

# Brookside School

A MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**The Monroe Public Schools in collaboration with the members of the community shall ensure that all children receive an exemplary education by well-trained committed staff in a safe and orderly environment.**

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

December 2018

Dear Parents,

In what seems like the blink of an eye, we are already into the last month of 2018! We hope that all of our families had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and we want to wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season.

I wanted to thank all of our parents that came in for fall conferences in October. It is always a pleasure to welcome family members into our school, and I thank you for taking the time to meet with your child's teacher. As parents, I encourage you to continue this communication with your child's teacher throughout the school year. We value our partnership with you to support your child. It truly "takes a village!" I wanted to also thank all of our visitors who came for American Education Week in November to spend some time in the classroom. It was very nice to see all of the friendly faces coming through our doors. We also truly appreciate your understanding and cooperation with our new pre-registration procedures that were in place.

Our school wide character reward incentive program is continuing to reward students for following the school rules and being good citizens. Each month we are focusing on one of the following character pillars: Responsibility, Respect, Caring, Trustworthiness, Fairness, Cooperation, Honesty, and Citizenship. Individually, students can earn blue tickets that are put into a container in their classrooms.

At the end of each month, three student names from each class are chosen to receive a reward; some possible rewards include: first in the lunch line, lunch with the assistant principal, basketball with the principal, and lunch with a friend – to name a few. In addition, each homeroom can earn feathers for their falcon posted outside their classrooms. Congratulations to all of our students for working toward displaying positive character traits each and every day!

I wanted to share a few reminders as we move into these colder winter months. We always make every effort to send students outdoors for recess, as weather permits. To that end, please pay careful attention to your child's attire to ensure it is appropriate and sufficiently comfortable for outdoor play. On that note, our lost and found tends to grow this time of year. Please be sure to label any hats, gloves, jackets, and any other personal items with your child's name.

On behalf of our staff, I would like to **thank you for sending us your children** each and every day! They make Brookside such a great place to be. We would like to wish you and your family all the best as we look toward 2019!

Respectfully,



Mr. Antonio J. Pepe  
Principal  
(@AntonioJPepe)

VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT: <http://monroenj.schoolwires.com/Domain/570>  
Follow Brookside happenings on Twitter via the hashtag #WeAreBrookside

## **MAKEUP PICTURE DAY**

The makeup day for pictures is December 4, 2018. Order forms were distributed to new students to Brookside and students that were absent on the original picture day in October. If you would like to have your child's picture retaken on Tuesday, December 4, please send the picture package from the original picture day in with your child on Tuesday. **In addition, group pictures will be taken that day for students that participate in the following activities: TAG, student council, safety patrol, band and chorus.** Additional order forms are available in the main office if you need one.

## **WINTER CONCERT**

The winter concert performance will take place on December 11 at 7 p.m. at the MTMS performing arts center. **On Tuesday, December 11, zero period for advanced band students will be held at the Monroe Township Middle School. Please drop your child off at the Middle School that morning in front of the performing arts center no earlier than 8:30 a.m.** Falcon Care students will be transported from Brookside to the Middle School by bus at 8:15 a.m. Chorus students will be bussed over to the Middle School for rehearsal that morning at approximately 9:30 a.m. **Please remind your child to bring their instruments and music that morning.** Our band and chorus students have been working very hard preparing for their performance and they look forward to performing for you.

Zero Period for advanced band students will resume January 8, 2019. However, fourth and fifth grade chorus students will continue with zero period following the concert as follows: **12/13** – combined 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grades; **12/14** – combined 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grades; **12/17** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade; **12/20** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade; and **12/21** – combined 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grades and then normal schedule in January beginning with 4<sup>th</sup> grade chorus on January 3, 2019.

## **WINTER RECESS**

We have a 4-hour session on Friday, December 21; dismissal is at 1:05 p.m. School's closed from December 24 through January 2, 2019. School re-opens on January 3, 2019. Have a happy and healthy winter recess!

## **CHORUS – NEW STUDENTS**

Any fourth or fifth grade students interested in joining chorus must complete a permission slip and return it to Mrs. Griffin by December 14. Zero period for fifth grade chorus is Monday and Friday mornings and zero period for fourth grade chorus is Thursday and Friday mornings. If your child is interested in joining chorus, please use the link supplied to sign up. For fifth grade students use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/yc99w8ol> and fourth grade students use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8lad6d>.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

In October, Brookside students raised money for Ronald McDonald House. In addition, the students came together to help to those less fortunate. We decided to integrate community service into the classroom and raise awareness of the value of giving. During the month of November, students donated food items so others can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. Local families received the donations. In addition, with the generous food donations received, the extra food collected went to the local organizations working to prevent hunger.

## **STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

As part of our character education program, each month beginning in October, each grade level selects a student that best represents the month's character trait. The students of the month for October who represented the character trait of "responsibility" were Michael Cinque, Gabrielle Siochi, and David Ibrahim. The students of the month for November who represented the character trait of "respect" were Jamil Pompee, Bethel Kiki Lana, and Tyler Gonzalez.

## **REQUESTS FOR HOMEWORK**

Teachers will comply with requests for homework when your child is absent from school due to illness; however, it does take time to collect materials and assignments during the day. Therefore, if you request homework, you should call the main office prior to 10 a.m. and the work will be ready in the afternoon for pick up.

## **MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE, MRS. TALOCKA**

### **REMINDERS:**

Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the cold weather when coming to school. As the temperature can vary throughout the day and in different areas of the building, many students find it helpful to have an extra sweater or sweatshirt that can be used as needed. Outdoor recess and activities will continue throughout the winter and all students are expected to go out. Therefore, coats, hats, and gloves are needed each day. You are welcome to call the school nurse should you have any needs or concerns.

Health screenings are underway and will continue through the winter. Parents will receive a notice only if the screening results are not in the normal range. Please remember to call in absences to the health office at 732-521-1101 menu option 1 to report your child absent. I hope everyone enjoys a healthy and relaxing winter break.

### **PTA**

The PTA has sponsored assemblies for our students. In October, our students saw an assembly called “Be More Awesome.” The students enjoyed the assembly and found it entertaining while learning important lessons. It demonstrated to students the meaning of awesome and ways to be more awesome. It also included topics such as anti-bullying and making healthy choices.

The PTA also held a book fair for our students. The students enjoyed visiting the book fair and shopping for books and other items to enjoy.

The PTA has purchased birthday books for our students. On their birthdays, students come to the office and pick out a book. Thank you to the PTA for making our students’ day special!

### **SUBSTITUTES NEEDED**

We are currently seeking applicants for Substitute Nurses and Substitute Paraprofessionals. Please apply at the Board of Education Central office at 423 Buckelew Avenue in Monroe Township. If you have any questions, please contact Dorothy Domke at 732-521-2111 ext. 5227. The processing hours are from 9-12 and 1-3 p.m.

### **DELAYED OPENING SCHEDULE**

During the winter months due to inclement weather, it may be necessary to have a delayed opening. If there is a scheduled delayed opening, school will start two hours later at 11:05 a.m. Students should report to their bus stops two hours later than their usual time. The students will have lunch on delayed opening days.

### **REMINDER - INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Parents will be notified of school closings and delayed openings due to inclement weather through the District’s Alert Now system. The information will also be available on the TV station “News 12 New Jersey” and the following radio stations:

WCTC & WMGO	1450 AM/98.3 FM	Between 5:40 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
NJ101.5	101.5 FM	Between 5:10 a.m. and 6:10 a.m.
NEWS 12 NEW JERSEY	Morning Edition	Beginning at 5:30 a.m.
FIOS NEWS TELEVISION	501 AND 1 ON VERIZON TV (Click on weather)	

**The district website will have it posted once the decision is made.**

## **EARLY DISMISSAL**

Occasionally, conditions exist which necessitate an early dismissal from school. Deterioration of the weather or facility problems such as loss of water or power may require such action.

Parents: please review the procedure with your child in the event the child arrives home and the parent is not there. If your home, work or cell numbers change, please notify the school immediately. **Please note that if there is an emergency early closing, there are no Basic Skills and TAG classes.**

Parents of students participating in the Monroe Falcon Care Program should have received a handout with information regarding closings. If you have any questions about the Falcon Care Program, please call 732-251-0266.

## **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

I have attached Kindergarten registration information to this newsletter. If you have a child that will start school in the 2019-2020 school year, please refer to the attachment for the dates and times to register. You will need to contact Barclay Brook for a registration packet. If you have any questions, please contact Barclay Brook main office at 732-521-1000.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

December	4	Picture Makeups/Retakes/Group Photos –TAG, Safety Patrol, Student Council, Band and Chorus
	5	Grade 4 Colonial Day
	6-7	PTA Holiday Shop
	11	Grade 3 - First Trimester Ends/Grade 5 Assembly “Ways of Water”/Winter Concert Rehearsal/Zero Period for Advanced Band students held at the MTMS Performing Arts Center @ 8:30 am Winter Concert Performance @ 7 pm – MTMS Performing Arts Center Nominations are due for Governor’s Awards (Teacher of the Year/Educational Services Professional of the year) to the Main Office
	12	Winter Concert Student Assembly @ 9:30 am – MTMS PAC
	13	Grade 4 Spelling Bee / Grade 5 Spelling Bee
	18	Grade 3 Report Cards available on Parent Access at dismissal
	19	Board of Education Meeting @ 7 pm – MTHS
	21	4-Hour Session/No Lunch Served/Grades 4/5 Progress Reports for MP2
	24-31	Closed for Winter Recess
January	1-2	School’s Closed
	3	School Re-opens/No TAG Classes/ Board of Education Meeting @ 7 pm
	10	Grade 4 Geographic Classroom Bees/PTA Meeting @ 10 am - BBS
	11	Grade 5 Geographic Classroom Bees
	14-17	No Basic Skills for Students
	15	Tie Breaker Round of Geography Bee if needed/Grade 3 Student Assembly “Your Alien” - BBS
	16-17	Basic Skills Conferences / No Classes for Students
	17	School wide Spelling Bee
	18	4-Hour Session Day for Students/Staff In-service
	21	School’s Closed
	24	School wide Geographic Bee
	29	Grades 4/5 Student Assembly “Laura Ingalls Wilder” - BES
February	4	Grades 4/5 MP2 Ends/PTA Meeting @ 7 pm - BES
	8	PTA Cultural Fair
	11	Grades 4/5 Report Cards available through Parent Access at dismissal
	15	School’s Closed for Students / Staff In-service
	18	School’s Closed
	19	No TAG classes
	20-22	4-Hour Session Days
	20-21	Parent/Teacher Conferences
	21	Brookside Evening Conferences
	25	Student Assembly “Black History Laser Tribute” – All grades

# 2018-2019 Kindergarten Registration

## Monroe Township Public Schools

To register for Kindergarten your child must be five (5) years of age by October 31, 2018.

**ONLY** a parent or legal guardian can register their child.

**The following documents are necessary for registration:**

- Child's original Birth Certificate
- Current Physical Form & Immunization Record signed and dated by the Doctor
- Proof of residency – **4 forms required** – Deed, Tax Bill, Closing Disclosure or Lease **AND** three (3) current Utility Bills
  - Residing with another family – They need to provide proof of residency and accompany you to the registration.
  - Sales Contract to purchase a home in Monroe Township with a closing date on or before October 31, 2018 is acceptable
- IEP or 504 (if child has one)
- Custody papers, proof of legal guardianship papers, foster parent papers, adoption papers (if applicable)

**Contact your area school below to obtain the Registration Packet**

**Fill out and bring the Registration Packet with you to registration**

**Oak Tree Elementary School – February 26 & 27**

Kindergarten registration for Oak Tree Elementary area residents will be held at the Oak Tree Elementary School

226 Applegarth Road, Monroe Township, NJ. **Call (609) 655-7642 to receive the Registration Packet.**

<b><u>Last names beginning</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>
A – G	Monday, February 26	9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
H – M	Monday, February 26	1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.
N – R	Tuesday, February 27	9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
S – Z	Tuesday, February 27	1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

**Mill Lake School – March 6 & 7**

Kindergarten registration for Mill Lake area residents will be held at the Mill Lake School.

115 Monmouth Road, Monroe Township, NJ. **Call (732) 251-5336 to receive the Registration Packet.**

<b><u>Last names beginning</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>
A – G	Tuesday, March 6	9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
H – M	Tuesday, March 6	1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.
N – R	Wednesday, March 7	9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
S – Z	Wednesday, March 7	1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

**Barclay Brook School – March 14 & 15**

Kindergarten registration for Barclay Brook area residents will be held at the Barclay Brook School,

358 Buckelew Avenue, Monroe Township, NJ. **Call (732) 521-1000 to receive the Registration Packet.**

<b><u>Last names beginning</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>
A – G	Wednesday, March 14	9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
H – M	Wednesday, March 14	1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.
N – R	Thursday, March 15	9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
S – Z	Thursday, March 15	1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Questions regarding which school your child should attend, call Central Registration 609-642-6128 ext. 4013

**Please share this information with any friend or neighbor having Kindergarten age children who reside in Monroe Township. (OVER)**

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR STUDENTS**

Each student entering the Monroe Township Public Schools for the first time is required by law (Public law 18A:40-4) to have a physical examination prior to entry into school. This examination must be completed no more than 365 days prior to the first day of attendance. Signed documentation of the examination by the student's physician must be submitted to the school nurse. If you have a problem complying with this health mandate, please contact your school nurse. Children without physical examinations will not be permitted to enroll.

Additionally, state law mandates that your child will not be allowed to attend school in September 2018 without proof of completed immunizations with a doctor's signature. The attached information regarding immunization requirements for pupils in schools has been taken in part from the NJ Department of Health and Senior Service bulletin dated December, 2000. If you have any questions regarding the attached immunization requirements, please contact your pediatrician or call the school nurse at the school your child will be attending. Even though all needed immunizations may not be given at the time of registration, please bring a record of those immunizations received up until that date. (New immunization information can be shared with the nurse until August 31. All immunizations should be completed by that time.)

Barclay Brook School Nurse (732) 521-1000

Mill Lake School Nurse (732) 251-5336

Oak Tree School Nurse (609) 655-7642