

BHPS BUZZ

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Message from the Superintendent

As the school year draws to a close, it is the perfect time to look back at everything we've accomplished together. It has been a year filled with growth, learning, and community partnerships. Thank you, once again, for your role in creating the 2026-2031 Strategic Plan and your support of the Referendum!

To our 8th grade parents, Middle School is in the rearview! You have officially navigated the wild, unpredictable, and turbulent waters of middle school with growing independence and hormonal fluctuations. As they prepare to step into high school, take a moment to celebrate your own resilience alongside theirs. You've given them the foundation they need for this next big adventure. High school, here they come!

To the parents of our High School Seniors, we know this is a deeply bittersweet moment. From that nervous first day of kindergarten to watching them complete their K-12 journey, the years fly by. For me, the older my children get, the faster time passes! As your seniors prepare to spread their wings, whether they are heading to college, trade schools, the workforce, or military service, know that your guidance has prepared them well. You have been their cheerleader, chauffeur, counselor, and rock. We are incredibly proud of the resilient, capable young adults you've raised.

To our teachers, staff, students, and families: thank you for your hard work, dedication, and endless support throughout this year.

We wish everyone of you a safe and restful summer filled with warm sun, good books, much-needed relaxation, and plenty of laughter.

Enjoy and we look forward to seeing many of you back here in the fall, ready for a brand new chapter!

Warmly,
Dr. Kim Feltre, Superintendent of Schools

UPCOMING EVENTS



HIGHLANDER GOLF OUTING

June 19, 2026

Click the link in the image to register



District Spotlight

Kindness Comes to Life Through Creative School Collaboration

William Woodruff First Graders and GLHS Artists Unite Through Kindness Project

First grade students from William Woodruff Elementary School recently completed a collaborative project with fine art students from Governor Livingston High School. Inspired by *The Adventures of Beekle*, the project invited first graders to design "Kindness Critters" – imaginative companions created to offer comfort, encouragement, and positivity during difficult moments.

Each first grader completed a "Kindness Critter" packet in which they described their unique creation and explained how it would help them. One student described their critter as something that 'helps me when I am feeling (sad) by (telling me it's okay to not be okay).' Students also shared details such as their critter's name, appearance, special abilities, favorite activities, and colors so the GL artists could better understand their vision. Another example, Kippy, was described as a lightning bolt that enjoys playing soccer and baking cookies. His colors are yellow and black. The first graders then created illustrations to accompany their descriptions.

After completing their packets and illustrations, the first graders' ideas were shared with Ms. Michelle Harpster, GLHS Art Teacher, and given to the high school fine arts students in her classes so that they could bring the creatures to life. The art students turned the original designs into drawings, pop-ups, clay sculptures and textile works. Ms. Harpster shared, "This was such a great opportunity for the high school students to reconnect with their early art experiences, channel their inner first-grade self, and focus on creating something meaningful for someone else."

The high school students then visited each William Woodruff Elementary School first grade class to hand deliver the completed Kindness Critters to the first grade students and all of the students had the opportunity to spend time together. The first graders were able to meet the artists who brought their creatures to life and they participated in a Q&A session that included questions about how the projects were made, the artists' favorite colors, their favorite things about art, and more.



Story continues

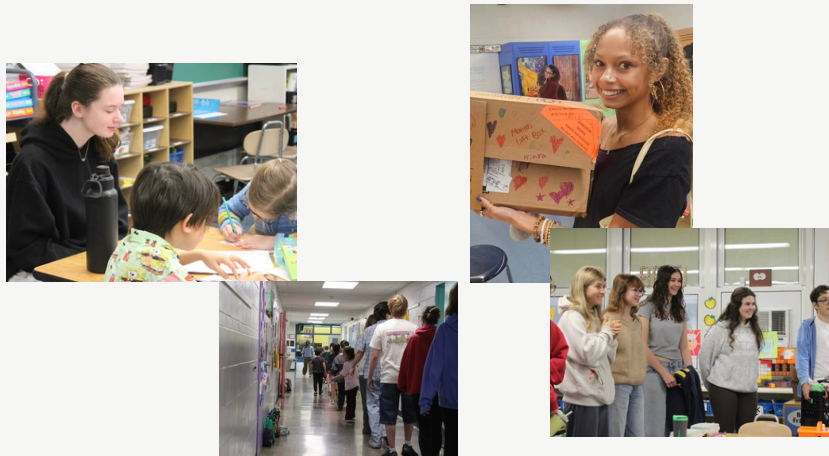
Kindness Story continues...

First grade teacher, Ms. Mary Dendinger shared, "This project was designed to be more than just an art assignment. We wanted students to create something meaningful. Inspired by The Adventures of Beekle, our first graders reflected on emotions they sometimes struggle with and designed 'kindness critters' that could help them through tough moments with encouragement, comfort, and positivity. The high school art students recreated those ideas into incredible works of art. The collaboration not only celebrated creativity, but also showed our first graders the power of kindness, connection, and mentorship through art. Having the high school artists not only bring the students' ideas to life, but also personally deliver them, made the experience incredibly meaningful and fostered a memorable connection between our youngest and oldest students."

The project highlighted the impact of creativity, empathy, and cross-grade collaboration, with all the educators involved agreeing that the experience was meaningful and helped build the connection between the district's youngest learners and high school artists.

"This was such a marvelous project! I feel that both the little and big artists enjoyed creating the art and we hope to continue to do this in the years to come," concluded William Woodruff Art Teacher, Mrs. Anna Deacon.

Ms. Brenda Marley, Principal of William Woodruff School, concluded, "This collaboration brought our district's community together. For our first graders, working alongside the Governor Livingston high schoolers provided a sense of mentorship and belonging. It showed our children that their emotions and imaginations are valued by the older students they look up to. Bridging the gap between our district's youngest learners and oldest students wasn't just about creating art, it was about building a lasting foundation of empathy, kindness and community connection."



2025-2026

GOVERNOR EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS RECIPIENTS

The Governor's Educators of the Year Awards recognizes exceptional teachers who inspire, support, and make a lasting impact every single day.

This prestigious recognition honors outstanding educators who inspire, support, and shape the lives of our students each day.

They are recognized for their commitment to collaboration with colleagues, students, and families, and for fostering a culture of respect and success within their school communities.

Congratulations to our 2025-2026 Governor's Educators of the Year!

- Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center: Emily Mulieri/Grade 1
- William Woodruff Elementary School: Mary Niedenfuhr/Grades K-2 Media Specialist
- Mountain Park Elementary School: Michele Guerriero/Special Education Teacher
- Thomas P. Hughes Elementary School: Matthew Madura/Grade 4
- Columbia Middle School: Dawn McGann/Grade 7 Social Studies Teacher
- Governor Livingston High School: Dawn Buchan/Grades 9-12 Science



News from Our Schools

Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center

Students enjoyed a wide range of engaging learning experiences over the past few months. Second graders took part in a special STEAM project focused on turtle conservation and welcomed CMS Outreach students, who worked with them on SEL themes.

The PTO-sponsored Feelin' Groovy Sweetheart Dance was a great success, and therapy dogs brought joy to students and staff alike. The school also hosted its annual Bring Your Family to Library Week to promote a love of reading, along with a successful reading challenge and partner reading events in celebration of Read Across America Month, and celebrated Earth Week and Arbor Day by learning about the importance of environmental responsibility and stewardship.



William Woodruff Early Childhood Center

Students continue to enjoy monthly themed community celebrations, including "You Got This!" (January), "We Learn and Grow Kindness" (February), and "Make Good Choices" (March).

They also loved *Read Across America Month*, which featured guest readers, book buddies, a reading assembly, and Bring Your Family to the Library Week. Second graders were visited by professionals from the Raptor Trust, who taught them about owls, while first graders enjoyed an "Insects Rock" assembly.

Thanks to the PTO, students were treated to a Korean New Year assembly, as well as a PTO-sponsored book fair that included a PM pajama party and a "bedtime story" read by Principal Marley.



Mountain Park Elementary School

The 5th grade math club visited JA BizTown, where students learned practical skills like how to write checks and manage money. Third graders participated in a special unit featuring guest speakers who shared their immigrant experiences, followed by a field trip to the Mayo Performing Arts Center to deepen their understanding of the immigrant journey.

Fourth graders authored nonfiction science books in teams as part of a writing curriculum pilot, incorporating engaging, interactive elements, and a PTO grant funded a STEAM program for the 4th grade where they learned to apply creative problem-solving skills. They also visited the Liberty Hall Museum, exploring the historic home and grounds.

Thomas P. Hughes Elementary School

Fourth graders collected items for St. Joseph's Food Bank, resulting in a donation to support those in need. Student musicians from the GLHS Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program visited and performed a percussion concert and led a discussion on rhythm and music.

Fifth-grade Quest students presented their inventions to guest judges before advancing to the STEAM Tank Regional Challenge and one team advanced to Finals. In celebration of Lunar New Year, the PTO hosted acrobat Li Liu, who performed an engaging show.

Student Council created Valentine's for local senior citizens, demonstrating a strong commitment to community care and service.



Columbia Middle School

CMS celebrated kindness throughout February with fun, cozy spirit days, and students earned heart-shaped shout-outs for acts of kindness. CMS musicians, poets, and artists also participated in the Annual Union County Teen Arts Festival.

In March, Avenues in Motion visited sixth graders to present Bike Driver's Ed. Eighth graders enjoyed a highly successful Career Day, with more than 20 professionals sharing their career journeys.

Additionally, the new Student Council Snowball Dance for seventh and eighth graders was a fun and memorable event for all who attended.



Governor Livingston High School

The Claymore 2025 yearbook was selected for Portfolio, Vol. 31, an honor reserved for the top publications. The GLHS Science Olympiad Team placed in the top 10 regionally, and competed in the State Finals in March, while the Robotics Team made history by competing in the National Competition in April after earning third place at States.

The Civil Engineering Club won three awards at NJIT's David Good 3D Bridge Building Competition, including first place overall. In the arts, three students were selected for the prestigious 2026 Union County Teen Arts Touring Exhibit. Students also enjoyed a Sports Assembly celebrating the season and recognizing the dedication of student-athletes, and Student-Athletes were inducted into the Athletic Honor Society.

