



Morris-Union Jointure Commission Board of Education

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Dear DLC Parents:

December is such an exciting month for everyone at the DLCs as students celebrate the holiday season in a variety of educational and fun ways. Take a look:

DLC – New Providence

Some of our younger DLC – New Providence students will be visiting the local library for a story and craft time on December 14.

Mrs. Claus will visit the DLC – New Providence on December 17. Students really enjoyed her visit last year and are excited to spend time with her again this year as she reads stories and sings festive songs with them. Stay tuned for lots of pictures!

The DLC – New Providence Holiday Spectacular will be held on December 20 and parents are invited to join us in the afternoon. This year's theme is "Frosty's Forest." Each classroom will be responsible for an activity. A highlight will be a visit in the morning from our buddies from the Salt Brook Elementary School in New Providence. Our Salt Brook buddies participate in many of the DLC events to promote positive relationships with our students. Friendships that develop are amazing, and this is a great opportunity for DLC staff to work with our students on generalizing appropriate social skills.

Since this is the season for giving, DLC – New Providence Cub Scouts will be collecting items for Students Against Hunger for one of their community service projects. You can help the Cub Scouts with this project by sending in canned or nonperishable foods with your child. Thank you for your support!

Update on HVAC Construction

Construction of the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning units (HVAC) is continuous. The general contractor continues to work on punch list items in preparation for inspections as well as working in Our House. The mechanical contractor continues to work on the roof on gas piping to the new units. In prep for Phases 3 and 4, the electrical

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Harding Township • Kenilworth • Livingston • Long Hill Township • Madison • Mendham Township • Millburn • Montville Township •
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Springfield • Summit • Union Township • Warren Township • Watchung Borough • Watchung Hills Regional • West Orange • Westfield*

contractor continues to do rough electrical work, and the building automation contractor has begun preparing for his work. Students and staff have been flexible when classes have moved and there has been minimal disruption to learning. I will continue to update DLC parents via EBB and staff via email regularly as the construction proceeds.

DLC – Warren

DLC – Warren students have submitted an entry in the 27th Annual Gingerbread Wonderland, which is held at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum November 30 – December 9, 2018. Students have been busy selecting a theme and then designing and constructing their entry, which must meet specific criteria and include a “Green” or an environmental theme. The students’ gingerbread house depicts an arboretum in the winter. DLC students designed a variety of trees and included a pond made from melted LifeSavers along with a group ice skaters skating. The pond is lined with street lamps and holiday wreaths and is very festive. To illustrate the theme, “Go Green,” the street lamps operate through a solar panel. The Frelinghuysen Arboretum’s 27th Annual Gingerbread Wonderland is open to the public. For more details about the hours of the exhibit, please visit <https://www.arboretumfriends.org/gingerbread-wonderland-2018>.

During the week of December 17 – 21, students will be participating in various holiday activities during “Winter Mania” events. This year’s events will focus on several fun activities for students including holiday movie days on December 17 and 18, a holiday dance on December 20, and the main event, “Winter Mania,” on December 19. During the main event, students and staff will participate in a variety of cooperative games, including Build a Snowman, Winter Obstacles, Snowman Miniature Golf, Holiday TicTacToe, and many more. Students and staff will be earning points for participation in each event with the top scoring class receiving a special prize.

Students and staff are invited to wear their favorite holiday shirt, sweatshirt, or sweater on our annual Holiday Spirit Day, which will be held on Friday, December 21. It is always fun to see everyone in their festive outfits!

Students have been working very hard on the production of the 2019 DLC calendar. Each month of the calendar features artwork designed by our students. To order your calendar, please go to the MUJC website at www.mujc.org and select your school. Click on the DLCreations link to purchase your calendar.

Transition Talk

Individuals with intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities may be eligible to receive various supports and services through the Children’s System of Care (PerformCare). Services through PerformCare is primarily for students between the ages of 5 and 21 who reside in New Jersey and have an emotional or serious mental health or behavioral need.

There is no charge for calling PerformCare. Services recommended by PerformCare are authorized without regard to income, private health insurance, or eligibility for Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare or other health benefit programs. Services may include respite

care, in-home behavioral therapy, in-home speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, assistive technology, etc. PerformCare also offers Mobile Response and Stabilization services to individuals who are experiencing an emotional or behavioral crisis. These services are designed to defuse an immediate crisis and include response to site of crisis within one hour, crisis de-escalation and safety assessment, treatment planning, stabilization services for up to eight weeks, and discharge planning, which includes referral for ongoing services as needed.

PerformCare is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information, please go to www.performcare.org or call 1-877-652-7624.

Voter Registration Materials

Voter registration information was mailed to DLC parents of students who are 18 years of age and older on October 31, 2018. Pursuant to New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:32-14.2, all school districts are required to send voter registration materials, a summary of voter registration eligibility requirements, information describing the role of a citizen, and materials emphasizing the importance of voting to students who are 18 years of age or graduating from high school. This information is also provided on the MUJC website at the following link: <https://www.mujc.org/Page/490>. If you have any questions regarding this regulation, please contact your child's principal or me.

Holiday Desserts

Each year the staff looks forward to the holiday desserts provided by DLC parents. DLC – New Providence staff will enjoy their treats on December 11 and DLC – Warren staff will enjoy their goodies on December 12. If you would like to provide a dessert, please send it in with your student. A big thank you to the parents for these scrumptious holiday desserts for our staff!



Amazing Facts About DLC Staff...

Mary Natunen has been a teacher assistant at the DLC – New Providence since 2005. In addition to her patient and upbeat demeanor when working with our DLC students, for the past five years it has been Mary's cheerful and enthusiastic voice that DLC staff hear each morning over the intercom, letting them know that the buses are here with DLC students ready to begin their day! Mary is always outside as the buses roll in, directing the drivers to the drop-off points and working with DLC staff to warmly welcome your children to school. Rain, shine, sleet, or snow, you will always see Mary with a smile and positive word as the buses drop off or pick up your children.

Additionally, Mary has participated in a unique role during the summer. She has been director of the “Kids’ Program” at The Noe Pond Club in Chatham for ten years. Mary has supervised 30 – 50 counselors for three different programs serving children ages 3 – 10 years old. Throughout the summer, she has been responsible for approximately 200 students per session for three sessions. That’s a lot of organization!

Thanks, Mary, for always keeping everything running so smoothly!



★ *Amazing* ★

Winter Recess

Winter recess will begin with an **early dismissal at 12:45 p.m. on Friday, December 21, 2018.** School will be closed Monday, December 24, 2018 through Tuesday, January 1, 2019 and will **reopen on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.**

Holiday Wishes

The MUJC Board of Education and administration wish you and your families a wonderful and joyous holiday season. Thank you so much for all that you do for our programs, and we look forward to a productive 2019!

Sincerely,

Janet L. Fike

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