams, author of *Your Legacy: A Bold Reclaiming of Our Enslaved History*. Ms. Williams read her children's book to the students and engaged in a question and answer session. Students were excited to speak with Ms. Williams and had great questions for her. In addition to being an author of children's books, Ms. Williams is an accomplished Broadway actor and has directed many shows. She is currently directing the upcoming Broadway revival of Elton John and Tim Rice's musical *Aida*. I thank Ms. Williams for spending some time with our students today!

We are planning for moving up ceremonies for grades 4 and 8, with the hope of holding them outdoors as we did last year. As soon as we have approval for use of the location, the principals will be sharing more information with families.

The PTO Spring Fair scheduled for Saturday, May 14, 2022, has been postponed due to the weather forecast. The new date will be Saturday, June 4, 2022.

Pandemic Update

Since Friday, April 29, 2022 (the day after my last report):

School	Hillside Elementary School	Tenakill Middle School
New STUDENT cases of COVID-19 (positive test)	27	14
New STAFF cases of COVID-19 (positive test)	9	2

Students currently in quarantine	34	6
% of Students vaccinated (two shots)	43%	59%
% of Students also boosted	n/a	26%
% of Staff vaccinated (two shots)	94%	97%
% of Staff also boosted	35%	49%

Since September 2, 2022, the cumulative number of students who have been COVID-19 positive is 356, which is 30% of the student population. As you can see, there has been an uptick in the number of COVID-19 cases over the past few weeks. Masking is still optional; however, the New Jersey Department of Health is strongly recommending that students and adults mask while inside the schools to reduce the risk of COVID-19.

Vincent Mc Hale