

# COPPER HILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September 2012

Character Trait: Responsibility

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Dear Copper Hill Families,

I hope your summer was relaxing and has everyone excited for a new school year. I am sure there are so many things that the students are looking forward to sharing with their teachers, and I know everyone is excited to have the students once again fill the hallways and classrooms. So much was achieved last year and we want to continue to build on that progress right from the start. In order to help nurture this growth, it is important that open lines of communication always remain between home and school. By working together we will provide each child with the greatest opportunity to succeed.

This year we are welcoming several new staff members to Copper Hill. Some are new to Copper Hill altogether and others are familiar faces. The new staff include:

<b>Lisa Davis</b>	<b>Second Grade</b>
<b>Michelle Dysart</b>	<b>Kindergarten and First Grade Autism</b>
<b>Renee Shalhoub</b>	<b>Third and Fourth Grade Autism</b>
<b>Erin McNamara</b>	<b>Stretch/RTI</b>
<b>Stacey Timpson</b>	<b>.5 Math Support</b>
<b>Joe Kassick</b>	<b>.5 PM Reading Recovery</b>
<b>Amy Wright</b>	<b>.5 ESL</b>
<b>Harmony Stryker</b>	<b>TA, Preschool Autism</b>
<b>Marianne Gallo</b>	<b>TA, Preschool Autism</b>
<b>Kristin Sodano</b>	<b>TA, Preschool Autism</b>
<b>Melissa Van Pelt</b>	<b>TA, Second &amp; Third Grade Autism</b>
<b>Nancy Parker</b>	<b>TA, Second &amp; Third Grade Autism</b>
<b>Kerry Mastriano</b>	<b>TA, Second &amp; Third Grade Autism</b>
<b>Eve Cassidy</b>	<b>TA, Integrated Preschool</b>

We would like to welcome back Dorothy Yoos and Maggie Gerlach who were on maternity leave at the end of last year. Also returning this year to her third grade classroom is Wanda Smith. We are very excited to have Mrs. Smith back in the building doing what she loves to do.

In June, Mr. Bizzoco was named the principal of High Bridge Elementary School. We want to wish Mr. Bizzoco all the best and at the same time are very happy to announce Mrs. Vanessa Ahmed as our new vice principal. Mrs. Ahmed did an outstanding job working with her students and we are very excited to have her join the Copper Hill administrative team.

A few weeks back you should have received a Global Connect message from the district explaining the new paperless Welcome Back Packet. The message also provided you with the opportunity to request a paper packet which has been utilized in years past. This week you will receive a letter from the district reminding families of its availability and accessibility. At this time, approximately 825 students (district wide) have had their information returned electronically. Though this is a new approach for many of you (first started last year at JP Case) I think you will find it very user friendly. If information is not received in two weeks, you will receive a paper copy on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

As in years past, each family will be receiving a copy of the Copper Hill Parent Handbook. Please take a few moments to review the various policies and practices we have in place to ensure a physically and emotionally safe environment for our students. Below are some of the practices and procedures I would like to highlight which tend to have the most immediate impact. Please review carefully.

1. *In order to maintain a learning environment which is healthy and sensitive to our students with severe food allergies; the following practices will be put into place:*
  - *Daily classroom snack and birthday parties may consist of a fruit, vegetable or dairy product.*
  - *Food for grade level parties and special events will be at the discretion of the teacher, school nurse or building administration and will remain in line with the district's wellness policy.*
  - *Classroom teachers and the school nurse have the liberty to limit specific snacks based on a food allergy specific to their classroom.*
  - *Birthday treats must be pre-approved with the classroom teacher.*
  - *At no time are students to share their snack with another student.*
2. *Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their own child(ren) in the Sky Light Café. If a rest room is needed, parents should return to the front office. Please do not enter the office through the rear doors. Students may use the restrooms in the third grade hallway.*
3. *Please note the drop-off and pick-up procedures mentioned in the Parent Handbook. As many of you are aware, Copper Hill is a very busy place at arrival and dismissal. When entering and leaving the building during these times, please utilize the cross walks and do not cut in-between buses and vans. If you are dropping your child off after the start of the school day, please remember that you need to accompany your child into the building to sign them in. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.*

Over the summer our blacktop was sealed and new lines were painted. The new layout of the black top along with the recently installed basketball nets will make this area much more engaging for our students. This great addition to Copper Hill would not have been possible without the support of the PTO. This is just another one of the amazing things our PTO does for the Copper Hill Community. I would like to thank the PTO for this donation and the continued support our PTO receives from the Copper Hill Community. Thank You!

This year Back-To-School Night will be held on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. As in years past, kindergarten will host their Back-To-School Night, the night before, on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. G&T Math will not have their Back-To-School Night until September 20<sup>th</sup>. Please check your child's backpack and the virtual backpack as further information regarding these nights will be sent home shortly. The PTO will also be sponsoring the annual Rita's Water Ice Social on September 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30. This is a great opportunity for the students to spend time with friends and for families to catch up after a summer full of activity. We hope to see as many of you as possible at all of the evening events we have taking place in September.

On behalf of the entire Copper Hill Faculty, I am excited to begin another great year and would like to thank all of you for allowing us to work with your children.

Sincerely,

Kevin McPeck  
Principal



#### ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

NJ State law requires all students to attend school each day school is in session. The law allows excused absences only for illness or religious holidays. Parents are requested to help the district comply with the law and to not schedule vacations during the time that school is in session. Additionally, consistent late arrivals and/or early dismissals negatively impact your child's education and cause disruption to the classroom as well.

If your child will be absent or tardy for any reason, please call our Attendance Line 284-7665 Option# 1. Please leave your child's name, teacher and reason for absence. Please forward a note to your child's teacher when your child returns to school. If you have scheduled an appointment for your child to see the doctor, dentist, orthodontist etc. during school hours, please be sure to get a note from the doctor stating reason and date of visit. This should be given to your child's teacher upon his/her return to school.

Also, if your child arrives to school after 9:00 am, please escort your child to the front office to sign him/her in. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

### SECURITY

All visitors must sign in at the front office and wear a visitor's badge. Also, please remember that if you need to drop off something for your child (snacks, lunch, books, etc.) you must bring the item to the front office with your child's name and teacher on it. School personnel will arrange for your item to be received by your child's teacher. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please remember to send in a note to your child's teacher each time you vary his/her dismissal routine. For example, if your child regularly attends the Y After School program five (5) days a week and you would like your child to come home on his regular bus on a specific day, please send in a note to your child's teacher. **Also, if you are going to pick your child up from school please send in a note. For safety reasons we are unable to honor telephone requests regarding dismissal.**

### FORGOTTEN HOMEWORK, BOOKS, ETC.

Parents are reminded that our school district follows a strict security plan in order to keep our schools safe. All classroom doors must remain closed and locked when vacant before, during and after school hours. A student is not allowed to go into their classroom after dismissal. The office and custodial staff are **not permitted** to unlock doors for students who need homework materials. Please speak to your child concerning the importance of packing all necessary items needed for homework at the end of the day.

### JUST A REMINDER

Please be sure and label your child's clothing, lunchboxes, books, eyeglass case, backpacks, etc. Thank you for your help.

### UPCOMING COPPER HILL EVENTS

September	5	Students Report
	12	Kindergarten Open House 7:00 pm
	13	<b>Early Dismissal</b> - Open House (Grades 1-4) 6:00 pm
	17	<b>School Closed</b> - Rosh Hasanah
	17-28	Joe Corbi Sale begins
	20	G & T Math Open House
	20	PTO Back to School Social 5:30-6:30 pm
	25	Pictures
	26	Yom Kippur - <b>School Closed</b>
	27	Pictures
	28	Pictures

### FLEMINGTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

#### SUMMER PROGRAMS:

We wish to thank the parents for their cooperation and patience in following our safety procedures while dropping off and picking up their children from camp.

#### FALL ADULT PROGRAMS:

Women's Basketball	Ms. Cara Brzezinski - 806-4688
Over 30 Men's Basketball	Mr. Jim Thatch - 806-2114
Senior Square Dancing	Mrs. Linda Beck - 782-8483
Senior Holiday Luncheon	Mrs. Angela Taranto - 782-7703

#### FIREWORKS:

We wish to thank Mr. Robert LaNicca (Recreation Committee Trustee) for all of his organizational efforts in presenting the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Freedom.

The Recreation Committee would also like to thank the following corporations and individuals for sharing in the financial costs of this event: Shop Rite of Flemington, Archer and Griener, Flemington Department Store, Axion Corporation and Flemington Furs. The Testa Family, Kloper Family, Klubik Family, Pisciotta Family, Hausman Family, Pottney Family, Drinane Family, Wojciechowski Family, Allegar Family, Weaver Family, Egan Family, Scumeca Family, Merz Family, Brennan Family, Coey Family and the Purcell Family.

Please call the message center if you would like to serve on a Steering Committee for fund raising.

#### SAL RANDAZZESE:

For the past 34 years, I have had the privilege of serving as Recreation Director. As of December 31, 2012, I will retire from this position.

I wish to thank the community for their support and trust during my tenure.

FLEMINGTON-RARITAN PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE  
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