### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



SEPTEMBER 2024





# September 2024

Seniors of the Month
KATRINA M. CONTI
JACOB R. BAHOOSHIAN

Oocational Senior of the Month KARA J. CRIPPS

Unsung Hera
AVA FLANAGAN







# Cedar Creek News

#### Welcome Back to School!

We welcomed first grade students to our building during 1st Grade Orientation to get ready for the school year! We were thrilled to welcome our students back to school on September 5th! There were so many happy faces and students were eager to meet their teachers and classmates!





#### **CCS Outdoor Learning Space & Ribbon Cutting**

We would like to extend our appreciation to our PTA (last year and this year) for their amazing work to fundraise for an updated courtyard at CCS. Our new outdoor learning space has updated seating, a turf area, and is a beautiful space to learn and have fun!

Thank you to Hoyt Landscaping for designing and creating this space!





### Learning and Fun at CCS!





















# Forked River News

The Forked River School staff would like to extend our appreciation to our students and their families as well as all departments of the Lacey Township School District and the Lacey Township Board of Education for everyone's collaborative effort in preparing for the start to the 2024-2025 school year.

#### A Great First Day at the Forked River School!



It is exciting to have our historic school building and playground bustling with learning and fun! On behalf of all of us at the Forked River School we wish everyone a great school year!

GO LIONS!



# Lanoka Harbor News



Lanoka Harbor School welcomed 460 students as it opened its doors for the 2024-2025 school year. Many changes have occurred since last year at Lanoka Harbor School, but certainly not the warm and friendly welcome of the teachers and staff as they greeted the students. The opening of the building was a success due to the exceptional efforts of the staff and the wide-eyed enthusiasm of our students. Throughout the summer our custodial staff cleaned, painted, and made repairs to our building in preparation for our anticipated arrivals. Our secretarial staff, comprised of Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Quinn, worked diligently to ensure that our students, parents, and staff had the proper materials necessary to start the school year. The teachers spent countless hours preparing their classrooms. After seeing the excitement of their arriving students, the teachers were most certainly rewarded for their efforts. As always, our wonderful PTO was involved in the efforts in many ways. Some of their activities include breakfast for the staff, school planners/folders for the students, and publicizing our Summer Reading Paw Recipients on their Facebook page. All of us at LHS are grateful for being blessed with such motivated and supportive parents.

We are now set to begin our new adventure that will become this school year. Here is the LHS Supply List that will be needed for 2024-2025:

Patience
Encouragement
Flexibility
Positivity
Deep Breaths
Understanding
Calmness
Compassion
Respect
Cooperation
Kindness
Humor

And of course, PRIDE!!!



## Mill Pond News

#### First Day of School

On September 5th, 2024, Mill Pond welcomed 593 Pre School and Kindergarten students into the building for the first time as they began their educational journey in Lacey! Students arrived happy and excited to be at school!









#### **Bus Adventures**

One of our greatest adventures has been the bus. Many of our students have never ridden the bus before so we gathered together in our community room and talked about bus safety during our very first assembly. Thanks to the transportation department, we borrowed a bus seat and talked about the importance of using our seat belts and sitting properly. They are ready for the year!

The first week was filled with meeting new friends, learning about routines, and enjoying the recess field! The swings, tricycles are a huge hit!







#### **Chalk the Walk**

Our 2024 - 2025 school year began with a very successful PTA event called "Chalk the Walk." Parents brought their sidewalk chalk and their creativity on the day before school began as they created wonderful pieces of artwork containing positive messages for their child.









# Middle School News

On August 28th, the 6th grade orientation took place in the evening, with a strong turnout of families in attendance.

We are pleased to report that our staff has returned to school ready and excited to start the new school year. We would like to extend a special thank you to the LTMS PTC for organizing a wonderful welcome back breakfast for our staff. Their support and dedication to our school community is greatly appreciated. Their first meeting will be held on September 18th at 6:30pm.

On September 5th, we welcomed back our 6th, 7th and 8th graders to the building and it has been a joy to see their smiling faces back in the hallways. We had a smooth opening and there was a lot of positive energy in the building. Middle School sports have officially started, and we want to wish all of our fall athletes the best of luck in their upcoming games and competitions.

Middle School Back to School Night took place on Thursday, September 11th. Parents had the opportunity to meet their child's teachers and learn more about the curriculum and expectations of the school year.

Additionally, the Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled to take place Monday, September 23rd - Friday, September 27th. This book fair will be held on the cafeteria stage. Family night will take place on September 23rd in the evening.



NELCOME





"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team." ~ Phil Jackson

# High School News

### Welcome

This year, we have welcomed 1124 students. We conducted a well attended and informative freshman orientation on August 27, ensuring a smooth transition into the school year. While no new initiatives have been implemented this year, there has been a reinforcement of important initiatives carrying over from last year. This includes the use of IXL in academic classrooms. Pushing students to attempt AP courses and careful tracking of students who need to meet their high school testing requirement. This also includes the utilization and support of data coaches for continued academic testing improvement.

We have welcomed back our staff from last year with a number of long term substitutes in guidance, science, and other areas. Their transition into the school community has been smooth and they are already having a positive impact with their students. Our faculty has participated in two full days of professional development this year. These days were filled with school wide meetings to go over our new policies and procedures, as well as department and subject level meetings to go over specific academic needs and goals. There was also training for all in-class resource teaching pairs to create a strong team for our students in those classes.

The opening of this school year has been both promising and productive. Our team remains dedicated to providing an excellent educational experience for our students and continuously improving our practices.



#### **Community**

We are fostering stronger community connections through our PTSA and Booster organizations. Both of which have already reached out and assisted our students and teachers this year. We look forward to their continued support.

Congratulations to Senior Natalie McGovern, NJ.com Player of the week.



### SENIOR OF THE MONTH KATRINA M. CONTI

Lacey Township High School's Senior of the Month for September is Katrina M. Conti!

It is with great admiration and respect that I congratulate Katrina Conti for September Senior of the Month! Her exceptional intelligence, remarkable versatility, and unwavering dedication make her a standout recipient for this honor.

From academic achievements to extracurricular excellence, Katrina exemplifies what it means to be a well-rounded individual. Her intellectual curiosity is evident in her outstanding academic performance, where she consistently excels in challenging coursework and demonstrates a deep understanding of complex subjects. Her ability to think critically and solve problems creatively is truly inspiring. As a leader in the rigorous STEM Academy, Katrina has maintained a 4.386 grade point average and is ranked 10th out of 296 students positioning her in the top 3% of her class.

Beyond her academic prowess, Katrina is a natural leader who has made significant contributions to our community. She has been actively involved in the National Honor Society, Ocean County Public Safety Cadets, LTHS Cross Country, Interact Club, Robotics Club and many more extracurriculars where her leadership and initiative have driven positive change. Her commitment to service and her passion for helping others reflect her holistic approach to personal and professional growth. Katrina also possesses a rare blend of empathy, resilience, and innovation. Her ability to balance multiple responsibilities while maintaining a positive attitude and a supportive demeanor speaks volumes about her character. She is a role model for her peers, demonstrating that excellence is achieved not only through intelligence but also through kindness, integrity, and perseverance.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements and her exceptional contributions to our community, I wholeheartedly endorse Katrina Conti as September Senior of the Month. Her brilliance, combined with her well-rounded character, makes her a deserving recipient of this honor. Congratulations, Katrina!

### SENIOR OF THE MONTH JACOB R. BAHOOSHIAN

Lacey Township High School's Senior of the Month for September is Jacob R. Bahooshian!

Jacob is a National Honor Society student who has consistently demonstrated his hard work and excellence in the classroom. In addition to excelling in the classroom, Jacob is an honorable leader and a strong asset to Lacey Township High School's community through his involvement in numerous school and community activities. His remarkable contributions and exceptional involvement make him a deserving candidate for this recognition.

Jacob is actively engaged in several important organizations, including ADA and Challenger League. His talents extend to the arts as a valued member of the choir, drama club, and the Thespian Society, where he showcases his creativity.

In addition to his artistic pursuits, Jacob plays a significant role in leadership and service through Interact, the National Honor Society (NHS), and the Student Government Association (SGA). His commitment to these roles reflects his dedication to making a positive impact and fostering a supportive school community. His participation in the Special Olympics further highlights his compassion and dedication to sports.

Looking to the future, Jacob plans to attend Ocean County College, where he will begin his higher education journey. His goal is to transfer to a four-year college to pursue studies in International Relations and Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies. This path reflects his ambition to work with the United Nations, focusing on advocating for the resolution of territorial disputes and contributing to global diplomacy. The administration and faculty of Lacey Township High School are very proud of Jacob's many achievements and wish him success in his future endeavors.

Jacob's ability to balance his extensive involvement while maintaining a clear focus on his future goals is truly commendable. He exemplifies leadership, vision, and a genuine commitment to both his local community and the world at large.

Please join me in congratulating Jacob Bahooshian as our Senior of the Month. His achievements and aspirations are a testament to his hard work and exceptional character.

### VOCATIONAL SENIOR OF THE MONTH KARA J. CRIPPS

Lacey Township High School's Vocational Senior of the Month for September is Kara J. Cripps!

The administration and faculty of Lacey Township High School are proud to announce Kara Cripps as the recipient of the Vocational Senior of the Month award. Kara's strong work ethic, positive outlook, and personal drive are just a few of the outstanding characteristics that describe her. In addition to excelling in the classroom, Kara is a respected leader and a valuable asset to the Lacey Township High School community.

Kara's work ethic and dedication are evident as she manages her academic responsibilities at LTHS and her Ocean County Vocational Technical School Design and Visual Communications program. During her time at LTHS, Kara has taken on the challenge of both Honors and Advanced Placement courses and has been recognized for her academic efforts with both High Honor Roll and Honor Roll accolades. Furthermore, Kara has been an integral player on the Women's Varsity Tennis and Golf Teams.

Kara consistently demonstrates responsibility and a high degree of reliability in both her academic and extracurricular commitments. Regardless of the activity, she is involved in, she is a team player and always considerate of others. It is evident that Kara will continue to make meaningful contributions in her pursuit of academic achievement at the post-secondary level. The administration and faculty of Lacey Township High School are very proud of Kara Cripps and her many accomplishments and wish her much success in her future endeavors.

### UNSUNG HERO AVA FLANAGAN

Ava Flanagan is an exceptional student who puts time, dedication, and hard work into all her classes. She is willing to help out other students with their education while still keeping herself at high standings.

Ava is a part of the STEM Academy, and is involved in many honors and AP classes at LTHS. She is also involved in LTHS women's soccer and basketball teams, putting in many hours training, playing, and supporting her teammates. Ava also dedicates her time to Student Government Association, Interact Club, and Biology Club. She is willing to help a friend in need and is always there when you need her.

For these reasons, Ava Flanagan has been selected as the Unsung Hero for the month of September.