



October 28, 2022

Dear Holmdel Public Schools Community,

I hope this finds you well. It is hard to believe we are nearly through the first quarter of the school year. Our students continue to engage and shine in a myriad of ways and activities. If you haven't visited our district's [homepage](#) lately, I invite you to check out the "District News and Press Releases" section to learn more about the exciting goings-on!

On Wednesday, October 26th, the Board of Education met for a public meeting. The Board of Education and administration had the pleasure of hosting the 45 students who earned perfect scores on the Spring administration of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA). To view the awards presentation please click [here](#). Please join me in extending heartfelt congratulations to these young scholars for this outstanding accomplishment.

Additionally, Assistant Superintendent Howard presented the district's HIB self assessment, as well as a detailed and comprehensive update on the district's anti-bullying efforts, including mental health support in place for our students. To view the video of the presentation, please click [here](#).

District Curriculum and Instruction Newsletter

In order to keep our parents/guardians informed with regard to the district's curriculum initiatives, Dr. Irwin and the district's curriculum team will be releasing quarterly newsletters. To view the first, Fall 2022 addition please click [here](#).

Red Ribbon Week

This week the district observed Red Ribbon Week through a variety of activities and events. Red Ribbon Week is affiliated with the National Family Partnership, formerly the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth. For over 30 years, NFP has championed drug prevention education & advocacy. In 1988, NFP sponsored the first National Red Ribbon Celebration. "Today, the Red Ribbon serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities." Red Ribbon Week began after the brutal murder of DEA Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in 1985. In Agent Camarena's hometown, Calexico, CA, the public outcry was converted into a grassroots response in which the citizens donned red ribbons. They became advocates for prevention in order to reduce the demand for illegal substances and the misuse/abuse of legal drugs in the USA.

Together we play a crucial role in keeping our community's youngsters healthy and drug-free. Please find some helpful parental resources below. I invite you to review them; knowledge is power!

[Catching it Early](#)

[Just Think Twice](#)

[National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)

ICYMI

Mr. Howard along with our district Director of Special Services, Mrs. LaMoglia have compiled a clearinghouse of helpful [mental health resources](#) and contact information. They are located on the district homepage under the Spotlight section.

Halloween Parades

Please find the letters previously shared by principals Vitale and Barrett regarding the Halloween parades at [Village](#) and [Indian Hill](#) Schools.

This year, Halloween falls on a Monday, an age-old and fun time of year for our youngsters. For your convenience, considering your children may participate in Halloween parties, festivals, trunk-or-treats, and the like over this weekend, I have included a [helpful link](#) which provides some easy tips and guidelines for keeping kids safe during the Halloween season.

I thank you for your time and consideration and wish you a restful and enjoyable weekend.

[#WeAreHolmdel](#) [#HolmdelProud](#)

Sincerely,



Dr. J. Scott Cascone
Superintendent