



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Office of the Superintendent*

April 29, 2022

Dear Holmdel Public Schools community,

I hope this finds you all well and back into the swing of things after a restful spring recess. It's been an extremely busy and productive week in the school district as we begin our entry into the homestretch of our school year.

In case you missed my community letter from yesterday regarding the [High School Parking Lot Incident](#), please rest assured that we continue to work in strong collaboration with our partners in local law enforcement and staff. We are here to ensure the highest degree of safety for our district schools. As a relative newcomer to the community, I can say unequivocally that the school district's security infrastructure and personnel are some of the best.

Health Education Town Hall: The school district will be hosting a public Townhall on May 11 at 7 PM in the high school auditorium. The topic of the Townhall will be the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards for health education. Its purpose will be to both share information and more importantly, listen to our parents and guardians.

Summer Step Up: The district is pleased to offer its summer Step Up Programs. Please find the brochure and registration [link](#). These programs are available to eligible and invited students who may benefit from academic reinforcement over the course of the summer. If your child is eligible, you would have received a reminder email prior to spring break. If you have any questions with regard to your child's eligibility, you may feel free to reach out to your child's school. It is worth noting that of the students who participated in our secondary school learning centers during the school year, 70% experienced substantial growth and were able to exit from the program.

I'm pleased to report that high school student, Arielle Borges, recently won the [Count Basie Award](#) for the best high school documentary. The subject of a documentary was our very own high school STARS program. This video will now be publicized and showcased through the Rutgers Boggs Center webpage as well. Please join me in congratulating this student, as well as the amazing students and staff of [The STARS Program](#) program which is widely recognized as one of the best of its kind.

Testing Calendar: As we enter into the month of May, the spring New Jersey state standardized testing season will commence anew. Please find the [District Testing Calendar](#) for your information, we wish your children, our students, the best of luck as they take on these assessment challenges.

Public BOE Meeting: This is a reminder that the board will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, May 4 in person at the high school media center at 7:00. The 2022-23 school district budget will be presented at that time. The meeting will also be accessible via Zoom and the link will be posted to the following district [webpage](#) within 24 hours of the meeting. The board will continue to take questions from the public through this medium. We look forward to seeing you there.

Health and Safety: As a school community, we continue to be mindful of the health and safety of our students while enjoying an environment that has largely returned to normalcy. In consideration of that, it is important that we continue to adhere to the mitigating strategies that have proven to be best practices, such as hand washing and monitoring our health status. If your child is demonstrating significant symptoms and/or is running a temperature, they should remain home until such time that they are feeling better and fever free for 24 hours without a fever reducing medication.

This week, on Wednesday, April 27, we celebrated [Administrative Professionals Day](#). Please join me in acknowledging and thanking the district's administrative professionals for their efforts and care for our schools and community. As auspiciously, next week we will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Consider taking this opportunity to reach out to a teacher who has made a positive impact in the life of your child, as I am sure that the gesture would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to visiting the schools next week and showing my support for our staff's efforts on behalf of our students. Finally, school nurses will be recognized on Thursday, May 6 for National Nurses Day. Likewise, join me in expressing gratitude to our school nurses who have done so much over the course of the last two years to keep our students and staff safe.

In closing, Sunday, May 1st begins the celebration of Eid Al-Fitr, which means "festival of breaking the fast," and marks the end of the month Ramadan. To all our community members celebrating Eid Al-Fitar, may I find you well and in good health every year.

I thank you in advance for your time and attention and wish you a wonderful and restful weekend.
Sincerely,



Dr. J. Scott Cascone
Superintendent of Schools