

APRIL 2018

Greetings to everyone in the Monmouth Beach School community! By the time you read this, I can only hope that we are FINALLY clear of the winter weather that has plagued us throughout the month of March. During the last month, we experienced a wide variety of inclement conditions that caused us to have alternate dismissals, early dismissals, a delayed opening, and, of course, school closings on multiple days. Unfortunately, we had to go beyond the three snow days that were built into the school calendar, which means we must make up those days. Looking ahead at the limited options, the most likely scenario will be for the days to be made up by adding them on in June. Once the Board of Education officially approves the calendar change, a notice will be sent out to all families making them aware of what to expect for planning purposes.

Much of the focus in my March article was on school safety and security. Although the tragedy that took place in Parkland, Florida heightened the level of concern amongst parents and school officials everywhere, I can assure you that our level of commitment to maintaining a safe and secure environment at school has been constant. I was happy to have such a good turnout at the parent sessions that Chief Walsh and I hosted back on March 20. The feedback we received was very positive and led us to believe that we accomplished our goals of educating and informing the audiences about the various measures that have been taken at school in recent years to keep the staff and students safe. Additionally, those sessions also allowed us to engage in dialogues with parents about some of the other options currently being considered. At or near the top of the list of other options is the addition of a class two or three police officer that would be assigned to the school each day during school hours. As we expected, this idea was met with mixed emotions and differing opinions. Ultimately, the Chief and I concluded that we need to continue our discussions with the Mayor and her Commissioners and with the Board of Education to determine how we want to proceed.

As we move further into the spring, the teachers will be taking some additional steps to help prepare the students for upcoming PARCC testing in grades 3 - 8. However, it is important for you to know that our academic programs at every grade level are aligned to the same learning standards that the tests are based on, so in reality, the teachers have been designing and delivering lessons on a daily basis that will help the students get ready for this testing experience. In terms of what you can do to help your child get ready, it comes down to two simple but important items: getting a good night's sleep and eating a healthy breakfast. It is very difficult to do your best work if you are tired and hungry, so please help your child in those two critical ways.

Best wishes for a beautiful and warm spring season!

Respectfully,
Michael E. Ettore
Principal/Superintendent