



# MANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

410 Brooks Boulevard  
Manville, New Jersey 08835

*Anne R. Facendo*  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
*Phone (908) 231-8500 x8545*  
*Fax (908) 707-3963*

*Kimberly A. Clelland*  
*Business Administrator /Board Secretary*  
*Phone (908) 231-8500 X 8504*  
*Fax (908) 704-0510*

## **Family and Community Update –November / December, 2014**

### **Greetings to All of Our Families and Friends of the Manville Public School District!**

We have many exciting things happening in our schools and are very proud to share them with you in this November / December Update for the Manville Public School District. Here are some of the highlights:

**Annual Goals Passed by Manville Board of Education:** A Key Goal of the Manville Public School District is to ensure that **ALL** students are ready for College **AND** Career upon graduation from Manville. This means that students need to be able to read, write, speak, listen, problem solve, use technology, and be prepared both mathematically and scientifically in order to join the workforce of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

In order to achieve this goal, it is critical for our teachers and administrators in the district to have the professional tools, strategies, and research-based development needed to address each area of learning. It is also critical that our students receive the support that they need in terms of smaller class sizes, tech-ready classrooms, literacy and math support at every grade level, and opportunities to connect with colleges and companies beyond the school district.

Towards this end, the Manville Board of Education, Superintendent, and Business Administrator of the district meet annually to review research in education; to analyze funding; and to set long and short-term goals to ensure the success of our students.

The following goals were approved by the Manville Board of Education at its Regular Voting Meeting on December 16, 2014:

#### ➤ **Manville School District Goals for the 2014- 2015 School Year:**

- Analyze all personnel/certification/job descriptions, administrative capacity, scheduling, building space, impact of FEMA flood buyout, and use of technology to maximize personnel hours.
- Create a Cost-Saving Action Plan/Possible Redistricting/Possible Referendum.

- Improve Professional Development for instructional staff through research-based “Best Practices”.
- **Manville Board of Education Goal for the 2014 -2015 School Year:**
- The members of the Manville Board of Education will reframe the District “Brand” and the Mission Statement.

We will keep the Manville Community apprised of progress on each of these goals going forward.

**Fred Carrigg Visits Manville Public School District:** Noted Literacy Expert, Mr. Fred Carrigg, visited our district on Tuesday, December 2nd. Mr. Carrigg is the former Assistant to the Commissioner of the NJDOE for the Office of Literacy. He served nationally on the Carnegie Commission as an advisory for LAL. He has also achieved national fame for his work in improving student outcomes for English Language Learners. Several books and articles have been written about his work in turning around the Union City Public Schools, including "In Plain Sight".

Mr. Carrigg spent the day in visits to both Weston and Roosevelt Schools to observe classroom practices and to analyze current student work. He also met with administration to discuss his findings and to make recommendations for improvement. He will be in district again on January 14<sup>th</sup> to work with ABIS and High School staff and students, and to continue visits at Roosevelt School.

**Partnership between Manville Public Schools and Manville Public Library:** The Manville Public Library is a dynamic place, offering upgraded book selections, technology, and more to the families and schools in Manville. Moreover, Manville Public Library has recently received grant monies from the Somerset County Library System to upgrade its floor-plan and more.

Nanette Peterson, Interim Director of Manville Public Library, along with officials from Somerset County Public Library Commission met with the Leadership Team of Manville Public Schools on Wednesday morning, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We discussed multiple avenues for forming a stronger partnership and improving outcomes and services for our students and their parents through the Public Library System. Ms. Peterson and her team also met with Manville Curriculum Director, Dr. Barbara Popp, and with all Media Specialists in district to plan further efforts for the benefit of our students and families. Stay tuned for upcoming information regarding this strong alliance!

**New Jersey Leadership Summit:** All four Manville School Principals, along with Board Members from our Curriculum and Instruction Committee of the Board, joined me on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, in Monroe Township to hear Dr. Bill Daggett speak on emerging

trends in the field of public education. Dr. Daggett is notable because of his work with the Gates Foundation, in which he identified the most rapidly improving 75 schools in the country (25 elementary; 25 middle schools; and 25 high schools). Dr. Daggett has formalized and written about the common practices not only of these schools of excellence, but also of their BOEs of excellence. We are hoping to attend Dr. Daggett's summer conference in 2015 in order to learn more about these best practices and to implement as much as possible here in Manville. Very special thanks to Manville Board of Education members, Mr. Ned Panfile and Mrs. Sharon Liszczak, for giving up an entire day during the busy holiday season to join us at this event!

**Honor Society Inductions:** We are always proud of our Manville Students, and were significantly so during our recent National Honor Society Induction Ceremony and French-Spanish Honor Society Induction Ceremony. More than 40 Manville Students received one or both of these prestigious awards this year.

Calvin Coolidge, the 30<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, is quoted as saying: *"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave..."*

Our Honor Society Students have given much dedication and diligent effort to attain the honors they have received. Their giving embodies the very tenets of the National Honor Society: ***Leadership; Scholarship; Service; and Character.*** We salute our students for their efforts, and it is my honor as the Superintendent of the Manville Public Schools to acknowledge each of the students named to our two Honor Societies.

**Holiday Concert Series:** Our wonderful students of all ages and grade levels have been delighting their audiences with tremendous performances in the Manville School District's Winter Concert Series. Our students have taken the stage and have done a great job with both their speaking parts and their musical renditions of Holiday favorites. Special thanks to our music directors and conductors Mr. Holland, Mr. Longstreet, Mr. Gornick, and Mr. Zampella for their collective efforts. Our concert series draws to a close this coming Thursday evening, December 18<sup>th</sup>, when our ABIS and Manville High School Students perform at the MHS Auditorium. The concert begins at 7PM and all are welcome!!

**Authentic Technology in Manville Classrooms – 2014 Participation in The Hour of Code:** We live in a world surrounded by technology. We know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. Unfortunately, research shows that only a fraction of college students are opting for majors in computer science currently and enrollment in this major is down from just a decade ago. That's why many Manville Classrooms chose to participate in the largest learning event in history: **The Hour of Code**, during *Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 8-14)*. For more information on this unique event, go to: <http://hourofcode.com/us>.

[www.manvilleschools.org](http://www.manvilleschools.org)

Special congratulations to Mr. Nicholas Diaz and his Weston School Staff and to Mr. Bill Kurzius and his Manville High School Students for their amazing efforts and involvement in this unique event.

**A Final Note:** During a recent visit to Manville High School, I noticed that one of the students was wearing a Beatles tee-shirt. A picture of “Fab Four” was on the front of the shirt...and a quote was on the back: “If everyone demanded peace instead of another television set, then there’d be peace.” — John Lennon (1940-1980)

I couldn’t agree more...

Wishing all of our Manville families and friends a safe and enjoyable winter break and holiday season.

Peace on Earth.

**Sincerely,**

Anne Facendo

*Anne R. Facendo, Superintendent  
Manville Public Schools*