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Bay Head Elementary readies for a new school year

BY KAYLA MARSH
STAR NEWS GROUP

Bay Head Elementary School will officially kick off the 2019-2020 school year Sept. 4 and officials have spent the summer hiatus putting the finishing touches on many exciting changes students can expect to see from building and classroom updates to new curriculum programs, expanded security measures and much more.

"We enthusiastically anticipate the return of our students, teachers and staff as they bring the Bay Head School alive," Principal Frank Camardo told parents in a recent letter welcoming their students back.

"We're just amping up for another year and I am sure it will be great. We're looking forward to it. We're starting off the year with Sea Week, which is the last week in September. We have some field trips over to Jenkinson's Aquarium planned, they do the annual seining and fishing at the lake, so that is our big kickoff to the year."

NEW CURRICULUM

According to Mr. Camardo, after much research, the school will implement a new program in kindergarten through eighth grades that will "enhance instruction" and "implement rigor and relevance" in the area of mathematics.

"We're piloting a math program called Go Math and it is going to be K through 8. We were kind of shopping around last year for a new math program and this program allowed us to not have to purchase the materials right now but get all the materials for free as a pilot for each classroom," he said.

"We did some research, we had some teachers look into different programs last year ... to get their feedback and they tended to go with this program as something they liked because ... there are different components that they can utilize to meet the needs of all the students."

In addition, the school will continue Readers and Writers workshops for students.

"We have been doing these for a couple years now and we'll continue to give the teachers professional development, the materials they need ... and continue to help them with that so the program can continue to run smoothly," Mr. Camardo said.

The Bay Head Board of Education recently approved the implementation of a new initiative that will provide students an outlet to improve their socio-emotional and behavioral learning.

During its meeting July 22, the board approved a motion to implement a 10-minute Mindfulness Brain Break.

"We have actually implemented 10 minutes per day into the schedule for mindfulness. Teachers will get training on that and it is right after lunch so it is kind of just 10 minutes to decompress, relax, learn some different techniques for that and then continue through the day," Mr. Camardo said.

BUILDING ENHANCEMENTS

According to Mr. Camardo, officials have been hard at work getting the school building prepped for the return of students this September.

Among the many tasks accomplished this summer were updating classrooms with new smart boards, removing carpet, as well as painting.

Some items still on the agenda are replacing the portico on the original section of the school, as well as putting an awning over the entrance to the school by the school gymnasium to shield students from the weather as it is the main point of drop off.

"As far as facilities, we had our last classroom done where we pulled up the carpet, painted and put in a new smartboard, new technology so now all our classrooms K through 5 have been updated," Mr. Camardo said.

"The portico ... it was not in good shape. We had the roof done last year and because of where they were working on the roof they noticed that the actual portico ... safety-wise wasn't in good shape and the money that it would take to redo what was already there was a little bit out of budget.

"So we had a [steering committee] meeting where we met with the school administration, the [Bay Head] Home and School Association

SEE **BAY HEAD** PAGE 5

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — BRADLEY BEACH

'Good luck to all in the new school year…'

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all members of the Bradley Beach Elementary School community for the beginning of the 2019 – 2020 school year. It is my hope families had an opportunity to relax and make wonderful memories with over this past summer. The beginning of the school year is a new and exciting time for students and staff alike. Throughout the summer, the Elementary School staff has been hard at work making changes which will impact the learning environment for our children in a multitude of positive ways.

One important aspect of the new school year will be the continued focus on the social/emotional learning of our students. Last school year, all students participated in a daily Morning Meeting where students were able to begin each day by greeting one another and sharing stories. The morning meeting was

SEE **BRADLEY** PAGE 6

Getting ready for a new school year

BAY HEAD
FROM PAGE 4

president, the [Bay Head] School Foundation president and we kind of came to a decision that the association and foundation will help restore the portico that was there.

"They took the original one down as it was in bad shape and they are going to replace it with something very similar to keep the integrity of the school, the tradition of the school, because that is something that has always been there outside the building so we just didn't want to get rid of it completely.

"Hopefully in the next month or so they will start construction on that. In fact, I know they did keep the original lettering so they are going to put that back up there to keep the tradition as much as we can."

KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE

Faculty and staff at Bay Head Elementary School are in the process of being trained on a new safety protocol called ALICE [Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate] and once school resumes, students will also receive this training.

"This is something we have discussed and talked about for awhile now. Our teachers are being trained in this at the end of August," Mr. Camardo said.

"We're training all teachers, all staff, any substitutes, anybody that is in the building is going to be trained including our SRO officers, and they'll then turn that to the students. There is an actual curriculum in place for the program and it kind of meets the kids where it puts it in terms they understand.

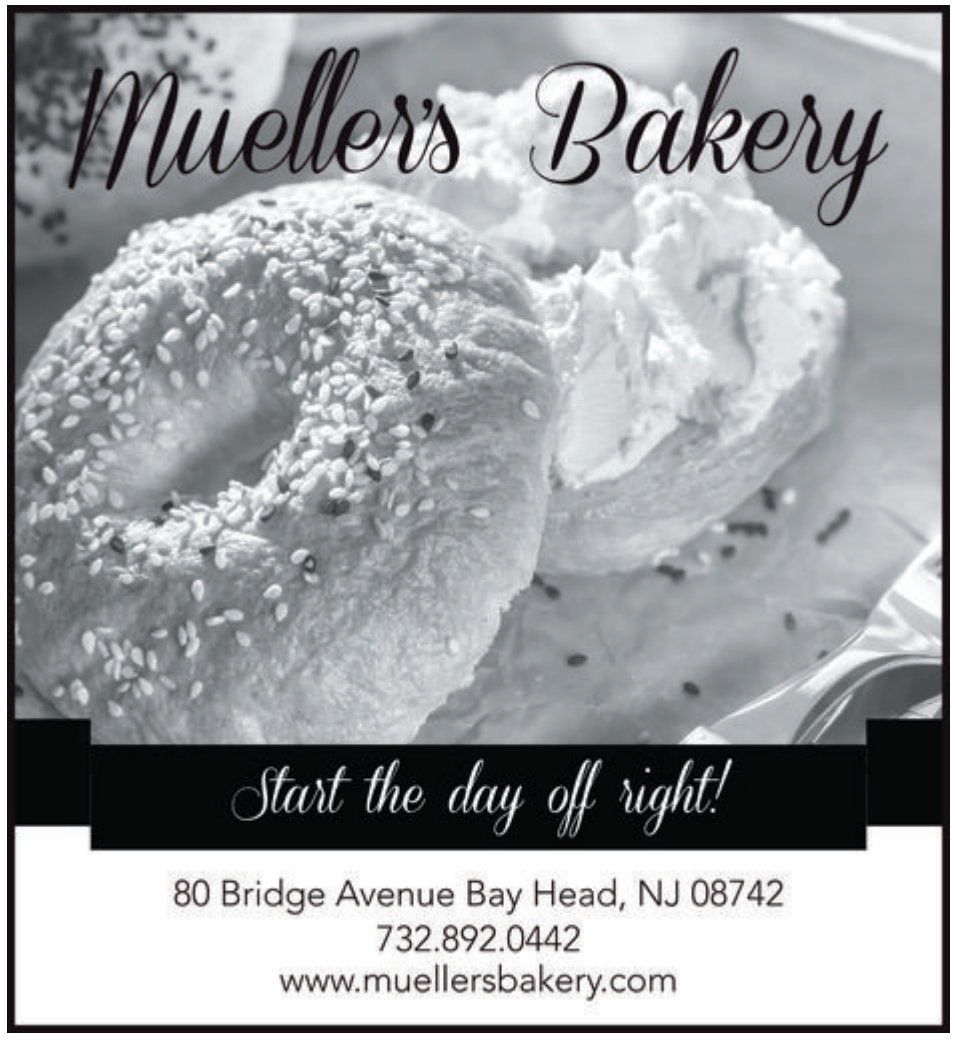
"It's just a school-wide philosophy of instead of just hiding in a corner, God forbid something happens, to have a plan … and just kind of having the ability to make a decision and do what is best for the kids in that situation.

"I think it allows them to feel a little bit more empowered to be able to do something other than just sit in a corner, which is what most schools have done over the last years so it gets a plan in place.

"We'll still have full-time school resource officers that are here all day and working with the kids. They're very visible in the morning, at dismissal, recess, lunch, that sort of thing.

"There are four classrooms in the upper wing – fifth grade, language arts, science and then the guidance counselor's office that is now going to be up there -- that have original doors that are not necessarily the most safety conscious doors.

"They have a lot of glass on them so those are being replaced by the district, hopefully before school starts, if not by September, to meet the state safety standards. If there were a lockdown or something like that it would be less glass, less visibility into the classroom that sort of thing."



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Good luck in a new school year

BRADLEY

FROM PAGE 5

also an opportunity for teachers and students to talk about concerns both within the school and in our community at large. In order to support this project, all homerooms employed at least two staff members during our expanded 20 minute Morning Meeting homeroom. This year, we will build upon our success to help support the social/emotional learning of our students through the development of a school wide positive behavioral program which will help students focus on our new common theme: *SOLE*. The concept of *SOLE* is for students to continue to develop respect for *Self, Others, Learning,* and *Environment*.

Curricular changes that will impact our students involve the continued use of the workshop method in both reading and writing. Over the course of the past three years, our teachers have worked diligently to understand and implement the tenants of both Readers and Writers Workshop. This knowledge has helped our teachers expand the amount of time students read and work on leveled materials during the school day, while facilitating individual conferences for students to develop an environment of personalized learning. The final phase of this implementation involves the introduction of a researched based phonics program to help support students' understanding of sounds and written letters so that they learn how to decode and read words.

One final change that I hope all members of our community will be excited about is the completion of our second and third major stairwell projects. I am happy to report that all three stairwells have been completely renovated, and this work has vastly improved the physical appearance of our historic school building. I am also proud to report that this work has been completed one year ahead of the schedule developed by our strategic plan.

Finally, I would like to publicly thank the custodial staff, teaching staff, and main office staff for their hard work over the summer to prepare the school for a successful and productive opening day. Good Luck to all in the new school year, and I look forward to seeing our students on Sept. 5.

Sincerely,
Dr. Stephen Wisniewski
Superintendent
/Principal

SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — BELMAR

'Looking forward to a productive partnership ...'

On behalf of the Belmar School District administration, faculty, and staff, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our students and their families as we begin the 2019-20 school year. We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We are excited to share with our families new initiatives that we will be introducing this school year.

Belmar Elementary School is thrilled to announce that we have received funding through the NJ Department of Education's Preschool Expansion Aid initiative, allowing us to open two new preschool classrooms including both three- and four-year-old students from Belmar and Lake Como. All four preschool classrooms will be receiving new furniture, as well as new outdoor play equipment. All classrooms will be implementing the Tools of the Mind curriculum, in which intentional make-believe play is the heart of the classroom. The preschool expansion initiative allows for us to continue implementing a high quality preschool program for all our young learners.

We are proud to collaborate with Rutgers Robert

SEE **PARTNERSHIP** PAGE 8

SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — BAY HEAD

'Everything is progressing smoothly to a great opening ...'

I want to officially welcome all of you to the 2019-2020 school year! Summer has come and gone and we must now move forward with many exciting changes to follow.

We have been very busy throughout the school this summer with updating classrooms with new smart boards, removing carpet, painting, and replacing the portico on the original section of the school to update, while keeping with the traditional look and authenticity. Everything is progressing smoothly to a great opening of school on Wednesday, September 04, 2019.

I am privileged to have the opportunity to return again this school year as your principal and I feel honored to work with our highly qualified and dedicated staff, our wonderful students, and all of the supportive parents.

Our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Peter Morris, will also continue his role at the Bay Head School again this year. The elementary years are critical times of development for students and families and I look forward to working with all of you to make this school year successful.

The Bay Head School will begin implementing a new math program in grades k-8 called Go Math to enhance instruction and implement rigor and relevance in mathematics. Furthermore, our staff is in the process of being trained on a new safety protocol called ALICE training, and students will also receive this training once school begins, as safety and security are paramount for Bay Head School.

I'd like to invite you to continuously check the school website as this is the main source of updated communication and will serve as a resource tool for all upcoming events, student/parent handbook, important reminders and you can keep up with Mr. Camardo's, 'Principal's Corner.' Communication is key to success, and we will continue to encourage teachers and parents to stay connected via websites, phone calls, and emails as well as Remind.

We will continue to use our 'One Call Now' call system for reminders of upcoming events, important meetings and emergency closing information.

In closing, please enjoy the remaining days of summer. We enthusiastically anticipate the return of our students, teachers and staff as they bring the Bay Head School alive! Please don't hesitate to contact the Main Office or myself directly with any questions or concerns.

With Shark Pride and Spirit,

Mr. Frank J. Camardo, Principal

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Welcoming the new school year

PARTNERSHIP
FROM PAGE 6

Wood Johnson Medical School and the NJ Department of Education to implement the program PBSIS [Positive Behavior Supports In Schools] at Belmar Elementary School this year. PBSIS is a multi-tiered system of support for behavior and social-emotional wellness that promotes equity for all students. Research on school climate and student achievement suggests that the quality of interactions staff have with students is an important predictor of positive academic and social outcomes. It will be known as The SOAR Program at Belmar Elementary School as students will learn what it means to SOAR to excellence by showing Respect, Responsibility, and Kindness.

Belmar Elementary School has continued to embrace 21st-century learning by providing opportunities for students to have access to the most up to date technology. We recently purchased 40 ViewSonic ViewBoard Interactive Touch Panels for each of the instructional spaces in the school. These panels deliver incredible interactive capabilities for 21st-century classrooms. Featuring 65-inch touchscreens, ViewBoard displays let multiple users write, edit, and draw on screen for dynamic presentations and creative brainstorming. Each room will also have a Touch Screen Chromebook that will enable the teacher to control the panel from wherever they are in the room or to share their screen so all of the students can see what the teacher is modeling.

We look forward to introducing a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students' needs through a system known as Response to Intervention [RTI]. RTI consists of a data driven process to inform decisions that lead to student achievement for both general and special education students. Through this process, we will be able to personalize learning by targeting strengths and areas of weakness. Additionally, we are moving to an inclusive model in our middle school grades, allowing for general education and special education students to be educated in a differentiated learning environment. These two initiatives will create a well-integrated system of instruction and intervention guided by child outcome data in which all students will benefit.

Our district will continue to implement our Math Workshop model. Math Workshop is the key to success in a Guided Math classroom. During Math Workshop, work is differentiated to meet the various learning needs of the students. This Guided Math framework accommodates a vast array of learning tasks.

Students work independently, either individually, in pairs or other groups on math station tasks designed to reinforce, maintain or extend their mastered knowledge.

"Inspired, United, Prepared, Soaring to Excellence." Our motto represents the shared vision of our BES school family and is fostered by a leadership team that promotes a nurturing and academically challenging school environment.

We look forward to meeting all of our families at Back To School Night on Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. David R. Hallman, Superintendent

Mrs. Sarah Wilton, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Lauren Vasile, Supervisor of Special Services

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — AVON-BY-THE-SEA

'Advancing every child's academic achievement ...'

It is with great anticipation and excitement that I offer this Welcome Back letter for publication in The Coast Star ahead of the 2019-2020 school year! First, I hope that summer recess continues to be filled with enjoyment and exploration as well as rest and rejuvenation. Although there is plenty of summer remaining, in a few weeks it will be time to start thinking about school and all the wonder, laughter and learning that is in store for us this year.

Avon School staff have been hard at work all summer preparing the campus, building and the instructional program for another dynamic year of learning. New programming, manipulatives, enhanced curriculum and upgraded technology are all waiting to welcome staff and students back to this special learning environment.

Our amazing team of professional and supportive educators will continue to be ever focused on advancing every child's academic achievement, character development and effective citizenship. We all know that "It takes a village to raise a child..." and that our Vision and Mission would never be fully realized without a strong parent and community partnership.

Parents, I invite you to be active participants in your child's education and to stay in close contact with your child's teacher, school staff and administration as we work together to achieve shared goals. School staff value proactive, respectful and patient communication and I hope you will consider making time to volunteer in any of the various school and partner programs and events.

As always, please visit our school website on a regular basis for all inquiries. If you cannot find the information you are looking for, you may call the main office at 732-775-4328.

On behalf of the entire Avon Elementary School staff, it is our privilege to serve the Avon-by-the-Sea community; we feel very fortunate to have your continued support and partnership. We are looking forward to all the amazing opportunities that await your children this year and are confident that all students will find ways to contribute to the tradition of excellence that Avon School is so well known for.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in September!

Christopher Albrizio
Superintendent
/Principal

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — POINT PLEASANT

'Another exciting and innovative year …'

Greetings Point Pleasant Borough Students and Families!

Although it seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the close of the 2018-2019 school year and saying goodbye to the Class of 2019, the start of the 2019-2020 school year is just weeks away. As the September 4 start of school draws near, I wanted to take a moment to extend to you my warmest welcome to what promises to be another exciting and innovative year here in Point Pleasant Schools.

New educational opportunities, curriculum initiatives and academic programs await our approximately 2,800 students upon their return to school. At the elementary level, you will see the implementation of inquiry-based science kits in alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards as well as the continued integration of Reader's and Writer's Workshop.

At the middle school, students will benefit from increased financial literacy opportunities while the high school will continue to expand course offerings as well as its many college-credit earning opportunities. New courses are being offered in Criminal Justice, Robotics, Forensic Science, Psychology as well as new Advanced Placement courses, AP Psychology and AP Environmental. The additional AP courses will expand the high school's AP Course offerings to 20 courses!

The high school will also gain additional college credit-earning opportunities with the expansion of dual enrollment partnerships with Syracuse University and Ocean County College, the latter of which will expand opportunities for high school students to earn both their high school diploma and Associate's Degree by high school graduation.

High school students will also have increased opportunities with the implementation of the Rotate & Drop schedule, a student-centered schedule that expands student choices, promotes wellness and better prepares students for post-secondary success.

Through the summer, our staff works tirelessly to update our programs as well as take care of facilities upgrades and renovations, which are necessary for our students' comfort and safety. These projects include continued replacement of indoor lighting at all four schools, renovations to the high school cafeteria and tennis courts and the replacement of the middle school backstop and Ocean Road gym bleachers. We will also be replacing district security camera servers and upgrading the software.

While the coming school year is sure to give rise to additional opportunities, it has also brought some unique challenges following the implementation of Senate Bill S2, which calls for the seven-year phasing out of school districts' adjustment aid. The 2019-20 school year will see the additional loss of over $327,000 in State Aid, bringing the cumulative loss to almost half a million dollars. Central Administration and the Board of Education will continue to work with state legislators in an effort to reverse these cuts.

Regardless of these or any unforeseen challenges, our staff knows how to overcome changing demands. We are prepared for a new year, ready to achieve and perform to the best of our ability. On behalf of Central Administration, the Board of Education, our faculty and staff, I'd like to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year. We will see you on September 4!

Vincent S. Smith
Superintendent of Schools

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — BRIELLE

'Many new opportunities at Brielle Elementary School...'

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! A new school year presents us with many new opportunities at Brielle Elementary School.

We are excited to welcome over 45 kindergarten students as well as a few new students to our school! On Wednesday, Aug. 21 we will host an orientation for kindergarten students and new students and their parents at 9 a.m.

Several new programs, new technologies, learning materials and building improvements await our Brielle family as we begin our journey together as partners and friends in education. Teams of teachers worked diligently over the summer to write curriculum in the areas of Social Studies, and Reading and Writing for grades K-3. The new Financial Literacy curriculum will be introduced to our students in grades K through eight for the first time this year.

Students will begin their day with their homeroom teacher engaged in our Morning Meeting Program. Our incoming eighth grade students, the Class of 2020, had the opportunity to choose classes for their electives over the summer.

Our doors have been open through the summer to approximately 150 students involved in many exciting programs, such as the Brielle Summer Recreation Program, Blazer Academy and the Extended School Year Program.

At the same time we have been busy with building improvements including painting classrooms, offices and hallways, as well as replacing old ceiling tiles and lighting to more efficient materials and LED fixtures. In addition to this project, the Brielle Board of Education in partnership with the Borough of Brielle will be replacing curbing and sidewalks on Union Lane.

The 2019-2020 school year will remain focused in the following areas:

TECHNOLOGY

We will continue our 1:1 initiative using Chromebooks for all students in grades kindergarten through eight. Through the generosity of our PTO, the Brielle Education Foundation, private donations and the Brielle Board of Education additional ChromeBooks, iPads, STEM materials and seven portable Promethean boards were purchased to allow us to continue integrating new technology to enhance learning by maintaining current technology tools, applications and upgrades as necessary.

COMMUNITY/PARENT RELATIONS

Our goal is to provide clear, open and timely communication to our families to ensure parental and community support and involvement.

Parents will have complete access to student's progress and grades by utilizing our Genesis program. The Honeywell Instant Alert System will again be implemented to inform our families through emails and voice/text messaging of pertinent information as well.

In addition, we will continue to utilize the digital sign as a means of communication for the community. The sign is updated consistently reflecting school and community events.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT

We will continue to improve instruction through effective and sustaining professional

development which supports Professional Learning Communities [PLC] established by teachers and administrators.

As educators, we know our students learn best in an environment where they are treated with respect. The entire staff has been trained in Responsive Classroom, Mindfulness and a pro-active anti-bullying program for all students.

Our student and staff anti-bullying committee, 'Blazing for Peace,' work collaboratively to ensure that acts of harassment, intimidation and bullying do not take place in our school building. These four rules are our guiding principles:

- We will not bully others;
- We will try to help students who are bullied;
- We will make it a point to include students who are easily left out;

If we know that somebody is being bullied, we

SEE **BRIELLE** PAGE 13

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Brick names interim schools chief

BY PATRICK REILLY
STAR NEWS GROUP

BRICK TOWNSHIP — The Brick Township school district has named a new, interim superintendent to take the helm for the upcoming school year as the board of education continues to search for a more permanent solution after the abrupt resignation of former superintendent Gerard Dalton.

Director of Human Resources Sean Cranston was unanimously voted by the board of education to take over the position for an additional salary of $184.23 per diem.

Mr. Cranston said he is excited for the opportunity and is not anticipating making any big changes to what the school district has already planned for the upcoming school year.

"I'm definitely excited. I'm here to help guide the direction we're going in," Mr. Cranston said.

"We've set all of the plans for this year, and we're going to keep the plans going forward that we have set in place with the administrative staff and the teachers to do what's best for the district."

Board of Education President Stephanie Wohlrab said Mr. Cranston was chosen since he had been working with the board and administration as it worked through the 2019-2020 budget as well as for his human resources experience. She said that Mr. Cranston was chosen from a pool of around 12 in-district candidates for the position.

"I think what the board wanted to do is pull resources from what we had in-district, so we weren't going out of hand. We looked at everyone in the district that held the paperwork and certification that would allow them to serve as an acting superintendent," Ms. Wohlrab said Tuesday.

"The fact that Mr. Cranston is in the front office, the fact that we're not pulling a principal away from a school and not disrupting kids, the fact that Mr. Cranston was an active member of the administration during the time that we put the plans into place for next year, the fact that he understands the human resources piece of this ... He was ... a very strong and good candidate for this position."

Mr. Cranston has worked as HR director since 2017. He was previously hired by the district as a math supervisor after teaching math for about a decade. Prior to his appointment as HR director, he had no experience working with HR, Mr. Cranston told a resident, and has had no experience as a vice principal or assistant principal.

Ms. Wohlrab said Mr. Cranston would continue his duties as director of human resources, but the board would consider hiring someone part-time to lighten the workload.

"He will still have a piece of the HR, but what we are looking at is the possibility of bringing somebody in on a part-time basis to assist with that department to make sure nothing falls to the wayside," she said.

While Mr. Cranston will fill a necessary void in the district, he is not the long-term solution to the district's superintendent woes, which reads like a list of the Cleveland Browns quarterbacks, with 11 superintendents in 10 years.

"Since the plan is to be going out aggressively for a new superintendent, the idea of keeping it in-district, [someone] that was involved with the planning for the upcoming year since it's already in place. It would be nice to have someone that understands Brick so we're not bringing somebody in to make changes. We have a plan in place and we have a team that's ready to work the plan while the board goes and interviews and gets another superintendent in place as quickly as possible," Ms. Wohlrab said.

Ms. Wohlrab said that she could not estimate how long it would take the district to hire a new superintendent, but said she heard that the best time to post for the position is in September and October. The board voted on a resolution at the meeting to approve the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey to perform a "Superintendent Search" for the district, at a cost not to exceed $11,500.

DALTON DEPARTS

Former superintendent Gerard Dalton said a final farewell to the Brick Township community at the meeting, thanking them for their support and experience during his short tenure in the district. Mr. Dalton announced his resignation in June suddenly, to the surprise of the district after just over one year serving as superintendent. He is returning to his former position as a principal at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School.

SEE **BRICK** PAGE 13

New school opportunities

BRIELLE

FROM PAGE 11

will tell an adult at school or at home.

Students will be welcomed back on Wednesday, Sept. 4 and will be dismissed at 12:50 p.m. The first full day will be Thursday, Sept. 5. As always, our traditional flag raising ceremony will be held on Friday, Sept. 6, followed by a 'Clap-In' celebration for our kindergarten and eighth grade students throughout our hallways.

Some other upcoming events in September are our Back to School Nights where parents will have an opportunity to meet with their child's teachers. Sept. 5 is for Pre-K through third grade parents and Sept. 12 will be for fourth through eighth grade parents. Both evenings will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Five of our teachers will be in new positions this year as follows: Kim Andre will be teaching our Pre-Kindergarten students; Jean Lohmann will teach first grade, Stephanie Randel has moved to second grade, Lori Kern has moved to fourth grade and Pete DeBenedetto will be our media specialist in the library.

In addition to these changes there will be four new faces in the building; our two new kindergarten teachers are Kathryn Crawley and Laura Myers. We have also hired two special

education teachers, one of them being Tracey Byrne, formerly one of our instructional aides and a new staff member; Alison Gilbertson.

We are forever grateful for the support and efforts made by our Board of Education, the Parent-Teacher Organization, the Blazer Booster Club, Brielle Education Foundation, teachers, administrators, support staff and caring community members who collectively help create a great learning environment for all our students.

We will continue to keep focused on the processes that spurt continuing academic achievement, evaluating our programs, determining what we can do to improve and work collaboratively in a school environment to enhance success for all.

Our Motto: Every child....Every day....Whatever it takes.

Keeping Children First,
Christine E. Carlson
Superintendent

Cranston named interim chief

BRICK

FROM PAGE 12

He said that while he knows the school district faces challenges, namely multi-million dollar cuts in state aid over the next five years, the district must pursue with togetherness and compassion.

"This has been an awesome experience with people I really do want to see the best for this district," he said.

"The district is faced with many challenges, as are many districts. I implore the community to stay together, though. There's a great deal that can be achieved if we stick together. We need to focus on the future of this district. And it is complicated and there's history, and there's a lot that is in your control and a lot that is beyond your control. But we need to do it in a kind way. We are modelling for children and they deserve the best."

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'Fresh starts, new relationships and new opportunities to learn and grow'

I'm excited to welcome all staff and students back to school for the 2019-2020 school year! September is probably my favorite month of the year. It represented new beginnings, fresh starts, new relationships and new opportunities to learn and grow as students and professionals in a learning community.

Every summer, the administrators and I spend part of our time reflecting on our goals from 2018-2019 and setting goals for the "New Year". As you might expect, those goals are focused on ways to ensure that each and every student in our district feels welcome, supported, and challenged to achieve his or her potential. Toward that end, we are continuing our commitment to provide quality teaching in all areas along with a proactive approach to school safety and to meeting the social and emotional needs of our students. Please reach out to our counseling staff, teachers, and administrators at any time for help navigating the complexities of academics, peer issues, physical problems, and/or mental health concerns. We share the common goal of raising successful students who are caring, responsible, well-rounded individuals. Our Mission Statement guides our decision making: "The mission of the Wall Township Public Schools is to empower all students to lead lives of fulfillment and purpose by providing a safe, comprehensive and caring educational environment that will enable students to achieve their unique potential academically, socially and emotionally. Our students will become confident, creative and critical thinkers who communicate effectively and engage meaningfully as responsible members of a global society."

The district goals for 2019-2020 are available on the website and are part of the Five-Year Strategic Plan (2017-2022).

As you prepare to send your children back to school on Thursday, Sept. 5, please do some last minute checks to ensure a smooth transition: Please check the website for updated information about policies and forms that need to be signed and returned. These forms are available through the Parent Portal and you will be required to access them and sign them before you will be able to access your student's schedule for the coming year. Check the school pages on the website for important information from your principals. Start getting back into a routine that includes sufficient sleep and good nutrition! Check with your children to make sure that they completed summer assignments. Contact the school with any issues or problems. We'd like to help you solve them before the first day of school.

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer and your Labor Day holiday weekend.

Regards,

Mrs. Cheryl Dyer, Superintendent

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS

'Another fantastic school year in Spring Lake Heights ...'

We hope your summer break has been one filled with relaxation and memorable experiences. As the summer begins to come to a close, we are excited to welcome you back to what will prove to be another fantastic school year in Spring Lake Heights [SLH].

As you are well aware, SLH has been under major construction and renovation this summer. As of the writing of this letter, our contractors are on schedule to make sure school is ready on the first day. Our new roof, HVAC units, lighting, doors, parking lot, fencing, playgrounds, art classroom, science lab, music classroom, preschool classroom, security vestibule and IDEA [Innovation, Design, Engineering and Art] studio should all be completed.

We can't wait for everyone to see how hard the contractors have worked this summer to create an updated learning environment for our students. After school gets underway, the last phase of our project will be completed which is the installation of the solar array on the entire flat roof.

We will continue the SLH tradition of excellence this year while offering ongoing 21st century learning opportunities for our students. Through the continued implementation of STEAM activities in our new IDEA studio, students will be engaged in real world applications of concepts across all of the curricula. This lab will also contain a state of the art TV studio for both morning announcements and video production.

Our K-2 classrooms, renovated classrooms, and the addition rooms all have been equipped with brand new Promethean Boards. Third through eighth grade will be 1:1 with HP Chromebooks this year with fifth through eighth being allowed to take them to and from school.

SLH will also be focusing our efforts on submission for Sustainable NJ certification throughout the 2019-2020 school year. Expect to hear much more on this topic as we look towards a greener SLH environment.

A positive home-school connection is essential to the success of our students. We encourage you to stay actively involved in your child's studies as well as the activities in which they participate. Your support is paramount to their success both in and out of school.

We are fortunate to have numerous ways for you to stay in touch with the happenings of SLHES through our school website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. Please consider "following" these accounts in an effort to stay as up to date as possible.

Additionally, we encourage you to stay involved with our incredible PTA which has been hard at work this summer planning fun and exciting activities for your children.

Our amazing custodial team has been working diligently all summer to keep the building in great shape while undergoing major renovations. Walls have been painted, floors shined, windows cleaned, and everything else scrubbed from top to bottom. We'd like to publicly thank our custodial team of Bert, Keith, Tim, Ed and Rick for all of their hard work this summer and throughout the school year.

We want to also make sure that we thank the office staff for their dedication to our students, faculty and the community. Their hard work ensures that SLHES is ready for a smooth opening each September and operates efficiently all year long.

As you can tell, there are many things to be excited about as we get closer to the 2019-2020 school year. Overall, we look forward to the start of school as our district continues to embody our motto: Preparation. Pride. Possibilities. At SLH, the possibilities for our students are endless and we cannot wait to begin exploring them together. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!

SLH Administrative Team,

John Spalthoff & Danielle Holter

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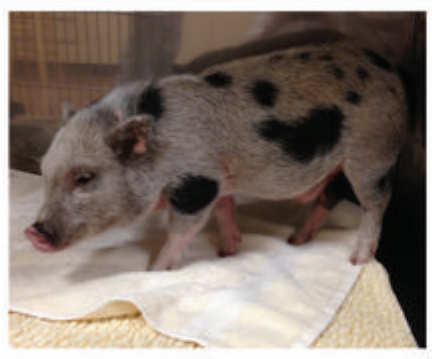

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New technology to greet students at Belmar Elementary

BY MICHAEL NUNES
STAR NEWS GROUP

FILE PHOTO **STAR NEWS GROUP**

Children at Belmar Elementary take part in a lesson on their new interactive smart panel, one of the first installed at the school.

BELMAR — Belmar Elementary School has taken the next big step in classroom technology, staff said.

Last week, 40 interactive touch screen panels were installed in nearly all of the school's classrooms, moving ahead with an initiative to upgrade technology at the school.

The interactive panels allow teachers to project what is on their laptops to the whole class. The interactive panels don't need a separate computer to operate, they are their own heavy-duty computers. Teachers would be able to search the internet by using a touch screen, as well as use the device as a chalkboard.

"Since I have been here technology has been our strength," David Hallman, principal and superintendent of Belmar Elementary School, said. "The teachers are very excited, students are very excited, and now we are looking forward to training for the teachers." With the school's 1-to-1 Chromebooks policy, every student has their own laptop that is provided by the school, which also allows them to project school projects onto the smart panels without needing to leave their desks. Members of the district's technology department had met with Mr. Hallman about ways to improve Belmar Elementary School on a technological level.

The panels were Thursday, May 9. "It's a long time since I could remember the genuine excitement of the kids and the teachers," Kevin O'Donnell, the head of the school's technology department, said. "The kids saw them being installed and they were like 'When are we getting ours? When are we getting ours?' The next day they walk into their classroom and it's hanging on the board, and you should hear how they cheer."

Feeding off the student's excitement, Mr. O'Donnell has even decided to create a special team of students to master how to use the new technology, so they could "My goal is to have a tech team of kids that are going to know the ins and outs so when a teacher it trying to remember how to do something or doesn't know the kids could help," he said.

"Kids could become teachers. There are kids that gravitate towards technology and it's like second nature to them." The choice to move forward with interactive smart boards was also a pragmatic one. The school was running out of replacement parts for their older overhead projectors, with vendors for those parts becoming harder to find year after year.

"I don't have to worry about a projector bulb ding in the middle of a teacher's lesson which has happened a few times this year, and that is why we sped this process up a little bit," Mr. O'Donnell said.

The new panels also offer some improvements over the older projectors, Mr. O'Donnell added, as teachers will no longer have to worry about students in the class being unable to see the projections due to glare. O'Donnell giving a demonstration about how the panels would fit into instructional spaces at the school. "We're very thankful that we as a technology department has had the support from the administration and staff and the school board, without them it would not be possible to put this technology in the hands of our teachers and students," Mr. O'Donnell said.

"Mr. Hallman tasked me with finding a solution that would help transform the classroom, and I think we found it."

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H.W. Mountz preparing for the upcoming school year

BY TYLER SPRINGSTEEN AND KELLY HOOPER
STAR NEWS GROUP

H.W. Mountz School administration is working hard to prepare for the upcoming school year and all hands are on deck, according to Board of Education President James Worth.

"I think Krystyna Domogala [acting superintendent] and Denise McCarthy [school business administrator] are digging in hard," said Mr. Worth. "They're getting the full cooperation of the staff, but there's a lot to do."

He said the current focus is on teachers' schedules for the year, along with making sure technology is up to date and working properly, all while managing the summer maintenance schedule, as well as camps and programs happening throughout the summer.

Along with this work within H.W. Mountz, the district is also moving along with the replacement of recently vacated positions.

Superintendent Raymond Boccuti and Board of Education members Christine Valori and Alan Ferraro all resigned from their positions during a special board meeting held Tuesday, July 15.

On August 6, the board approved two temporary board members during their special meeting.

Ed Hale and Michael Moran will join the board, filling two vacancies until the new year.

Mr. Hale previously served on the board. He said he was excited to get back to serving his community.

"I'm very excited to be appointed to the board," he said. "I look forward to working to improve our school district."

For Mr. Moran, this is his first time serving on the Spring Lake Board of Education. He also said he was ready to step in and help.

"I feel good about this opportunity," he said.

Both new board members echoed that the next few months will be very important with the selection of a new superintendent on the board's agenda.

The school has advertised for the interim superintendent and is still accepting applications for the permanent superintendent position until Aug. 16.

Mr. Worth added, "Hopefully, we will pick an interim if the candidates are good."

Mr. Worth also said after an interim superintendent is in place, they plan to move quickly to find a permanent replacement in the district.

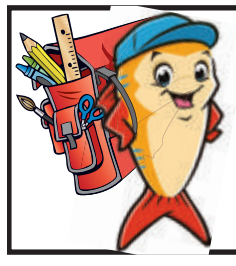
"It is our intent to try to have a new superintendent in place by the end of this calendar year," he said, "which is aggressive but we'll see if it's doable."

Along with the faculty changes, the board is working to update to the building including painting the walls and installing new floors and classroom bookshelves. The board also announced plans for a cleanup of the exterior of the building, as well as chimney and masonry repairs.

The school also added safety and security measures such as adding more security cameras and placing LED lights inside the "Exit" signs.

A new after-school program could be in the works, funded by a grant from the state. Denise McCarthy, the board secretary and business administrator, said the program would provide academic help for children struggling in basic skills.

Ms. McCarthy said the details of the program still need to be "ironed out," but ideally, it would begin in October and run through the end of April, and would benefit students who are not classified as special needs but still need extra help with school work.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DOLORES DESANTO, *Executive Director*

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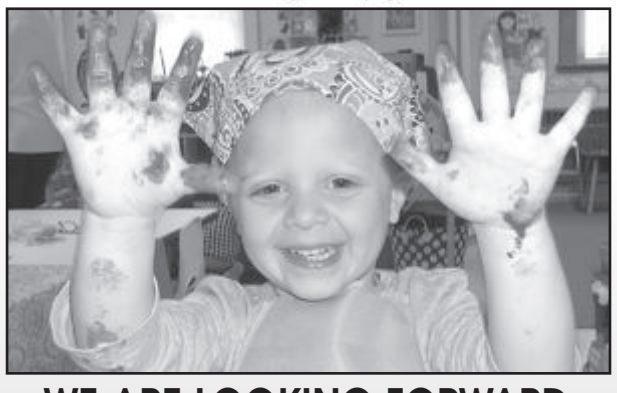

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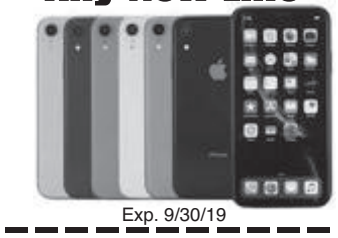

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — LAVALLETTE

'Excited for a truly wonderful 2019-2020 school year'

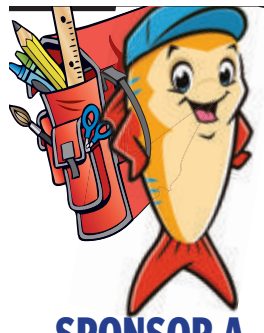
The Lavallette School is the cornerstone of a truly amazing community; the support of the Mayor, Town Council, Public Works, and School PTO is clearly the foundation that allows us to achieve both academic and interpersonal success for our students. The Lavallette School is clearly among the best learning organizations in the state of New Jersey. The Board of Education, school staff, and the entire Lavallette school community would like to say "THANK YOU" for all your support. We will continue to do our best to make you proud.

The Lavallette School Board of Education, administration and staff have utilized the summer of 2019 to facilitate numerous educational and organizational enhancements. All improvements are guided and shaped via our school mission statement: The Lavallette School Learning Organization is devoted to providing a comprehensive and caring educational experience that nurtures the unique talents of each student. It is our overall expectation that all students achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at all grade levels. Furthermore, our mission is guided by the principle of facilitating the development of lifelong learners that possess the confidence and capabilities to respect diversity and develop cognition of 21st century globalization while becoming socially responsible, civic minded citizens of the United States of America.

With regard to the most recent evidence-based and scientifically researched pedagogy, the Lavallette School staff has participated in numerous professional trainings this summer via a positive and continued relationship with Kean University at Ocean County College. We are implementing the Big Ideas Math Program in Kindergarten through second grades to remain consistent with our previous adoption and piloting of the program for grades three through eight. This year, students in grades six through eight will be participating in a "Financial Literacy" course to enhance the development of real-world skills for our 21st century learners. We are also very excited to put into action a "Mindfulness" program for all students to promote mental health and awareness, the enhancement of our STEAM program (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics), a focus on social and emotional learning, and the addition of public speaking to our student schedules. A true commitment to developing "passions" across the curriculum for our students is paramount to our goals and objectives.

A special thank you to the Lavallette School PTO for providing all of our children and learning organization truly amazing support. In mentioning a few of our exciting changes, I hope you will have confidence that the Lavallette School Board of Education, administration, and staff are dedicated to creating a learning organization where modernistic and widespread patterns of thinking are nurtured, where staff, students, and parents regularly develop their capacity to create the results they truly desire, where collective aspiration is set free, and where people are faithfully learning how to learn together. The Lavallette School is excited for a truly wonderful 2019-2020 school year.

Dr. Peter S. Morris
Superintendent
/Principal



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Point Pleasant School District to welcome students back Sept. 4

BY KAYLA MARSH
STAR NEWS GROUP

School will officially be back in session Sept. 4 and new educational opportunities, curriculum initiatives and academic programs await approximately 2,800 Point Pleasant School District students upon their return to the classroom.

"As the Sept. 4 start of school draws near, I wanted to take a moment to extend to you my warmest welcome to what promises to be another exciting and innovative year here in Point Pleasant Schools," Superintendent Vincent S. Smith stated in a letter to parents. "We are prepared for a new year, ready to achieve and perform to the best of our ability."

CURRICULUM MEASURES

During the 2019-2020 school year, district administrators, faculty and staff will continue to emphasize the importance of positive socioemotional and behavioral learning.

"We're going to continue with the whole mindfulness thinking district-wide," Superintendent Smith said.

"We are going to continue to work on that with the teachers and students to help manage their anxiety and stress. There is a lot of stress, a lot of things going on in their lives and we want to continue to provide strategies for both teachers and students to manage that.

"We really want to continue the mental health and wellbeing ... and we need to build on that because I think there are a lot of issues out there ... and I think it is our job to work hard and identify those issues and help them. If you can help identify and provide support to the kids that is crucial and that is part of our job in our schools on a day-to-day basis so it is something we need to pick up on."

At Ocean Road and Nellie F. Bennett elementary schools, students will see the implementation of inquiry-based science kits in alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards as well as the continued integration of Reader's and Writer's Workshop.

"We're going to continue with the Next Generation Science, continue to train our teachers on that as well our STEM education, STEAM education, too, so we're going to continue rolling all of that out," Superintendent Smith said.

"We have had a lot of training sessions with ... all levels of staff so we'll continue that and keep rolling that out ... it has been very helpful for teachers so we're pleased with that."

At Memorial Middle School, students will reap the benefits of increased financial literacy opportunities.

At Point Pleasant Borough High School, course offerings will continue to be expanded with the addition of criminal justice, robotics, forensic science and psychology, new Advanced Placement courses including AP Psychology and AP Environmental and students will also have the opportunity to take part in one of the school's many college-credit earning opportunities.

With the expansion of dual enrollment partnerships high school students are able to earn both their high school diploma and associate's degree by high school graduation.

The most discussed topic of the last half-year will officially begin in September when the high school kicks off its new Rotate & Drop Schedule.

"The students have already received their schedules. They were sent out, I believe, on July 18. This is probably one of the earliest times that I can remember that the students got their schedules so we're ahead and we're excited about it," Superintendent Smith said.

"There has been a lot of work into it. I am not saying it's going to be perfect, but as we do with anything, we are going to look at it and tweak it as we go along. But I think we're ready for it. We talked to the police about concerns of increased traffic, having students out all at the same time.

"As part of this we renovated the cafeteria to make it more appealing to the kids. I think it's going to look really good. We have new furniture coming in there to make it a place where they can kind of relax. Also the courtyard by the library, we are going to be putting in some tables where the kids can go out there and eat and ... it is going to help, I think, when we have a lot of opportunities.

SEE **POINT** PAGE 22

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Point Pleasant district welcomes back students

POINT
FROM PAGE 21

"We're excited. Obviously the bottom line is, it is going to give the kids more opportunities, allow them to take other courses, more courses, and I think it will be nice they're not going to have that same class everyday at 8 o'clock. It could be 8 o'clock one day then 9 o'clock the next so there is a good feeling with that and with the teachers, too. It will be something new but I think it's going to be well received."

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

District staff has worked hard over the summer to prepare schools and facilities for the return of students.

"Continuing with our capital work we're continuing replacing our classroom and hallway lighting at the high school, middle school and elementary schools," Superintendent Smith said. "This is a project that has kind of been ongoing and we are continuing with that.

"We did the tennis courts over by the high school, we resurfaced them and it came out nice. It was something we needed to do. It was starting to crack and ... they are used by the community too, not just by our kids."

Projects also included the replacement of the middle school backstop and Ocean Road Elementary School gym bleachers.

"We're also upgrading district-wide our servers for our security cameras and our software," Superintendent Smith said.

"We're looking forward to another successful school year. Staff-wise we've basically got everybody hired. We have a good group of new staff members coming into the district, some right out of college, some veteran teachers, so we're excited about it. We're excited for the new school year."

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The participant will be able to see their brain activity while completing functional attention, memory and problem-solving tasks. The techniques can also be used to address the growing anxiety related to technology withdrawal.

Family education is provided and recommendations are shared with educators as appropriate. Communication with family and school is essential for the student to generalize his/her newly developed skills to the home and academic settings.

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Academy Charter High School preps for 2019 to 2020 school year

BY ANTHONY ROSSICS
STAR NEWS GROUP

Academy Charter High School [ACHS] of Lake Como, will be experiencing academic, staff and club changes going into the 2019 to 2020 school year.

ACHS's Dean of Students, Shawn Heeter said, "We have made some changes to our academic elective classes. The courses will now be semester long and worth 2.5 credits. They were quarterly courses the past few years."

There will be new classes offered in the field of elective classes. The new courses include Robotics, History of Hip-Hop, Gender Studies, Creative Writing and Urban Literature.

"We are also expanding our dual enrollment course opportunities," said Mr. Heeter. Students of ACHS, will now have the opportunity to earn college credits while taking Core English, Arabic 1 and Arabic 2 courses. According to Mr. Heeter, this is the second year the school is offering Arabic as a class and it has attracted a lot of interest from the student body.

ACHS has hired a new Supervisor of Curriculum who started their position in June of this year. The new member of the staff is Klarissa Martin. Mr. Heeter said, "We are very excited to have Ms. Klarissa Martin on board. She brings a wealth of knowledge to the position and will be a great resource for our teachers.

The 2019 to 2020 school year will be Ms. Martin's first full year in her new position.

"Another area we are working to expand is our esports options," said Mr. Heeter. ACHS is currently one of the few schools in the area to offer esports and according to Mr. Heeter has a nationally ranked program.

ACHS currently offers The Hero Based Shooter Overwatch, fighting games Dragonball Project Z and Super Smash Brothers, the Multiplayer Online Battle Arena League of Legends, competitive shooters Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege and Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, the hybrid sports and racing game Rocket League, the online card game Hearthstone, and the battle royal game Fortnite.

Mr. Heeter said, "Our hope is to have a designated area for esport competitions. I'm definitely excited about some of the things that our esports coaches are implementing."

ACHS has a yearly "Welcome Back" barbeque early in the school year. The date as of yet has not been set, but the yearly barbeque is on.

Avon BOE approves tuition rates for the new school year

BY HOPE PATTI
STAR NEWS GROUP

AVON-BY-THE-SEA — The Avon Board of Education approved tuition rates for the 2019-2020 school year at a special meeting held Wednesday, July 24.

The cost of preschool tuition for residents and nonresidents is $3,000 and $4,000, respectively.

Preschool tuition is due in two installments. The first installment is due on Sunday, Sept. 1, and the second installment is due on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

The board also approved tuition rates for nonresidents in kindergarten through eighth grades.

Tuition for the first enrolled family member is $4,500; tuition for additional family members enrolled is $3,800.

COMMUNICATION

In an effort to resolve communication issues, Board President Robert Shafer said the board will begin handing out pamphlets at meetings containing policies and procedures that the public should follow.

The pamphlets will contain the district's policy on public complaints and grievances as well as the school's chain of command.

Mr. Shafer said the pamphlets will be handed

SEE **AVON** PAGE 26

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10:30am-11:00am	Combo Ballet/Tap 3-5 (Cathy)	Pre Jazz/Hip Hop 5-7 (Emily)	Contemporary Fusion 8-10 (Katie)
11:00am-11:30am	Pre Jazz/Tap 5-7 (Mary)	Contemporary Fusion 11-13 (Katie)	Lyrical 14 & Up (Emily)
11:30am-12:00pm	Ballet/Modern/Lyrical 8-10 (Emily)	Contemporary 11-13 (Mary)	Contemporary Fusion 14 & Up (Katie)
12:00pm-12:30pm	Contemporary Ballet 8-10 (Chelsea)	Musical Theater 11-13 (Emily)	Toddler Hip Hop 3-5 (Cathy)
12:30pm-1:00pm	Hip Hop 14 & Up (Mary)	Dance Celebration (special needs class) (Chelsea/Cathy)	Musical Theater 8-10 (Katie)
1:00pm-1:30pm	Ballet 8-10 (Cathy)	Contemporary Ballet 11-13 (Chelsea)	Musical Theater 14 & Up (Katie)
1:30pm-2:00pm	Combo Ballet/Hip Hop 3-5 (Chelsea)	Modern 11-13 (Jeanna)	Jazz 14 & Up (Katie)
2:00pm-2:30pm	Pre Ballet/Modern/ Lyrical 5-7 (Chelsea)	Tap 11-13 (Mary)	Modern 14 & Up (Jeanna)
2:30pm-3:00pm	Tap 8-10 (Mary)	Pre Lyrical 5-7 (Emily)	Rockette Style/Fusion 12 & Up (Katie)
3:00pm-3:30pm	Combo Ballet/Tap 3-5 (Chelsea)	Tap 14 & Up (Mary)	Lyrical 11-13 (Emily)
3:30pm-4:00pm	Contemporary 14 & Up (Mary)	Jazz 11-13 (Katie)	Toddler Hip Hop 3-5 (Cathy)
4:00pm-4:30pm	Jazz 8-10 (Emily)	Hip Hop 11-14 (Mary)	Contemporary Ballet 14 & Up (Chelsea)
4:30pm-5:00pm	Ballet/Modern/ Contemporary 8-10 (Chelsea)	Boy's Dance 4-7 (Cathy)	Pre Jazz/Hip Hop 5-7 (Katie)

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Robert Goodall named new MHS principal

BY ALLISON PERRINE
STAR NEWS GROUP

The Manasquan School District will see a new principal of Manasquan High School [MHS] in the new school year.

The board recently named Robert Goodall as the new principal, replacing 12-year principal Rick Coppola. Mr. Coppola has now been promoted to serve as the district's director of curriculum and instruction. The former director of curriculum and instruction, Barbara Kerensky, retired on July 1.

"I was looking for a new challenge within the district. I am proud of the great work that we have done at the high school over the past 12 years. I was fortunate to work with an outstanding staff and great families in our school community," said Mr. Coppola on his role change in the district.

"I am looking forward to spending more time in classrooms and working with the teaching staff at the high school and the elementary school. The opportunity to collaborate with these professionals and work with them to enhance our academic program is exciting," Mr. Coppola said, adding thanks to Superintendent of Schools Frank Kasyan, the school board and former Superintendent Carole Morris.

Mr. Kasyan said in an email that there was "a high level of interest and a large number of applicants" for the open principal position.

Mr. Goodall thanked the school board; Mr. Kasyan; administration; Jesse Place, the director of technology and human resources; and the community of Manasquan for giving him the opportunity to serve as the principal of MHS.

He said he is familiar with Manasquan and sending district families and feels he will bring "a lot of expertise in evolving high schools into high performing high schools."

"I'm so excited about the challenge of doing that at Manasquan High School. They have a lot of incredible programs, teachers, kids already there, and it seems they just need a fresh face to kind of move them forward to ensure their student performance is reflective of what actually goes on there everyday," he said.

Mr. Goodall is the principal of Monroe Township High School [MTHS] and has been since 2005, Mr. Kasyan said. During the 2018-2019 school year, he served as acting superintendent of the Monroe Township Schools until a permanent superintendent was appointed.

Before becoming principal of MTHS, Mr. Goodall was the assistant principal from 2004 to 2005, Mr. Kasyan continued. Prior to that, he served as an assistant principal at Lake Riviera Middle School in Brick Township and was a special education teacher in the Jackson School District.

Additionally, Jesse Place, the director of technology and human resources, has been named as the assistant superintendent of the Manasquan School District.

In his new role, Mr. Place will continue to be the district's technology and human resources director while also assuming other central office responsibilities, Mr. Kasyan said.

School Business Administrator Lynn Coates also announced her retirement from the district, effective Dec. 1. She has served in the district for 25 years.

"Lynn's retirement will be a true loss to the District and the Board," Mr. Kasyan said.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — POINT PLEASANT BEACH

'There simply is something exciting about September...'

We are in the final weeks of our Geometry for Advancement course and Summer Enrichment programs — a sure sign that the start of the new school year is just around the corner. I like that each new school year affords me the opportunity to start anew — with a fresh perspective and a clear mind. And I have noticed, too, that an eager energy and enthusiasm accompany the return of our staff and students every September. There simply is something exciting about September and anticipating the start of a journey--for everyone!

Last year, the district was fortunate to have both of our schools designated Future Ready, and this summer, we have focused our planning on ensuring that our instructional programs and activities continue to emphasize student readiness. At G. Harold Antrim Elementary School, we purchased a new math series and refreshed our laptop computers as part of our existing 1:1 partnership with Apple. We also reoriented some of our classrooms in the building, offering Grade 5 students a new type of transition to our middle school programs. Our goal of preparing Antrim students for high school success will be reached through a strong academic program featuring curriculum aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Columbia University's Writer's Workshop program will continue as the foundational program for our K-8 literacy practices.

At Point Pleasant Beach High School, Gull Flight School, an expansion of our existing Jump Start partnership with Ocean County College, leverages the recognized rigor of Advanced Placement courses (offered to Grades 9-12) and a wide variety of dual enrollment courses. Gull Flight School provides students the opportunity to earn both college and high school credit concurrently, and most do not require prerequisites. As a personalized, comprehensive high school, Pt. Pleasant Beach High School aims to offer something for everyone, from computer science to chemistry, psychology to statistics, and even mandarin to military history.

These few highlights are just a sampling of the many opportunities awaiting students attending Point Pleasant Beach schools. We look forward to sharing even more great news over the course of this year! I hope to see you cheering for the Garnet Gulls this autumn. School begins for students on Sept. 5. I wish everyone a wonderful and inspiring school year, and I thank you for your continued support of Point Pleasant Beach schools.

Sincerely,
William T. Smith
Superintendent

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Wall High School students to get take-home Chromebooks

BY SANNE YOUNG
STAR NEWS GROUP

WALL TOWNSHIP - Students' backpacks ought to weigh a little less when they return to Wall High School in September, because they'll be assigned take-home Chromebooks.

"They'll definitely not need to carry as many books," said Joseph M. Lee, technology director for the Wall Township School District. Mr. Lee and Lisa Gleason, the district's director of curriculum and instruction, are guiding the Chromebook program.

"These will create fundamental changes in teaching and learning, and essentially break down classroom walls," Mr. Lee said.

"Students will have 24/7 access to content resources and systems to help them improve the way they access information. It also allows students to personalize their learning, and it allows teachers more connected instruction," he said.

The notebook-sized Chromebooks are internet-accessible devices for use with the Google Suite of applications.

"One of the reasons we decided to use Chromebooks is because Google will provide storage space, documents, access to a word processor, a spreadsheet program and presentation software. It also allows the district to manage the devices remotely," he said.

Another benefit of the take-home program, he said, is that it ensures "equitable access to technology for all students" who have varied access to technology in their homes.

Each of the 1,100 high school students will be assigned one of the notebook-sized Chromebooks, secured in a solid protective case, to take home. Previously, the devices were kept overnight on classroom carts and taken out by teachers for class.

The school ordered 750 new Chromebooks, and will continue using some of its existing Chromebooks that are the same version as the new ones.

The school board is expected to vote Aug. 20 on a new policy that would allow parents an option for purchasing a warranty if the student's device is damaged while in his or her care. The student or parent also would be required to file a police report if the device is stolen.

Mr. Lee said he and Ms. Gleason developed the Chromebook program working with the district's Curriculum Technology Advisory Committee [CTAC]. The group, which includes teachers, parents, administrators, board members and occasionally students, meets four times a year.

"Beyond just technology, CTAC also is involved in social aspects and community engagements," he said. "It's a group we brought together to provide input and guide technology of the district."

BOE approves tuition rates in Avon

AVON
FROM PAGE 23

out "in an effort to try to start to corral this [communication] and address how we're going to communicate better with the public when they come to our meetings or when they simply have questions."

The board's decision to hand out pamphlets is a reaction to parental complaints regarding communication with the board and timeliness of responses.

The district policy on public complaints and grievances can be found on the policy search tool under policy 9130.

To view the policy visit: https://www.straussesmay.com/seportal/public/DistrictPolicy.aspx?policyid=9130&id=94d5781d90e14a75a50af665b7895cec.

The chain of command details who a parent or guardian should contact when concerns or questions arise.

For example, on matters involving attendance the attendance officer would be the first person to contact. If the matter was not resolved by the attendance officer then parents could reach out to the director of student services. If the matter still wasn't resolved, parents would then contact the superintendent.

To view the chain of command visit: https://www.avonschool.com/Page/1185.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME — SEA GIRT

'Busy summer ... getting our building ready for your return'

I hope you have been having a wonderful summer; it is flying by! The time for picking out your school supplies and your first day of school outfit is right around the corner. I enjoyed seeing many of you recently at the Sea Girt 5K, and I can't wait to see you on Sept 4.

It has been a very busy summer here at Sea Girt Elementary School getting our building ready for your return. On top of the regular summer building maintenance routines, we are in the process of several facility upgrades. We have added to our security system with new cameras around the building. The gym is in the process of receiving a refresh with support from the Board, the PTO, and the Sea Girt Boosters. It has received a fresh coat of paint, the floor is being refinished, and we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of new bleachers and a traverse climbing wall. If you have driven by the school you are well aware of the biggest facility project for the summer – our new roof. The roofing contractors arrived the day after school got out and have been working diligently ever since. The majority of the roof was torn off and replaced. The project is on schedule and we will be ready for September.

There will be some new faces at Sea Girt Elementary School this September. We will have a few new staff members and several new students. For the second school year in a row, we are seeing a slight uptick in enrollment. Most of our classes will be welcoming new students when school begins. We look forward to welcoming all of the new members of the SGES community as well as welcoming back all of our returning students and staff. I can't wait to hear about all of the exciting things that you did this summer, and I look forward to witnessing all that you will accomplish in the school year ahead!

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,
Mr. Papera
Superintendent
/Principal

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Saturday, August 24: 10am-3pm
Saturday, August 31: 10am-3pm
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