



Morris-Union Jointure Commission Board of Education

Janet L. Fike, Ed.D., J.D.
Superintendent

Denise A. Smallacomb
Assistant Superintendent

Michael Davison
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

December 2, 2019

340 Central Avenue
New Providence, NJ 07974

Telephone: (908) 464-7625

Fax: (908) 464-1244

Business Office Fax: (908) 464-5240

Website Address: www.muje.org

Dear DLC Parents:

The MUJC Board of Education and administration send their very best holiday wishes for a wonderful season filled with joy, happiness, and good health to all of you and your families. Our DLC students are planning a host of fabulous events celebrating the holiday season this month and we hope that you will be able to share in many of them.

What's Happening at the DLCs

We are excited to host a unique STEAM Fair that is designed to meet the needs of our DLC students. STEAM uses science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics to guide student inquiry. The DLC – Warren STEAM Fair's theme is "Take Flight with STEAM!" and is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2020. Students will conduct research and complete challenges that will include designing aircraft and measuring distance and speed. The STEAM Fair's theme for the DLC – New Providence is "Dream the Dream of Dr. Seuss & STEAM" and it will take place on Monday, March 2, 2020. Students will complete research, read books, complete challenges, and engage in a number of educational and fun activities related to Dr. Seuss and literacy. Highlights of the fair will include art projects, photo booths, and informational posters. Look for your parent invitation in the EBB soon!

DLC – New Providence

Holiday Party at the Watchung Valley Golf Club

DLC – New Providence Primary students have received an invitation to a holiday party at the Watchung Valley Golf Club. Students will enjoy scrumptious food, a performance by the Watchung Middle School Band and Chorus, dancing, and a visit from Santa!

Winter Activity



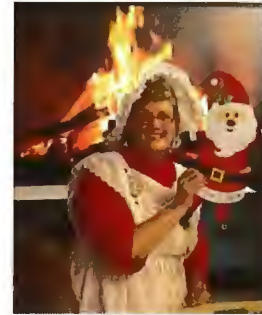
Staff and students have been busily preparing for the annual winter activity, which will be held on December 13. The theme for this year's event is "Arctic Blast." Our Buddies from Salt Brook Elementary School in New Providence will join us in the morning and parents are invited to share in the festivities at 1:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!



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

Special Visitor

DLC – New Providence students are anxiously awaiting a special visit from Mrs. Claus on December 17. Students and staff are invited to wear their pajamas as they listen to holiday stories read by Mrs. Claus. Students always enjoy spending time with this very special visitor!



MUJC Carolers Return!

The famous MUJC Carolers make their much anticipated return to DLC – New Providence on December 19. The carolers are comprised of our central office staff as well as the DLC – New Providence principal and others who love to sing and bring holiday merriment to DLC. They stroll through the DLC hallways singing holiday songs in festive outfits. Students love hearing the carolers and oftentimes join in song. What a great way to start the holiday season!



Favorite Holiday Clothing



The last day of school before Winter Recess is Friday, December 20. Students and staff are invited to wear their favorite holiday shirts, sweaters, etc., in the spirit of the holiday season.

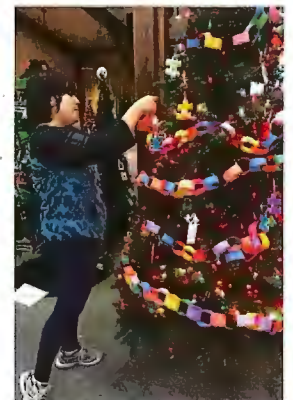
Girls Group

DLC – New Providence recently started a girls group, which meets each month with Dr. Debbie Kiraly, MUJC’s social worker. Small groups of girls get together and participate in social activities, including STEAM activities, games, and crafts.

DLC – Warren

Festival of Trees

DLC – Warren students have been collaborating with residents from Brightview Warren Senior Assisted Living to design the tree for the combined DLC and Brightview entry into the Annual Festival of Trees held at the Environmental Education Center in Basking Ridge from December 2 – 28, 2019. The Festival of Trees is an indoor exhibit of trees decorated by various community groups and individuals. This year’s theme reflects our DLC theme of “Kindness Counts.” Our students have been joining the residents at Brightview to decorate ornaments and design the tree skirt and tree topper. On December 2 our students will be joining Brightview at the Environmental Education Center to decorate the tree.



ShopRite Nutritionist



The ShopRite nutritionist will be visiting DLC – Warren on December 3. During her visit, the students will be learning healthy eating tips for the holidays. The nutritionist's visit is always popular with our students. After learning healthy eating tips, they get to make and sample one of the delicious and nutritious snacks.

Frosty Festival

DLC – Warren students will be participating in our Frosty Festival, which will be held on December 18, 2019. This year's event will focus on several fun activities for our students, including a variety of games featuring winter themes.



MUJC Carolers Return on December 18!



Similar to their appearance at the DLC – New Providence, the world-renowned MUJC Carolers make their much anticipated return to DLC – Warren on December 18. The carolers are comprised of the MUJC central office staff as well as DLC – Warren principals and others who love to sing and bring holiday merriment to DLC. The carolers stroll through the DLC hallways singing holiday songs in festive outfits. Students love hearing the carolers and oftentimes join in song. It is a great way to start the holiday season!

Holiday Spirit Day

On Friday, December 20, staff and students are invited to participate in our annual Holiday Spirit Day by wearing their favorite holiday shirt, sweatshirt, or sweater.



DLC 2020 Calendar

The students have been working very hard on the production of the 2020 DLC Calendar. Each month of the calendar features artwork designed by the students. To order, go to the MUJC website at www.mujc.org and select your school. Click on the DLCreations link to purchase your calendar.

DLCreations

Don't forget DLCreations for your holiday gifts! This year's selection includes Autism Awareness magnets, heart and apple notepads, snowflake pillows, personalized pencils, cork trivets, bracelets, cat sock toys, and homemade dog biscuits. To order, go

to the MUJC website at www.mujc.org and select your school. Click on the DLCCreations link to purchase your holiday gifts.

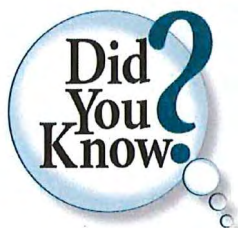


Transition Talk

The Division of Developmental Disabilities provides families with a useful tool when researching potential Support Coordination Agencies as well as potential providers in your area and provided services. The iRecord provider search allows users to search for providers by name or services. Searches can be filtered services, provider location, location type, etc. Potential providers and Support Coordination Agencies can be found by following four steps:

- Under “Filter,” select “Service” and check off the service for which you are looking. (Day Habilitation, Support Coordination Agency, etc.)
- Select “County Served” and select the county in which the individual resides.
- Click the magnifying glass to obtain results of your search.
- Contact providers directly for more details on services offered and gather information to determine if these services are a suitable match for you or your family member.

Please visit <https://irecord.dhs.state.nj.us/providersearch> to begin your search!



Amazing Facts About DLC Staff...

This month, “Did You Know?” is featuring two staff members who are new at the DLC – New Providence and Warren. We want to share their incredible talents and interests with you and are so glad they joined our team!

Katie Keefe, DLC – New Providence Teacher

Katie Keefe is a new teacher at DLC – New Providence. Growing up, Katie always knew she wanted to be a teacher, following the example of her mother and grandmother as well as her grandfather, a former principal. When Katie turned ten, the two-year-old boy she babysat was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). As she began working with his family and therapists to support him, she became more involved in the special education community. Later, Katie worked with other children with ASD in her town and even spent her senior year of high school working in a special education classroom. These experiences helped her choose her college majors of psychology and special education.

After graduating from Marist College in 2016, Katie worked as a special education teacher and taught students with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and behavioral disabilities. Since joining the MUJC in April 2019, Katie's joy has been the connections she has made with her students and the friendships she had made with staff. The comradery at the DLC is unlike any school she has worked at previously. Welcome, Katie!



Megan Perez, DLC - Warren Occupational Therapist

Megan Perez is the newest member of the DLC – Warren's occupational therapy team. Megan graduated from Quinnipiac University's Occupational Therapy Master's Program and earned her clinical hours in occupational therapy at the DLC. Megan's mission is to promote independence for her students in a multitude of areas including, but not limited to, self-help, home management, vocational, sensory processing, self-regulation, etc. Megan always knew she wanted to become an occupational therapist and enjoys getting to know her students and implementing services that are unique and customized to their needs based on their strengths, interests, and goals.

When Megan is not working at the DLC, she enjoys working part-time at an early intervention clinic helping babies from birth to 3 years of age reach milestones and grow to be as independent as possible. Another passion for Megan is volunteering with her rescue puppy, Olive, at local nursing homes to warm the hearts of the residents, brighten their day as well as improve quality of life. Her compassion and love for helping all presents itself every day at DLC – Warren! Welcome to our team, Megan!



★ *Amazing* ★

Winter Recess

Winter recess will begin with an **early dismissal at 12:45 p.m. on Friday, December 20, 2019**. School will be closed Monday, December 23, 2019 through Wednesday, January 1, 2020 and will **reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2020**.

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 2020!

Sincerely,

Janet L. Fike

Janet L. Fike