



# *Morris-Union Jointure Commission Board of Education*

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May 1, 2019

Dear DLC Parents:

The month of May features Special Education Awareness Week, May 12 – 18, 2019, as well as a number of special end-of-year events at the DLCs.

## What's Happening at the DLCs

### Staff Appreciation

DLC parents will be treating the MUJC staff to a fabulous staff appreciation dessert buffet on May 8 at DLC – Warren and May 9 at DLC – New Providence. It is a wonderful way for parents to demonstrate how appreciative they are of the staff who work with their children. Staff always look forward to this delicious event! Thank you, Parents!



## DLC – New Providence

### Mother's Day Celebration

DLC – New Providence will hold a Mother's Day Celebration on May 8. This year's theme is "You're Berry Special." Students are creating a menu, shopping for ingredients/supplies, and preparing the snacks, placemats, and decorations for a delicious brunch with their moms or other special people. There will be a photo booth, dancing, and healthy snacks. Please join us!

*Berkeley Heights • Bernards Township • School District of the Chathams • Clark • Clinton Township • Cranford • Florham Park •  
Harding Township • Kenilworth • Livingston • Long Hill Township • Madison • Mendham Township • Millburn • Montville Township •  
Mountainside • New Providence • Parsippany-Troy Hills Township • Roselle Park • Scotch Plains-Fanwood • Somerset Hills •  
South Orange-Maplewood • Springfield • Summit • Union Township • Warren Township • Watchung Borough • Watchung Hills Regional •  
West Orange • Westfield*

### Annual Pinewood Derby

The annual Pinewood Derby with our local New Providence Boy Scout troop will be held on May 13. The New Providence Boy Scouts will set up their track for DLC students to race the derby cars which they have been working on in integrated occupational therapy sessions. Everyone always enjoys the exciting races! Thank you, New Providence Boy Scout Troop 63!

### Field Fun Day

DLC – New Providence students are working on decorating their t-shirts and preparing games for our Field Day on May 22. Parents and our pen pals from Salt Brook Elementary School in New Providence are invited to share in this special day. Games will be held on the field, weather permitting, with special booths for making a snack with our ShopRite nutritionist, creating spin art, and enjoying a science booth set up by Kean University students. Many of our parents have already signed up to help us with our game booths and snacks. We are looking forward to a great day!

### All About Bees

As part of a follow up to our Earth Day activities, DLC – New Providence students are completing a unit on bees this month. Dr. Dina Rosen from Kean University will provide lessons and activities to DLC students on bee hives, bee safety, and how to save the bees.

### HVAC Construction

Construction of the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning units (HVAC) is continuous. Our contractor has removed the old HVAC unit and installed new structural steel and roof curbs for the new unit in Room 112. Interior work to Room 112 has been completed, and the contractor is currently working on exterior ductwork. Roof curbs and ductwork in Room 136 have been completed, and the contractor is now patching in floor tile and installing the cove base. Additional piping and tilework is being done in the classrooms. A new cabinet heater has been installed in the ceiling outside of Room 113, and the contractor is installing a split HVAC system. The contractor installed four additional units on the roof using a crane. Our energy management contractor continues to work on providing power to the new units. Cafeteria structural steel has been welded into place and roof curbs and exterior duct work are currently being installed. New ductwork was installed in the kitchen and the sensory room. Finally, installation of the new diffusers in the Professional Development Center has begun.



## DLC – Warren

### Tree Stewards

The 4-H Master Tree Stewards will be visiting DLC – Warren students on May 8. These volunteers will teach our students about trees, tree products, tree care, and tree appreciation through interactive activities and playing a game of “Tree Jeopardy.”

### DLC Games

The DLC Games event will be held at DLC – Warren during the week of May 13. Each class is scheduled to participate in a variety of activities, including “Hungry, Hungry Hippo,” “Kickball,” and “Relay Races.” Classes will be competing against other classes for the top prize. Students are busy making their class spirit t-shirts which reflect their favorite sports team. Class competition schedules have been sent home and will be sent home again shortly. Parents are invited to attend and participate with their child during their child’s class day and time.

### Prom

The DLC Prom will be held at DLC – Warren on Thursday, May 30, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for DLC students 18 years of age and older. This year’s theme is “CandyLand, Making Sweet Memories” celebrating all the memories our students have made at the DLC as well as looking to a future of more wonderful memories. Students have been busy making decorations and planning the luncheon menu and the activities, which, as always, include the popular photo booth. Parents of graduates are cordially invited.

### Graduation

Graduation will soon be here on June 10 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at DLC – Warren. Invitations will be sent to the parents of our graduating students in May.

## Transition Talk

Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts are tax-advantaged savings accounts intended to encourage and assist individuals with disabilities and their families to save private funds to supplement benefits provided through private insurance, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), employment, and other sources.

Most individuals with disabilities depend on Medicaid to access disability related services needed to maintain health, independence, and quality of life. Establishing an ABLE account allows beneficiaries to save money for disability related expenses while maintaining eligibility for federal benefit programs. Money saved in an ABLE account will not affect an individual's eligibility to apply for SSI (up to \$100,000) and will allow the beneficiary to maintain eligibility for Medicaid and other public benefits.

For more information regarding ABLE accounts, please visit [www.ablenrc.org](http://www.ablenrc.org).



### **Amazing Facts About DLC Staff...**

Since 2006, Erik Hammerdahl has been the Property Services Manager for the Morris-Union Jointure Commission. Erik assists the DLC – New Providence, DLC – Warren, Transportation Department, and Central Office with their daily operations. Erik even assisted with the construction of DLC – Warren!

Erik has served on the Rutgers Education Committee, completed the certification program to obtain his CEFM (Certified Educational Facilities Manager), and assisted in the development of the New Jersey Integrated Pest Management Program. He is a Past President of both the New Jersey School Building and Grounds Association and its Central Chapter. Because of Erik's commitment and dedication to his profession and to the students and staff in his care, this year Erik was awarded the Educational Facilities Manager of the Year award! This award recognizes management and leadership in the field of school buildings and grounds and recognizes facilities managers who go above and beyond the everyday operations and tasks.

Whether it's gearing up for a snowstorm or hurricane, Erik always has everything under control. He ensures that our buildings are always in tip top shape and ready for our students and staff. Congratulations, Erik! We're glad you are a part of our team!





**Left to right: Dr. David Miceli, MUJC Board President; Sasha Heinz, MUJC Property Services Secretary; Erik Hammerdahl; Mike Davison, MUJC School Business Administrator**

As a reminder, the DLCs will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27. We hope you enjoy the day with family and friends. As always, thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Janet L. Fike

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