Greetings from the Superintendent...

Monroe Township Public Schools experienced a good opening to the 2017-2018 school year. Our faculty, staff, and students have been engaged in many curricular and co-curricular activities throughout the district. Our technology programs and equipment provided to our staff and students is second to none among Gloucester County Schools. As parents and citizens of Monroe Township, you can be proud of the outstanding achievements our students and staff have attained this month. Some of these accomplishments are displayed on pages of this publication.

Our central office administrators, building principals, assistant principals, supervisors, teachers, paraprofessionals, directors, counselors, and secretaries all have skills to provide a positive influence on our students. They display excellent problem solving techniques. All are diligent in dealing with the unique differences in our students and their parents and provide a positive attitude in motivating our students to perform at a high level in their academic and social developments.

As I travel throughout our district schools, I have the pleasure of observing our teachers passionately performing their jobs and doing their best to ensure the learning process is meaningful and fun. Our teachers have their own vision to keep the students focused on learning. If you speak to your children, you will see in their eyes and their smiles how much they enjoy coming to school.

All of our national problems, from international competitiveness to improving our standard of living, to the future of our children, ultimately rests on one important word:

EDUCATION!

Throughout the history of civilization, the concept of education has remained stable. Colors fade, temples crumble, empires fall, but education endures. Societies that succeed respect their teachers, and the teachers respect themselves. Remember...we must begin with ourselves! I know all of our teachers are committed to the students of Monroe Township and will help our kids soar to new heights in areas of achievements. As educators of today’s youth, they serve as role models and leaders.
Remember the words of the late great Vince Lombardi regarding leadership:

“Leaders aren’t born, they are made. They are made just like anything else; through hard work. And that’s the price we’ll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal.”

...and as far as service goes for any of us as educational leaders in the classroom. Please read carefully these words form Winston Churchill:

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

As a former Teacher for thirteen years, a Coach, an Athletic Director/Activities Coordinator, an Assistant Principal, a High School Principal, an Assistant Superintendent, and a Superintendent of Schools, I will never forget my “roots” as a teacher. To me, there is no better occupation than being a teacher and working with students in an academic and co-curricular setting every day. I have always believed that teaching is not a job, but it’s a way of life. Monroe Township Public Schools are most fortunate to have such excellent, caring, capable, and committed teaching professionals. They continue to demonstrate dedication by giving every student an outstanding education. Our teachers are committed to their careers and to our students. I would like to share with you some important facts regarding our outstanding faculty employed by the Monroe Township Board of Education:

- More than thirty-nine percent of our teachers hold Master’s Degrees.
- All of our teachers are highly qualified with an average of 14 years of experience in their fields.
- Our teacher turnover rate is low. Many of our educators plan to retire from our school district.
- We have many teachers that have voluntarily pursued advanced training in areas ranging from sensitivity, anti-bullying, CPR, and instructional strategies related to their content area and more.
- Our teachers believe in making a difference everyday. They volunteer as mentors, tutors, coaches and with other organizations in Monroe Township.
- Many teachers donate their time before and after regular school hours to offer extra help to their students. This supports our students in maximizing academic achievement.
- Of the 534 teachers employed in our district, one in every three lives in Monroe Township. Many of our teachers have lived here more than thirteen years and graduated from Williamstown High School.
As Superintendent of Schools, I am proud that our teachers do the right thing in supporting our students in their academic and co-curricular endeavors every day. We can all be thankful that Monroe Township teachers place their students first and continue to support them in all activities. One of my favorite bumper stickers I have seen on cars throughout America states:

![Image: If you can read this, Thank a Teacher]

I will continue to communicate with all stakeholders in our community through our district website, letters sent home from our schools that are hand-carried by your children, media press releases and from our Blackboard Connect Phone System. If we can be of any service to you at anytime, please feel free to contact us at our Central Administrative Offices in the Maple Grove Administration Building.

Very truly yours,

Charles M. Earling, Superintendent of Schools
856-629-6400, Ext. 1005
cearling@monroetwp.k12.nj.us

Lisa Schulz, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary
856-629-6400 Ext. 1004
lschulz@monroetwp.k12.nj.us

Ralph E. Ross, Human Resource Manager
856-629-6400 Ext. 1016
reros@monroetwp.k12.nj.us
Monroe Township Public Schools welcomed 16 new teachers to the school district at the annual opening day in-service meeting, held on September 5, 2017 in the Williamstown High School Theatre.

These new staff members are:

- **Carlin, Ryan J.** — *Williamstown High School*—Music
- **Finlay, Ayonma R.** — *Williamstown High School*—Science
- **Glenn, Ashley A.** — *Radix Elementary School*—Basic Skill Instruction
- **Grayson, Danielle M.** — *Radix Elementary School*—Special Needs
- **Kleinert, Mary F.** — *Williamstown Middle School*— Basic Skill Instruction
- **Locantore, Dominique N.** — *Williamstown High School*— Special Needs
- **Londino, Tina M.** — *Williamstown High School*— Health/ P.E.
- **Mahoney, Dena R.** — *Williamstown High School*— Special Needs
- **Notaro, Nancy F.** — *Williamstown High School*— Business
- **Patras, Jr., Christopher** — *Williamstown High School*— Industrial Technology
- **San, Danielle M.** — *Holly Glen*— Special Needs
- **Santangelo, Jacuelyn D.** — *Williamstown Middle School*— Special Needs
- **Springer, Melanie Lynn** — *Williamstown High School*—Science
- **Vause, Kathleen T.** — *Williamstown Middle School*— Language Arts Literacy
- **Woitas, Tamara M.** — *Williamstown High School*—World Languages-German
- **Wood, Jonathan A.** — *Williamstown High School*—Language Arts Literacy
Core 5F features teachers Christine Koper (Math), Renee Quinn (ELA), Kathy Scudder (Science/Social Studies), and Cathy Monahan (BSI). This core has been busy getting to know their students and are looking forward to seeing them have academic growth in the upcoming school year. They also hope to see their students embrace the new RISE program at WMS and become a Core “family”. With goals like these, their students are sure to have a successful year.

The students in Mrs. Goffredi and Mrs. Shannon’s second grade class at Whitehall Elementary School made self-portraits. They taped the "portraits" to their chairs for Back to School Night. When their family members arrived, they had to guess which desk belonged to their child. The students enjoyed making their portraits and the parents enjoyed guessing!

The third and fourth graders at Radix Elementary School took part in a Student Council Information Assembly presented by Mrs. Cunningham. Students learned about how the Student Council runs and the qualifications on becoming a member. Over the next few weeks, students will submit applications, give speeches and create posters in the hopes of being elected. Good luck to all!

Williamstown High School was under new management on September 21, as it honored Dean Costanzo as Principal for the Day! While he is normally a student at the school, Mr. Costanzo took the reigns as Principal to assist Mr. Jeff Johnson with the morning announcements and monitor the daily operations of the school. He did an outstanding job and was well-received by both students and staff.
On August 30th, teachers welcomed new fifth graders to the middle school for an orientation before first day of school. The parents, grandparents and new students enjoyed a tour of the school, a “meet and greet” with special area staff, a grand welcome speech from Principal Ms Dana Mericle, and a chance to look around the school. Over 30 NJHS students assisted the parents and new students finding their way around the building. School groups and clubs handed out information about their program.

Williamstown Middle School
Fifth Grade Teachers And Staff Members
Get Ready For An Awesome Year.
The Holly Glen Home and School Association (HSA) welcomed incoming kindergarten students on September 5th, with a Popsicles on the Playground event. The new kindergarteners and their families met on the playground to enjoy popsicles and fun! Students wore nametags with their new teachers’ name, so that they could meet new friends in their class before the first day of school. They also were able to take pictures in the photo area and enter a drawing for a chance to win a Leap Start Interactive game. The kindergarten teachers were there too. A fun and yummy time was had by all! Thank you HSA for helping our newest students make new friends!

Mrs. Sanfilippo’s first grade class at Radix School did a cross-curricular study of Apples. After reading about Johnny Appleseed, students explored the anatomy of an apple. After dissecting the fruit, students used a bar graph to find the average number of seeds found in each apple. And of course, no Apple Exploration is complete without a little taste-test!
WMS held its annual door decorating contest to honor its RISE traits: Respect, Integrity, Self-Control and Empathy. Teachers worked with their homeroom classes to brainstorm ideas that would reflect these traits for door decorating designs. The administration team acted as judges for the contest and selected grade level winners and one wild card. The winners were: Mrs. Lindsay Fauerbach (5th grade), Ms. Sarah Johnson (6th grade), Mrs. Denise Henninger (7th grade), Mrs. Beth Reitz (8th grade), and Ms. Jacquelyn Santangelo (wild card). The winning classrooms were examples of great team effort. Mrs. Reitz explained that her class split the responsibilities up, sketching ideas, hanging things up and working on constructing. Mrs. Fauerbach’s class worked together in a similar fashion and she noted that they overall enjoyed the activity. Ms. Johnson’s students thought it would be a good idea to link their decoration to what they have been learning in their ELA class. Ms. Santangelo added, “RISE is something that sometimes we need to be reminded of, so using big words to describe the concept was what my students chose to do”.

The winning homerooms were awarded with a Pretzel Party on Friday, 9/29 during first period. Students enjoyed having Mrs. McKinney and Officer Clidy serve them and their teachers pretzels for a job well done!
OUR AMERICAN SYMBOLS

Second graders in Mrs. Holman’s class at Radix School, became experts on National Landmarks during a Jigsaw lesson. Students taught their classmates about symbols and monuments that make us proud to be Americans.

HONORING OUR COUNTRY’S HEROES

Mrs. Monzo’s class at Whitehall Elementary celebrated Patriot's Day by discussing and learning about 9/11. The students created a craft in honor of all of the men and women who lost their lives. We will never forget! God Bless America!!!

A SUMMER DAY AT THE MOVIES

After reading The Adventures of Captain Underpants in class, some of Mrs. Voci's first graders met this summer at the movie theater to see the on screen version. The students and their families laughed at the funny antics of George, Harold, and Captain Underpants! It was also fun to see each other over the summer.

HOLLY AT HOLLY GLEN

Holly the Leopard Gecko from Holly Glen School, has a new home thanks to the Iacovelli Family. Mr. Iacovelli created a beautiful display in Holly's showcase at Holly Glen. The students are able to admire Holly as they travel the hallway. Students can also stop to read facts about Leopard Geckos at Holly's display. Thank you HSA and Iacovelli family!
Mrs. Maureen Coelho, Williamstown Middle School Media Specialist has been awarded the Santander Bank Quarterback Community Service Leader Recognition Award. According to the Philadelphia Eagles website, “In partnership with Santander, the Philadelphia Eagles are celebrating outstanding individuals in the Greater Philadelphia region through the inaugural Santander Community Quarterback program. Santander Community Quarterback program honors those who exemplify leadership, dedication and a commitment to improving the communities in which they live.

On September 20, the WMS and students proudly wore their EAGLES shirts and jerseys to show support and congratulate Mrs. Coelho on her prestigious award. GO EAGLES!

Teachers and staff at Oak Knoll School were treated to a welcome luncheon from their fabulous and hard working PTO! Delicious food and fun raffle games were enjoyed in honor of the new school year!
On Friday, September 22nd, WMS welcomed magician Bill Kerwood to perform his act, *The Magic of Recycling*. Students in grades five through eighth were treated to a magic show assembly that also taught them the importance of recycling. This event was sponsored by Jackie Wallace of the Clean Communities of Monroe Township, which also sponsors community clean-ups throughout the year. The group also invites Monroe Township students to an annual Teen Awards program to recognize their efforts in protecting the environment.

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**LOOK, I’M LEARNING MY LETTERS!**

Miss Barbara’s preschool class at Radix Elementary started the school year off with a "Match". The preschoolers used letter recognition and sound skills to match upper and lowercase letters.

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**PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT**

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**OBSERVING THE CYCLE OF THE BUTTERFLY**

Students at Whitehall Elementary learned about the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. They visited third grade teacher, Mrs. Jones, during their recess time on Mondays in September to see the life cycle stages with their very own eyes. They even were able to release butterflies that had completed their metamorphosis and were ready to migrate to Mexico. Over 100 students participated and learned facts about the monarch butterflies. The students thoroughly enjoyed Monarch Mondays and were very enthusiastic.
Students in Mrs. Fohring's class at Oak Knoll work diligently as they explored place value hands-on!

AND THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS...

Students in Mrs. Fohring's class at Oak Knoll work diligently as they explored place value hands-on!

HOLLY GLEN’S HSA WELCOME WAGON

As the Holly Glen teachers left the first in-service faculty meeting of the year, some wonderful HSA parents and students greeted them with the Holly Glen Welcome Wagon. The teachers were able to choose healthy or sweet treats and drinks, to provide an afternoon pick me up as they set up their classrooms. Thank you HSA for making the teachers smile on their first work day back to school!

THANK YOU MS. TIMMINS FOR SHARING A STORY WITH US

Students at Oak Knoll, in Mrs. Hackney's class, were treated to a guest speaker in September! Mrs. Timmins held the students' attention while eliciting background knowledge on animals. All students were stuck like glue to their seats as the story was shared and were even given a take away project to complete after the reading. The class was thrilled to have such a wonderful, animated speaker!
Students and teachers alike, shared the excitement of the back to school season. Smiles were seen everywhere in the first week of school as the return was made to their home away from home, Oak Knoll!

Did you know that nearly 1 in 5 people, 19% of the US population, have a disability? Despite their disabilities, these people are just as capable as anyone else. No matter what our strengths and weaknesses are, we are all just as capable as the next person. Precisely, this is the premise of the “Spread the Word to end the Word” campaign, which is currently running at Williamstown High School.

This campaign, headed by student Natalie Donisi in conjunction with the high school OTP program and the DECA Chapter, not only focuses on eliminating the use of the word “retarded” from everyday vocabulary, but it also intends to highlight inclusion within the school. With posters, TV Announcements, and T-Shirts, this campaign is just getting started. You can expect to hear more about this project throughout the fall and winter, as Natalie is currently working with our OTP students on a special dance for the winter concert to highlight inclusion and the fact that everyone is capable of the same things.

Want to support this campaign? Natalie’s goal is to have 950 people pledge their support in ending the “r” word. To pledge, visit the website “http://www.r-word.org” and take the pledge under the organization of Williamstown High School. The continued support for our OTP programs is vastly appreciated, and we hope for your help in spreading awareness to end the use of this offensive word once and for all!
Students peruse the shelves and then patiently wait in line at The Westerns themed Oak Knoll Book Fair. Parents and family members were able to attend alongside the children and aide them in the selection process. Then students eagerly returned to their tables in order to dive into their new adventures, but not before they took a guess at how many rattlesnake eggs were in the jar! A free classroom book goes the winner of each grade level. The PTO also provided additional free books to each and every classroom in the school! Remember, reading is dreaming with your eyes opened!

Williamstown Middle School’s special night was a success because of their many volunteers. Thank you all.
Goal of Rileigh’s Rainbows: To purchase and provide free school supplies to school age students that attend the various schools in Monroe Township School District located in Williamstown, New Jersey. I established Rileigh’s Rainbows so that I could help others become more successful in the classroom.

Mission Statement: Rileigh’s Rainbows is a non-profit, tax deductible organization - 501 (C) (3) that is dedicated to improving the lives of less fortunate students that attend the various schools in the Monroe Township School District located in Williamstown, New Jersey. The goal of Rileigh’s Rainbows is to provide school age students access to free school supplies to begin their school year off properly. By equipping students with the necessary school supplies this will allow them to enhance their educational journey and to become more successful in the classroom. Rileigh’s Rainbows investment in the educational aspect of students’ lives with providing the necessary school supplies will truly enhance the lives of the students.

History of Rileigh’s Rainbows: In 2014 when I was in fourth grade I noticed that many students in my school did not have school supplies. I wanted to try and help solve this problem so I met with the principal and I told her what I wanted to do for the next upcoming school year. I asked the principal to pick three students that she thought would be in need of school supplies and I would purchase the school supplies for them. I told my parents what I wanted to do and they gave me the money to buy the school supplies. After delivering the school supplies for the three students to the school in August 2014 I asked my parents to help me to see if I could raise money to be able to purchase school supplies for more students.

With the assistance of my parents and a lawyer I applied for non-profit status through the Internal Revenue Service and on January 30, 2015 Rileigh’s Rainbows received a 501 (C) (3) non profit status. In March 2015 the State of New Jersey granted Rileigh’s Rainbows a sales and tax exemption status. After receiving my non profit and tax exempt status I wrote letters to family members requesting donations to assist me with purchasing school supplies. In 2015 I raised enough money to purchase school supplies for ten students for the upcoming school year.

In 2016 with the help of family and friends a Paint Night was organized where all proceeds would go to Rileigh’s Rainbows. The event was a huge success and raised a lot of money through ticket sales and a Chinese Auction. Besides the Paint Night I continued to write donation letters to family and friends
and in 2016 I was able to raise enough funds to purchase school supplies for 100 students for the 2016/2017 school year.

In 2017 I set a goal to raise enough funds to purchase school supplies for 150 students. My family and friends helped me organize a School Supplies For Success Event that took place at the Starr Cross Fire Hall. During the event there was a Chinese Auction that consisted of over eighty baskets. The Chinese Auction and the event was such a great success that I was able to reach my goal of raising enough funds to be able to purchase school supplies for 150 students for the 2017/2018 school year.

**Who benefits from Rileigh’s Rainbows:** I work with various teachers and principals in the Monroe School District in Williamstown, New Jersey who are very supportive and active in my organization. Since the teachers and the principals are more aware of the students who would benefit from having access to free school supplies they are the ones that choose the students who will be receiving the free school supplies.

**Goal For 2017/2018:** My goal for Rileigh’s Rainbows for the upcoming 2017/2018 school year is to raise enough funds through private donations and conducting a fundraising event to be able to purchase school supplies for 175 school age students that attend the various schools in Monroe Township School District.

If you would like more information about Rileigh’s Rainbows you can email me at rileighsrainbows@gmail.com, check out my web page at: rileighsrainbows14.com or my Facebook Page - Rileigh’s Rainbows.

Sincerely,

Rileigh Leighton
CEO & Founder of Rileigh’s Rainbows
OAK KNOLL BOOK FAIR
AN EXCITING AND REWARDING NIGHT

Students peruse the shelves and then patiently wait in line at The Westerns themed Oak Knoll Book Fair. Parents and family members were able to attend alongside the children and aide them in the selection process. Then students eagerly returned to their tables in order to dive into their new adventures, but not before they took a guess at how many rattlesnake eggs were in the jar! A free classroom book goes the winner of each grade level. The PTO also provided additional free books to each and every classroom in the school! Remember, reading is dreaming with your eyes opened!

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