WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

230 Avenel Street
Avenel, NJ 07001
(732) 602-8504

Mary Panko
Principal
Avenel Street School #4&5

October 1, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for a seamless start to the 2026-2027 school year. It was wonderful seeing so many of you at our Open House. It is hard to believe that October is already here! Our staff and students have been working diligently every day to make positive progress academically and socially. We thank you for your support and cooperation from home. Please take a moment to review the important information below.

Important Dates:
October 5-9, 2026 – Week of Respect & Inclusion (see below and attachment)
October 5-9, 2026 – Fire Prevention Week (see below)
October 8, 2026 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (see below)
October 12, 2026 - No School (Students)
October 14, 2026 – School Picture Day (Order forms were sent home with students)
October 19-23, 2026 – School Violence Awareness Week (see below)
October 23, 2026 – Trunk or Treat (more information to follow from the PTO)
October 30, 2026 – Halloween Parade

Avenel Street Sidewalk Closure (S. Inman to Station Drive):
We were recently notified by the township of a sidewalk closure from Station Dr. to S. Inman Ave. It will last approximately three weeks. A visual representation of the pedestrian detour is attached.
Avenel Street Walking Detour.pdf

Traffic Pattern/Parking:
Please be advised that you cannot enter our driveway, in the front of the building, from S. Inman Ave. It is a one-way direction, in which you must enter from Avenel St. Also, if you are coming to the building during the school day, there are visitor spots on the left hand side of the driveway, before the exit. Please do not park in any other spots. They are for staff only. Also, the driveway is reserved for bus traffic only from 8:15-9:15 and 2:45-3:45.

Week of Respect & Inclusion (October 5-9, 2026)
New Jersey designates the first full week of October each year as the "Week of Respect". We will celebrate character building and bullying prevention throughout the week. Fliers were sent home highlighting the various spirit days our students can participate in. Additionally, this week will be celebrated as a "Week of Inclusion" across every school within the Woodbridge Township School District. The goal of this week is to provide an opportunity to build an inclusive school culture where all students feel part of the school community. Respect Week Celebration 2026.png

Fire Prevention Week (October 5-9, 2026)
The Avenel Fire Department will be presenting an assembly for all students on 10/7.

Avenel Street School #4/5 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The students and staff will participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony, on Thursday, October 8, 2026 at 10:00 AM in the courtyard of the building, to celebrate the completion of our beautiful new building. If you would like to attend, please call the Main Office, by Wednesday, October 7, to be added to the guest list. ID will be required on the day of the event. Avenel School 4_5 Ribbon-Cutting_10-8-26.png

School Violence Awareness Week (October 19-23, 2026)

New Jersey designates the third full week of October each year as "School Violence Awareness Week". Our students will participate in activities that will focus on preventing school violence and promoting peace and safety.

Avenel Street School Character Traits

Each month students in grades K-5 will learn about a different character trait. At the end of the month, each teacher will nominate two students who have exemplified this characteristic through his/her actions. The names of these students will be announced, they will receive a certificate, and their photo will be placed on our main lobby board. The character trait for October is "respect."

Halloween – Costumes

-Please have your child wear his/her costume to school on the day of the parade.
-Please ensure your child wears safe footwear.
-Masks, toy weapons, inflatable costumes, or inappropriate costumes will not be permitted.

Halloween – Visitors

-You are welcome to join us outside for the Halloween parade on Friday, 10/30 at 2:00 PM.
-The students will exit Door #11 and parade on the sidewalk around the building. They will re enter the building via Door #1 and parade through the indoor hallways. They will make two loops, so parents will have an opportunity to see them.
-Please park in the neighborhood and gather around the parade route for optimal viewing. Reminder – no dogs or pets allowed.
-During the day, children will be in their classrooms for their respective "class parties". For security reasons, we will not be allowing parents into the building after the parade.
-As always, please adhere to safe driving practices on roads nearest the school building and obey posted speed limits. Additionally, avoid blocking driveways and fire hydrants when parking in the areas surrounding our campus.
-In case of inclement weather, there will not be a rain date for this event.
2026-2027 Halloween October 30th.docx

We look forward to seeing you along our parade route on Friday, October 30.

Regards,

Mary Panko

Ms. Mary Panko