



# Evesham Township School District

Meland Administration Building, 25 South Maple Avenue, Marlton, NJ 08053

[www.evesham.k12.nj.us](http://www.evesham.k12.nj.us) · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent  
Mr. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

May 28, 2021

Dear ETSD Families,

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”

-- Helen Keller

**Points of Light this week:** Additional Federal Relief Funds; Community Activities; Evesham Township Police Department/ECC Mentoring Program; Middle School Student Recognitions.

5th grade events, 8th grade events, LEAD graduations, Field Days, 8th grade graduation...planning and preparing for these events and more is well underway, and though they will look a bit different than in years past, the most important thing, they are taking place. More information will continue to be shared in the time ahead.

## **Additional Federal Relief Funds**

This past Monday, the NJ Department of Education released the final allotments of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III funds for school districts, and our district, which had been earmarked to receive \$910,000, is in fact now going to receive over double the amount, \$2,073,857. I announced at last evening's Board meeting that our district will use \$600,000 of this additional money to preserve the regular hours and health benefits for the 48 paraprofessionals whose benefits, per our 2021-22 budget, were slated to expire on January 1, 2022, thereby maintaining those benefits through the full 2021-22 school year. Thank you to everyone who engaged in advocacy by, among other steps, contacting our state legislators and state elected officials to share about our financial need. Making our voices heard was a collaborative effort on behalf of many stakeholders, including Board members, district staff, parents, and community members. We have a long journey ahead of us, with another \$1.6 million in state funding loss projected in 2022-23 as well as anticipated increased losses of up to an additional \$1,000,000 through Chapter 44. I mention that longer term picture as it remains on the horizon and a factor in our planning.

## **Community Activities**

Great new [Marlton Rec Council Cheerleading](#) posting on our Community Activities webpage!



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## Evesham Township Police Department/ECC Mentoring Program

Approved at last evening's Board meeting was a new mentor program with our Evesham Township Police Department, to be piloted for the last weeks of this school year in preparation for a full roll out starting this coming school year. The program will take place at all six elementary schools during the afternoon Evesham Child Care (ECC) hours. Community police officers will assist in activities ranging from just simple chatting with students to being involved in homework club, playground/outdoor games, and other activities taking place those days. The purpose of this program is to help foster positive, supportive connections within our community among our school-aged children and our township police officers. This is an exciting development, on the heels of National Police Week this month (May 10-14). Deepest thanks to our Evesham Police Department, led by Chief Chew, for initiating this program and for all the support they provide for our district!

## Middle School Student Recognitions

Last evening, we hosted middle school families in person to celebrate students for their accomplishments, including our Burlington County School Boards 8th Grade Dialogue representatives, our state Middle School Mathematics League Contest Winners, and the winners of the Friends of the Black Run Preserve's (FBRP's) *People of the Pines, People of Peace* art contest. The list of students recognized is under Item 4.1 in our [May 27 Board agenda](#). Congratulations to all our students on their accomplishments!

The extraordinary winning artworks are linked below. Thank you to the FBRP, and chair Mr. John Volpa, for conceiving and bringing to fruition this unique opportunity for our students to engage on so many levels with their local and larger context and history.

[1st Place](#)--Artist: Maya Krijt, G8, MMS

[2nd Place](#)--Artist: Soha Kenjale, G7, DMS

[3rd Place](#)--Artist: Joyce Li, G6, MMS

[4th Place](#)--Artist: Adielle Lawry, G6, DMS

Best wishes for time with family and friends this weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith  
Superintendent of Schools