



# MULLICA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

Winter Newsletter

February 2010

## A.C.E. Creates "Peaceful Playgrounds"

This summer A.C.E. (Academic & Community Enrichment) students participated in the development of Mullica Township School District's "Peaceful Playground". The blacktop in the back of the school was transformed into a colorful arrangement of games kids love to play. The A.C.E. students designed and painted permanent playground activities that help make recess time more positive and productive. The "Peaceful Playground" is intended to maximize the number of students involved in physical activities rather than having them wait in line to participate or just stand around talking.

The A.C.E. Program, funded by a Federal grant, is available to students in grades four through eight who attend Mullica Township Schools and 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who live in Mullica Township. The hours of operation are from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Bus transportation is provided to and from Mullica Township Middle School for all students participating in the program.

A wide range of activities are provided Monday through Thursday with field trips on Fridays. Daily activities include academic programs such as character education, homework help, language arts, math, science, and health education. Recreation programs include art club, book club, chess, dance and drama, gymnastics, physical fitness, and walking clubs, and cooking and crafts. Family nights are planned throughout the year to keep parents informed and involved in their child's education. For more information, please call 609-561-3868 ext. 251 for more information.

## Full-Day 3 and 4 Year-Old

Inquiring parents want to know. Will Mullica Township School District offer a full-day pre-k program next year? We are sorry but we don't know as yet. The district hopes to keep the current program. Any parent that has a child in the program will attest to its success. Continuing the program however, will depend on state funding.

We are scheduling registration for pre-k and kindergarten students for Friday March 26 and Wednesday, April 21, 2010. A child who is four years old by October 1 may register for pre-school and five years old by October 1, may register for kindergarten.

Please call Linda Quattrone in the Primary office to schedule an appointment for registration. Further information about pre-school will be released as it becomes available.

## We're Working On Getting Healthier in Mullica!

Healthy School, Healthy Children, a program sponsored by the AtlantiCare Center for Community Health, has joined the Mullica Township Primary School this year in an effort to educate our children in making healthier and more active life choices. The program has been implemented in all kindergarten and first grade classrooms. AtlantiCare educators visit each classroom twice a month for 30 minutes. They involve the students in a physical activity and have the children participate in a lesson on healthy behaviors and choices. The lessons are built on key messages focusing on the importance of increasing physical activity and increasing the number of fruits and vegetables eaten daily, and discouraging sugar-sweetened beverages and the participation of sedentary activities such as video games and watching television. Recent studies have shown that greater impact on long-term behavioral changes occur when working with the young children and their families. The goal of the program is to promote and practice healthier lifestyles.

This AtlantiCare program is free! The children have learned many healthy and helpful facts this year. They have learned about fruits and vegetables and how to choose and make a healthy snack. In the most recent visit, the children enjoyed a yogurt, fruit, and granola parfait. The children share their healthy and active choices with their families. Our hope is that the discussions lead to even more healthy active choices for the entire family.

## Hilda Frame School

After much discussion the Mullica Board of Education at its November meeting voted to close the Hilda Frame School in Nesco and bring all Pre-K students to the Elwood School site in September 2010. There are three main reasons for this decision.

First, Mullica like most schools in the Atlantic County, has seen a decline in enrollment – from 900 students in 2001 to 720 this year. We now have room at the Elwood site for all students. Second, having all Pre-K students and teachers at one site has instructional benefits. It allows for more flexible grouping of students and closer collaboration among teachers. Third, the district will realize significant savings through reduced transportation and facility costs – custodial, utilities etc. No decision has been made about future uses of the Frame school.

## A Message from Mr. Goldberg

Happy February. Believe it or not we're half way through the school year. Below please find three school updates we'd like to share.

- NJ Department of Education representatives visited us in December for an intensive review of our school programs and procedures. This state monitoring, known as **QSAC** (Quality School Accountability Continuum), is conducted every three years. We were pleased to share the Mullica story with the monitors: hard working staff and students, supportive parents and community, excellent student performance and efficient school operations. The findings of the monitors will be presented to the district in March.
- You may recall that just before the winter break routine **water testing** at the school

detected coliform bacteria in our water system. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful in themselves. They are, however, an indicator that other more harmful bacteria might be present in a water system. Though testing had not detected the more harmful bacteria, to be safe, bottled water was used for drinking and food preparation at school. We are pleased to report our water at school has tested clear of coliform and is again okay for drinking and food preparation. The County Health Department was very helpful in expediting testing. We have also learned that the coliform problem was in one of two wells we have at school. As a precaution we will not be using the problem well until we have clear test results over a period of several weeks.

If you have questions about this matter please be sure to contact the district office (561-3868 X 120).

- Beginning in July 2007 the **Mullica and Washington Twp. School Districts** entered into a variety of agreements to share school personnel and services- superintendent, business administrator, child study team, cafeteria management, etc. The agreements resulted in significant savings for both districts. The districts also benefited from teacher collaboration and sharing of staff. After extensive planning the Mullica and Washington Boards of Education have renewed their **shared services** agreements for an additional three years - July 2010 through June 2013. Once more Mullica is "Ahead of the Curve" in making the maximum use of available resources.

## Mullica has a PreK-8 Parenting Program

Mullica Twp School District is presenting a parenting program called "Love and Logic"!

### Would you....

- ♥ Like to feel more confident as a parent?
- ♥ Like to have more fun parenting?
- ♥ Like to feel more relaxed at the end of the day?

Come join us to get answers to these questions. The next session is March 10, 2010 @ 6:00 in Rm# 61. Have questions or comments?

Contact: Mr. William Maher  
609.561.3868-ext. 144  
or [bmaher@mullica.k12.nj.us](mailto:bmaher@mullica.k12.nj.us)

## Teacher Recognized by Local Media



One of Mullica's 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, Ms. Christina Wilson, has been recognized by the radio station Light 96.9 as their December "Teacher of the Month". Erika Tanko, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student, nominated Ms. Wilson for her creativity, kindness, and eagerness to assist any student who needs support. To acknowledge this accomplishment Light 96.9 came to Mullica Township Middle School to present Ms. Wilson with a certificate and provided the class with pizza. In addition, Ms. Wilson's nomination places Erika in the running for a \$2,000.00 scholarship should Ms. Wilson be randomly selected as Light 96.9's Teacher of the Year.

## Teacher of the Year Nominations...Tell Us About Your Favorite.

Mullica Township School District is accepting nominations for Teacher of the Year for 2010-2011. You may nominate any professional staff member by completing the forms that were sent home with the students on Friday, January 29. If you have any questions, please call the Curriculum Office at 561-3868 ext. 138.

## Cross Country Fall 2009

## PTA FYI

In 2009, the Mullica Township Cross Country team had its ups and downs while competing in the Cape-Atlantic league. The girls ran hard and finished with a record of 4-6. Many of their losing meets were decided by only a point or two. Some of the consistent top runners for the girl's team were Mikila Stefanski, Shannon Fletcher, Mercina Stefanski and

Morgan Stefanski.

The boys finished with a winning record of 6-4. Top runners for the boys team were Zachary Newman, Carlos Rivera, Kevin Stevens, Brandon Walters, Brian Foster and Yadiel Avila.

The season ended with eight Mullica runners receiving medals at the Brigantine Invitational.

The Mullica Township PTA is an organization that is dedicated to raising money for the children of our school with the help of parents, teachers and the Mullica Township community.

Through our efforts the PTA contributes funds to the Elementary & Middle Schools field trips & assemblies, Field Day and Carnival Day, Scholarships/Bonds, Eighth Grade Dinner Dance and t-shirts, Principal's funds, Children's Theatre, Grandparents Day, movie nights, and many other programs for our children. This year we hope to contribute \$22,000 to benefit both the Elementary and Middle schools. Upcoming events are listed on the Calendar of Events.

## Children's Stage Adventures Presents

During the week of Nov. 30, Mullica Township's first through fifth grade students were very happy to welcome back the Children's Stage Adventures for the sixth year in a row. On Monday, Pam Heintzelman and Graham MacDonald, CSA's actor/directors, arrived to spend a fast-paced week auditioning, training, acting and singing their way through to deliver two incredible Friday performances featuring approximately 150 of Mullica's talented students.

Androcles and the Lion made stars of many of our students and enriched the lives of all who were here to see this production evolve. Piano accompanists were Mullica's music instructor, Vanessa Effron, and Oakcrest Junior, Michelle Blank, a Mullica graduate. JoAnn Rabiger, Grade 1 teacher, and Jean Demling, Grade 3 teacher, coordinated the show and directed the chorus. Joy Herbert, a retired Mullica teacher, and several parent/teacher volunteers helped to make the show a great success. Children's Stage Adventures provided costumes, make-up and expertise in creating a spectacular show the students and audience will never forget. Pictures from the production are now on display in a show case in the library hallway for all to view.



## 2009 Sixth Grade Stokes Trip

Early in the morning on Nov. 2, 71 6th grade students, 12 parents and 4 teachers from Mullica assembled in the gym. There they were joined by 12 students and a parent from Green Bank to begin their 3 day adventure at the NJ School of Conservation. Once they arrived in Branchville they were greeted by 45 Folsom students along with their teachers and parents.

Their fun-filled 3 day adventure included learning about the environment, hiking the Appalachian trail, boating, metal-smithing and meeting new people. Most important were the lessons they learned about themselves and working together as a group. Night activities included a live animal presentation, a bonfire that showcased the students many talents and a square dance. Once the square dancing and line dancing were done, the students enjoyed showing the adults how to move.



As always, the students returned tired, but with many fond memories. They would like to thank their parents, PTA, BOE and staff for the continued support of this worthwhile trip. It is their hope that this program continues for many years.

**Mullica Township**  
**Board of Education**

Spiros Malaspina, M.D., President  
Lisa Martinez, Vice President  
Thomas Carl  
Maria Jones  
Frank Kelly  
Mary Nevius  
Richard Noble  
Terence Watson  
Joy Wyld

Board of Education meetings are usually held the third Tuesday of the month in the school library at 7:00 PM. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend on the following dates:

- February 16
- March 16
- April 27
- May 18
- June 15

**Mullica Township**  
**Education Foundation**

If you are currently a high school senior and will graduate in June 2010, be sure to see your guidance counselor for an application to apply for one of the two Mullica Township Education Foundation sponsored four-year, \$1,000-a-year scholarships, or call the Mullica School at 609.561.3868. ext. 120 to request an application.

**School Collections**  
**Trash to Treasure**

**We will take any of these items...send them in!**

- ⇒ **Box Top\$ for Education** ~ PTA
- ⇒ **Cell Phones** ~ Oakcrest Project Graduation
- ⇒ **Can Tabs** ~ Ronald McDonald House
- ⇒ **Ink Cartridges** ~ Municipal Alliance

There are drop-off boxes for all these items outside of the Primary Office.

Also...**Take Charge of Education:** Shop with your Target Guest Card and the School will receive 1% of your total purchases.

**Dates To Remember**

**February 2010**

- 1 Marking Period Ends
- 3 Education Foundation Meeting ~ 6:30pm
- 8 Report Cards Distributed Grades PK-8
- 8-12 P.T.A. Book Fair
- 10-12 Early Dismissal ~ Parent/Teacher Conference
- 15 School Closed ~ President's Day
- 16 Board of Education Meeting ~ 7:00pm
- 17 P.T.A Meeting ~ 7:00pm
- 19 Middle School Dance ~ 7-9
- 26 P.T.A. Movie Night

**March 2010**

- 2 READ Across America
- 4 Grandparents' Day
- 4 Family Fitness Night ~ Grade 2
- 5 Progress Reports Grades 1-8
- 14 Daylight savings time begins
- 16 Board of Education Meeting ~ 7:00 pm
- 10-17-24 Love & Logic Parent Workshop~ 6:00pm
- 19 School Closed ~ Staff In-service
- 25 Elementary Gym Show ~ 7:00pm

**April 2010**

- 2-9 Spring Break School Closed
- 12 Marking period ends
- 14 Education Foundation Meeting ~ 6:30pm
- 14 PTA Meet the Candidates Night
- 16 7:00-9:00 Middle School Dance
- 19 Report Cards Distributed (K-8)
- 20 School Board Elections
- 20 Nat'l. Junior Honor Society Induction 6:00pm
- 20 PTA Social Night following Induction
- 22 Talent Show ~ 7:00pm
- 24 Fitness Walk ~ 9:00am
- 27 Board of Education Meeting ~ 7:00 pm
- 27-30 NJ ASK Testing Grade 7 & 8

**School Report Card Released**

The Mullica Township School Report Card will be available February 11, 2010 on the school's home web page at [www.mullica.k12.nj.us](http://www.mullica.k12.nj.us). The link is located in the lower right corner;

**2008-2009 School Report Card**