

# Superintendent's Report



Ryann Riker  
LHS - grade 5

January 2025

# Student Enrollment

## December

SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT	ATTENDANCE
Mill Pond Elementary School	600	91%
Cedar Creek Elementary School	436	93%
Forked River Elementary School	480	93%
Lanoka Harbor Elementary School	463	93%
Lacey Township Middle School	822	93%
Lacey Township High School	1114	92%
Special Education (Out-of-District)	32	
*OCVTS – M.A.T.E.S.	27	
*OCVTS – Performing Arts Academy	25	
*OCVTS – Academy Law & Public Safety	9	
TOTAL	4,008	

\*Tuition paid by LTBOE



*January 2025*

*Seniors of the Month*

JULIA R. VANZANT  
JACKSON P. CONLAN

*Vocational Senior of the Month*

DONAVON R. MEHTA

*Unsung Hero*

EZRA TIRONDOLA



# Mill Pond News



## Kindness Everywhere!

Mill Pond's character committee set a monthly calendar focused on specific character traits that bring positivity to our community. Each week, the students are introduced to our lion language which focuses on vocabulary that enhances our three important building wide expectations. Last month, our focus was on the terms friendly, forgive, and loyal. Every morning, the teachers talked about and role modeled various scenarios focused on these vocabulary words. The following students were celebrated as pawsome citizens by various teachers.

### Congratulations to our Pawsome Citizens!

#### Kindergarten

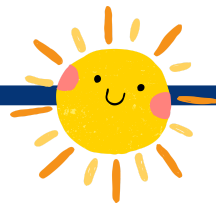
Mrs. McCulla - **Madison Bonfonti**  
Mrs. Natale - **Arthur Pompei**  
Mrs. Silva - **Riley Grochowski**  
Mrs. Tsarnas - **Carmella Coulter**  
Mrs. Pyne - **Jacob Ladinski**  
Mrs. Johnson - **Gwen Femiano**  
Mrs. Fisher - **London Macon-Barksdale**

#### Preschool

Mrs. Beyer - **Lucas Sheppard**  
Mrs. Brolin - **Riley Antonio**  
Mrs. Budija - **Orion Ferrero**  
Mrs. Pennec - **Ursala Pierce**  
Mrs. DeRosa - **Rowan DellaPietro**







## Morning Announcements

Our kindergarten and preschool classes continue to participate in the morning announcements! Each week, we welcome one class into the main office. They lead the building everyday in the The Pledge of Allegiance. The students end the announcements wishing everyone a great day. We love to have such a friendly start to our day!



Mrs. Barneman's Class



Mrs. Crisafulli's Class



Mrs. DeRosa's Class

## Saying Farewell to Mrs. Deuchler

At the end of December, we said farewell to Mrs. Deuchler, as she is on to new adventures in retirement. Mrs. Deuchler has been a part of Lacey Township School District for 25 years. We are certainly going to miss her as she kept the main office humming like a well-oiled machine. Our student's made signs and lined the halls as we participated in a Mrs. D clap out to celebrate her!

 **BEST**   
**Wishes**



## Mill Pond Express

Our amazing PTA created an evening of fun for our Mill Pond families. They boarded the Mill Pond Express bus and rode around the neighborhood to look at all the beautiful lights and decorations. Upon returning to Mill Pond, they enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies, hanging out with cubbie, writing letters to Santa, and even getting to sit on Santa's lap for a picture!



## Winter Fun!

The holidays are certainly a busy time of learning but also for making some really great lasting memories. There were so many events for our students to participate in. The preschool students had a great time at the reindeer games and our kindergarten students jumped aboard the polar express parade. Everyone enjoyed the activities!



# Cedar Creek News



## Students of the Month December

**Malika Al-Tamimi**  
**Christian Barbado**  
**Itzy Beltran**  
**Samuel Christy**  
**Kyla Copes**  
**Weston Corbett**  
**Lia D'Avino**  
**Levi DelVecchio**

**Landon DeRosa**  
**Adriana Furka**  
**Grayson Hurley**  
**Paige LaMore**  
**Blake Langan**  
**Evelyn Manresa**  
**Harper Miick**  
**Saylor Miick**

**Alice Padovani**  
**Ryker Schmidt**  
**Jake Silagy**  
**Theodore Sheik**  
**Amelia Szczytko**  
**Nicole Szczytko**





## The Polar Express Visits CCS

Our first graders at CCS led the Polar Express around the building with a very special guest as the conductor, Mr. Subokow! Our first grade team along with Mrs. Simas, Mrs. Friedman, and our PTA helped to decorate the hallways and make it a magical experience!



## CCS Winter Concert

The students in the third, fourth, and fifth-grade Chorus treated CCS and families to an outstanding performance. Along with singing, students performed songs using hand chimes and ukuleles! We also got a special treat from our head custodian, Mr. O'Neill, who played the guitar.





**In December, we even saw some snow at Cedar Creek!**



### **Fun and Learning at CCS**

Our students participated in so many fun activities during the month of December and look forward to great activities in the coming months.



**Pawsitively Proud of our CCS Students**



# Forked River News

## Special Area Students of the Month

Art - **Gabriella Cruz**

**Chase Booth**

PE - **Julianna Reese**

**Jason Van De Water**

Music - **Mariah Carvalho**

**Alexander Salvatore-Nackos**

Library - **Hadley Gibson**

**Anthony Rao**

World Language -

**Roman Riden**

**Teya Caiazzo**

### FRS PTA

We would like to thank the Forked River School PTA for hosting their annual holiday shop for our students. They were able to purchase small items to give to their family for the holidays.

### Special Guest

Thanks to the efforts of our PTA who arranged for a very special guest from the North Pole to visit the Forked River School on the day before holiday break despite his very busy schedule! Our special guest along with our PTA volunteers spread much holiday joy amongst our students and staff!

### Sing-along

The Forked River School special area staff hosted their annual winter holiday sing-along on the last day before the holiday break. Each grade level gathered in the all-purpose room during their special area time and engaged in fun holiday stories, songs, and dancing!





## Forked River School Superstar Citizens of the Month



Teacher	Student	Teacher	Student
Mrs. Bergman	Avery Kagabines	Mrs. Latwis	Hannah Crispin
Mrs. Camaligan	Kyle Morris	Mrs. Lavorgna	Leyna Jacobs
Mrs. Coller	Bella Plosky	Mrs. Mooney	Luke Selig
Mrs. Crepezzi	Madyson Barker	Mrs. Mulligan	Leah Lord
Mrs. DeNigris	Sofia Hernandez-Najera	Mrs. Nachman	Julianna Reese
Mrs. Doherty	Arianna Bogert	Mrs. Opacity	Reilly Quinlan
Mrs. Flynn	Owen Brocklebank	Mrs. Schubiger	Everly Truskowski
Mrs. Halliday	Isla Saunders	Mrs. Weaver	Emily Warnock



### Safety Patrol Students of the Month

Kylie Emme	Jack Esteves-Aguilar
Eric Fastaia	Hadley Gibson
Samantha Fastaia	Greyson Howard
Alexander Green	Jack Harrington
Jackson Green	Owen Glasser
Sofia Hernandez-Najera	

### December Morning Announcers

Wes Pearce  
Lukas Doell





## Chorus Concert

On Thursday, December 19th, the Forked River School's third, fourth, and fifth grade chorus, under the direction of our choral director, Ms. Faille, and our assistant choral director, Mrs. Camaligan, performed two concerts during the school day at the Forked River School for our students and staff and a culminating evening concert in the auditorium of the Lacey Township High School to a standing room only crowd of parents and family members! We are proud of the dedication and talents of all of our choral students!



## Community Service

The spirit of giving was alive at the Forked River School during the December Holiday Season. We would like to thank our very generous students, staff members, parents, and community members for all of their support with the numerous charitable programs at FRS which served to help families within our community during the holidays. As always, the charitable support was amazing!



**The Forked River School family wishes everyone in our great community of Lacey Township a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2025!**

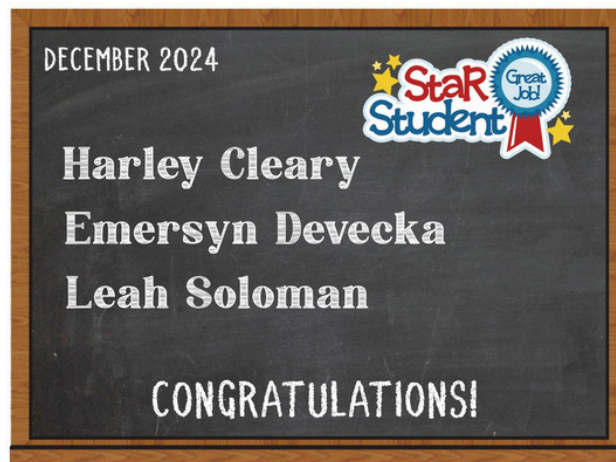


# Lanoka Harbor News



## Students of the Month

The following students have been selected as Lanoka Harbor's Students of the Month for December 2024. These students were chosen for their outstanding work, dedication, and achievement.



## Winter Workshop

A highlight of this year's holiday activities was the PTO Winter Workshop held on December 5th. Students and families were able to participate in various holiday activities. The evening was a memorable experience for all those who attended thanks to the PTO and staff members that participated.



## Chorus



The Lanoka Harbor School 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Ferruzza and Mrs. Cottrell, put on a wonderful holiday performance on December 18th. Students participated as singers, dancers, narrators, and instrumentalists. They entertained staff, students, family, and friends. Their outstanding performance was full of holiday spirit! Great Job!

### **Proud Paws**

The Lanoka Harbor School Proud Paws Club, students, and staff participated in Candy Canes for Cancer. Buckets filled with candy canes were distributed by the Proud Paws Club members to each classroom. During the week of December 9th – 13th students were invited to purchase candy canes for \$1.00. Club members were responsible for restocking the buckets as candy canes were sold.

This building-wide project raised money for Ocean of Love in Toms River. Ocean of Love is an organization that supports families with children who are battling cancer. They provide both emotional and financial support to help these families. The “Ocean” stands for Ocean County, so all the services this organization provides help families in our community. We proudly report that a donation check for \$1,869.00 was presented to Ocean of Love.

The classrooms that led the building with their candy cane sales were:

1st place - Mrs. Ritner - 300 candy canes

2nd place - Mrs. Meyler - 175 candy canes

3rd place - Mrs. Cook - 108 candy canes



**Lanoka Harbor School wishes you a**



# Middle School News



## School Updates

The L.E.A.D. program has begun at LTMS. The L.E.A.D. program features a well-structured curriculum complete with detailed lesson plans, and it aligns with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education. One of the most exciting aspects of the program is that a Lacey Township Police Officer or Detective will be instructing the program to middle school students. The alliance of resources between the LTSD and the LTPD is something very special that our young people will benefit from.

Lacey Middle School launched a new mentoring program called Building Men. The mission and intent of Building Men is to develop character, strength, and integrity through group coaching. The program will take place during the school day once a month for the remainder of the year.

## January

8th Grade Student of the Month

### **LUCY WORTLEY**

Lucy is an extremely hard working student who tries her best with her studies as well as having passion for music. Her positive attitude and willingness to try anything is a testament to her character. Lucy is enrolled in a challenging program including Geometry Honors, STEM Science, and ELA Honors, all of which she has earned no grade lower than 97. Outside of school, Lucy's other passion can be found swimming for the Toms River Tiger Sharks, and she looks forward to bringing her commitment to the sport to high school! Congratulations to Lucy and her family.

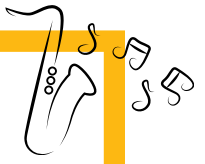
## January

8th Grade Student of the Month

### **JAKE BURNS**

Jake's music teacher expressed that even though he joined band later than most of his peers, he has certainly more than made up for his late start. He has always been mature beyond his years, kind, witty, and a lot of fun to have in band class. He can be described as a talented musician and an asset to the percussion section as well as a member of the band always willing to help others. His talents do not stop with the arts. He maintains a straight A average in our most challenging courses, including STEM science and two honors courses. Congratulations to Jake and his family.

## Band & Chorus



Band & Chorus had fantastic concerts in December. Congratulations to Mr. Holmberg & Mrs. Hersh and all the band & chorus members on their amazing performances. Chorus is working on beginning our selections for our spring concert. Students are meeting at lessons to begin learning their parts.



## Clubs/Activities

Drama Club is working on polishing the first half of their performance and starting the second half of the show. They are getting costumes organized and stage crew is working on building sets and props. They are hosting the first ever paint night fundraiser on January 23rd.

Set Design has been working on designing and creating the set and props needed for the upcoming Drama play, Frozen Jr. We usually meet two times a week to design, build and paint the things we need for the play. There are currently 60 members in the Set Design Crew.

NJHS will be working on their Got Sneakers! collection fundraiser as well as continuing to update the upstairs bulletin boards. Congratulations for a successful Toys for Tots drive!

LTMS Cheerleading has done several team bonding activities including a secret Santa, holiday team pizza party, etc. They are continuing to work on their bench cheers and dance routine during their practices.



## Intergeneration Club

Intergeneration Club traveled to Pheasant Run Clubhouse where students and club members participated in a painting activity while enjoying refreshments as well as participated in Wreaths Across America at Good Luck Cemetery. In January, students will travel to the Pheasant Run clubhouse where they will play games with adult club members and participate in Winter - themed activities.



HAPPY  
New  
Year  
2025

# High School News

**2025**

## Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable holiday season. Our students returned ready to learn, and we are off to a great start in the new year.

## Winter Sports

Our winter sports are in full swing and going well. It's been exciting to see our student-athletes competing with passion and dedication. We look forward to their continued success.

## Upcoming Events

- **Fajitas & FAFSA Night:**

On January 22 at 5:30 PM, we will host our Fajitas & FAFSA event. This will be a great opportunity for families to receive assistance with the FAFSA process while enjoying a delicious meal.

- **Lacey College Academy Information Night:**

We will host an informational session for the Lacey College Academy on January 22 at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity, please join us.

- **Winter Dance:**

Mark your calendars! The Winter Dance will be held on January 31. It promises to be a fun evening for our students, and we encourage everyone to attend.

Winter Dance admissions will be sold at LTHS in room W108 from 1:45 PM to 2:30 PM on January 21-24 and on January 27. Tickets are \$30 per guest.



Thank you for your continued support. Let's make this a great 2025 together!

## **SENIOR OF THE MONTH**

### **JULIA R. VANZANT**

The administration and faculty of Lacey Township High School have enthusiastically awarded Julia VanZant as our Senior of the Month for January 2025.

Julia is an exceptional young woman who exemplifies dedication, reliability, determination, and resiliency. Throughout her high school career, Julia has consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence, both in and out of the classroom.

Julia has continually challenged herself with a rigorous high school course load, taking numerous Honors, Advanced Placement, and Dual-Embedded courses. As a result of her hard work and determination, she currently ranks in the top 9% of her graduating class, earning recognition as a NJ STAR and maintaining an impressive GPA of 4.085. Julia has been a constant presence on the high honor roll, a testament to her exceptional academic performance and tireless effort.

In addition to her academic achievements, Julia earned recognition as WOBM's Student of the Week in November and is highly regarded for her strong leadership qualities. She has been an active member of Interact Club for all four years and is currently serving as the club's president. Most impressively, Julia has dedicated over 60 hours of volunteer service to various community organizations, and in recognition of her efforts, she earned a Distinguished Service Citation. She was also selected to participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Conference, further reflecting her leadership skills and character. Beyond Interact, Julia is also a valuable member of the Surfrider Club, which focuses on local coastal conservation efforts.

As Julia looks ahead to her future, she will attend Marywood University this fall, where she plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Social Work. Julia's compassionate nature and dedication to helping others make her well-suited for this career path. Julia VanZant is truly one of Lacey's finest, and we wish her much success in all of her future endeavors.

## **SENIOR OF THE MONTH**

### **JACKSON P. CONLAN**

Lacey Township High School's Senior of the Month for January 2025 is Jackson Conlan.

Jackson is a top-notch student, maintaining an impressive 3.76 GPA while balancing a rigorous academic schedule. His passion for learning and commitment to excellence are evident in his work both in and out of the classroom. Jackson's ability to manage his time effectively, excel in his studies, and contribute meaningfully to a wide range of extracurricular activities speaks to his strong work ethic and natural leadership abilities. In addition to his academic achievements, Jackson is actively involved in many school organizations that have helped him hone his skills in the broadcasting and entertainment fields. He is a dedicated member of the Drama Club, where he serves as the Head Sound Engineer, ensuring that every production is executed flawlessly. Jackson's technical skills and attention to detail are invaluable assets to the club's success.

At WLTS, our school's broadcasting station, Jackson's talents have been equally recognized. He earned the role of News Director in 11th grade and was recently promoted to Station Manager, where he oversees all station operations and manages a team of peers. His leadership, organizational skills, and ability to communicate effectively have made him an essential figure at WLTS.

Beyond his work at school, Jackson is an accomplished freelance photographer and filmmaker. He has created numerous short films that have garnered awards and accolades, showcasing his creativity and technical expertise. Jackson's dedication to his craft and his ability to tell compelling stories through visual media will undoubtedly serve him well in the world of broadcast entertainment.

Jackson will always be considered one of Lacey's finest. He has represented himself and his school with Lion pride and dignity and is wished the best as he begins his college career next fall. Congratulations, Jackson, on being recognized as January's Student of the Month!



## **VOCATIONAL SENIOR OF THE MONTH**

### **DONAVON R. MEHTA**

Lacey Township High School is proud to announce that Donavon Mehta has been selected as the Senior of the Month for his outstanding contributions to the school community.

Throughout his high school career, Donavon has been an active and dedicated participant in a variety of extracurricular activities. He has been involved in numerous fall plays and musicals, starting with MAMMA MIA as a freshman and continuing his passion for theater with The Little Mermaid in 10th grade. As a junior, he showcased his talent in the fall play Puffs (a Harry Potter parody) and the spring musical Anastasia. This year, Donavon has already been a part of the fall play Peter and the Starcatcher and is looking forward to performing in the upcoming spring musical The Addams Family.

In addition to his theater work, Donavon is a key member of the LTHS Select Ensemble, representing the school in various music competitions, where his dedication to musical excellence shines. He has been an active member of the Fishing Club throughout his high school years and is currently serving as the club's Secretary. Furthermore, Donavon is the President of the Anime Club, leading and organizing events for fellow club members and encouraging a community for anime enthusiasts at LTHS.

Donavon's involvement in multiple clubs, his passion for the performing arts, and his leadership in both the anime and fishing clubs reflect his well-roundedness and commitment to making Lacey Township High School a vibrant and dynamic place. His contributions have made a lasting impact on the school community, and we are proud to celebrate him as Senior of the Month.

## **UNSUNG HERO**

### **EZRA TIRONDOLA**

For the month of January, the Student Government Association of Lacey Township High School would like to recognize Ezra Tirondola as the Unsung Hero.

Erza is an exceptional student and a valued student of our school. He is a proud member of the Leadership Academy and as such, he is taking numerous Honors classes with very excellent grades. Ezra is also part of freshman football and track teams.

Outside of school, Ezra participates in flag football and pickleball. Ezra is extremely talented and always works his hardest. For these reasons, Ezra Tirondola has been selected as January's Unsung Hero.