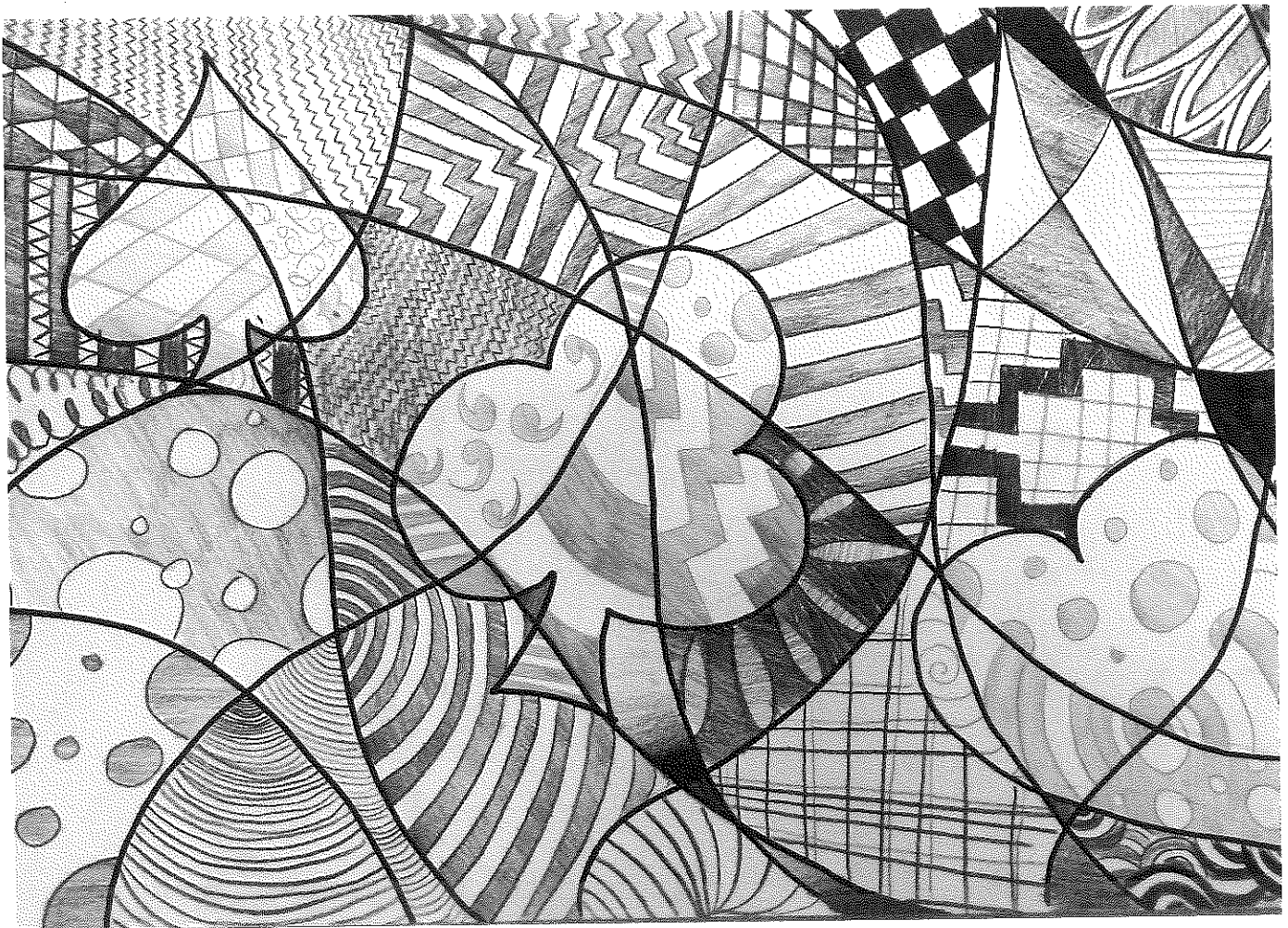
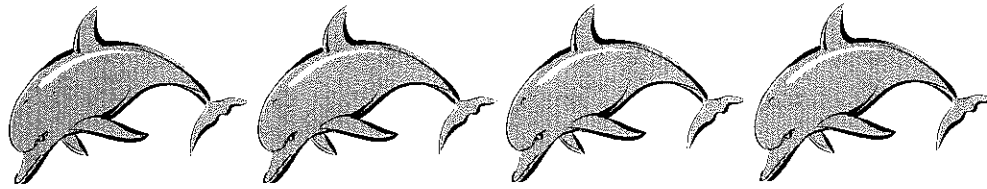


MBS NEWSLETTER

***MONMOUTH BEACH SCHOOL, 7 HASTINGS PLACE
MONMOUTH BEACH, NJ 07750***

FEBRUARY 2016



Cover Designed by Eighth Grader Annabelle Kaeli

FEBRUARY 2016

Greetings to everyone in the MBS community! Well, after getting off to an unusually warm start, the winter season is now in full effect. As I mentioned at the last PTO meeting, we will continue to try and get the students outside for recess as long as the temperature is above freezing (including the wind chill), so please remind your children to dress appropriately for the conditions each day. Speaking of the weather, we will continue to utilize the Honeywell emergency call system to notify families about delayed openings and school closings when needed. Additionally, that information will also continue to be posted on the homepage of the district's web site as well as on NJ News 12 and via email sent by the office staff. As always, please notify the main office should your emergency contact information change for any reason during the school year.

For those that were not able to attend the January Board of Education meeting, Mr. Bruccoleri and I gave a presentation that focused on the district's performance on the first round of PARCC testing from last spring. In addition to some background about the creation of the PARCC assessment, we also provided comparative data from grades 3 through 8 in both English Language Arts (ELA) and math. Included in the presentation was data that compared our district's performance to the state averages for all of the tested grade levels in both subject areas. In short, our students significantly outperformed the state averages in every grade in both subject areas. As in years past with NJASK scores, the data is most useful for planning and diagnostic purposes because it gives us a detailed sense of those skill areas where we are meeting or exceeding expectations as well as those areas where improvement is needed. The bottom line for our students is that they are receiving daily instruction that meets the more rigorous standards adopted by our state and over time, they will be better prepared to achieve a greater level of success on these assessments and more importantly, they will be more prepared to meet the eventual expectations that await them in college and beyond.

Now that we have officially passed the midpoint of the school year, I strongly encourage everyone to

maintain the routines and work habits that were developed back in the fall; this includes keeping open lines of communication with teachers, especially when you have questions or concerns about progress being made in the classroom. Of course the same should hold true from school. The staff is aware of my expectations to keep parents informed on a regular basis and to communicate their concerns in a timely manner. I realize that I incorporate this message into most of my articles, and I do so in part because students need a collaborative support system in place between home and school if they are to reach their full potential.

Looking ahead, I am always excited about what lies ahead in the second half of the school year. This is the time of the year when teachers are breaking more and more new ground in their classrooms and students are being challenged to grasp new concepts and utilize skills they have been acquiring over time. It may also be the time when students experience some difficulty with their studies, so please emphasize the need to be *persistent* because this is a quality that will serve our children well as they make their way through life.

Finally, those few extra moments of daylight each day must mean that spring is not too far off, so keep thinking warm thoughts!

Respectfully,
Michael E. Ettore
Principal/Superintendent

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb. 1 & 2 – SRHS Registration for 8th Grade @ MB School
- Feb. 4 – PK OPEN HOUSE 10 to 11 a.m.
- Feb. 5, 9, & 10 – PTO Book Fair
- Feb. 8 – School Closed-Staff In Service
Parent Portal Opens for 2nd Marking Period
- Feb. 12 & 15 – School Closed for
Presidents' Day Weekend
- Feb. 18 – BOE meeting (7:30 p.m.)
- Feb. 23 – PTO meeting (7 p.m.)

PARENT CORNER

HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying)

As you know, the school has been taking major steps to ensure that bullying does not occur and your child feels safe. The NJ State Law mandates the school to investigate all instances where bullying may be present. This includes emails from parents, students saying that they are getting bullied, or teachers suspecting that bullying is going on. The necessary steps need to be taken and are as follows:

1. Written report from the person reporting the bullying.
2. Thorough investigation done by the HIB coordinator or specialist.
3. HIB team meeting to look at all the results to determine if the incident(s) are considered HIB.
4. Report to the Board of Education about the incident and the findings.

We strive to have our students feel safe and comfortable in the school setting. Please visit the school website for more information.

Attention Child Find

Each year the school district of Monmouth Beach seeks to identify and evaluate children ages 3 to 14 who may be experiencing physical, sensory, communication, cognitive or social difficulties. This search includes migrant and homeless students, two year-olds reaching the age of three within 120 days, preschoolers between three and five, and school aged children who are not currently receiving school services.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Peter Bruccoleri at 732-222-6139 ext. 251.

STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to the following yearbook art winners: Pari Walter – Front Cover; Annabelle Kaeli – Inside Cover; Mia Grunbaum – Back Cover. All 3 winners will be recognized at the February Board Meeting.

Congratulations to the Monmouth Beach School Spelling Bee Winners. Kenneth (Trey) Shaw came in First Place and will represent MB School at Monmouth University in March. Christina Cestone was the Second Place winner. Both students will be recognized at the February Board Meeting.

ON THE COVER

February's newsletter cover was designed by the multitalented 8th grader, Annabelle Kaeli. Her work, depicting many beautiful patterns, was inspired by the famous Pablo Picasso. All of the students created original work using choices in shapes, patterns and colors. All of the students created wonderful designs. Great work Annabelle! Happy Valentine's Day! Mrs. Hall