

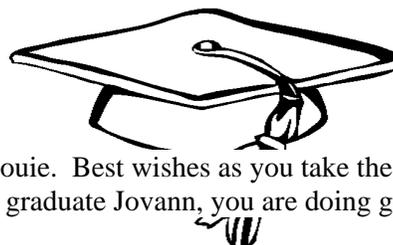
REGIONAL DAY SCHOOL

ESC of Morris County

SPRING NEWSLETTER – June 2015

Principally Speaking.....

Hello Everyone,



Congratulations to our High School Graduates Angela, Oliver, & Louie. Best wishes as you take the next step in Life's Journey. We would also like to congratulate our 8th grade graduate Jovann, you are doing great!

This is the one of the busiest time of year with graduation, field trips, field day, our Awards Assembly, our Spotlight Talent Show, and planning for our Extended School Year and September 2015.

I am so proud of the progress that our students have made this year. Our magnificent staff has worked so hard to help each student reach his or her potential; both physically and cognitively.

It's fantastic that so many of our families were able to celebrate and participate in our events. A strong partnership between home and school fosters greater success for our students. Thank you for all you do to support your child's education.

Three exceptional women will be retiring at the end of June; Liz Pentz, Meryl Varney, and Claudia Welsh. It has been a real pleasure working with and learning from all of you. We all wish you luck in your new endeavors. In fact, if we get lonely for you we will take field trips to your houses. If there's a big school bus in your driveway, it's us!!!!



And finally, to all of our RDS families thank you for sharing your amazing children with us. We feel incredibly fortunate to be able to work with them every day and wish all of you a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Elaine L. Goodman, Principal
egoodman@escmorris.com 973-539-9630

Extended School Year information:
Wednesday, July 1 to Friday, August 7.
8:30 AM -- 12:30 PM

Please send in a lunch with your child, the cafeteria will not be open.
Your school district will be making the transportation arrangements.

Ms. Becky Guerci -- Yellow 3

Wow, another year has come and gone—where does time go? We were happy to say goodbye to the long winter. In order to speed up the process, we observed Hoodie Hoo Day on February 20; we made signs and noisemakers to scare winter away, while shouting “Hoodie Hoo!” Three times.

We have taken several field trips. At Heaven Hill Farm each student planted a marigold to be used as a Mother’s Day gift. Following a unit on the Rainforest, we visited the Rainforest Café for lunch; Sheniellys loved it when the elephant “came to life” and made his trumpeting noise. On the Shrine Circus trip, Stevie liked the animals and the acrobats best.

We learned a bit about America’s favorite pastime in preparation for our trip to see the Somerset Patriots baseball game and to play a game of our own at Central Park of Morris County. Steven did a great job at bat and even stole second base!

Some of our students have been participating in the swimming program on Tuesdays. Luis has made a great improvement in adapting to the larger swimming pool.



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For the Spotlight Show this year, we are combining with students in Yellow 1 to perform two songs. One of the songs is a kid-friendly rap song about verbs. Kiara is helping to lead the first verse with clapping. Stevie and Luis are showing off their jumping skills, while Steven, Sheniellys, and Danisha are taking care of the verse about shaking.

So, here’s to the end of another year & to a wonderful summer!



Ms. Robin McNelis – Blue 4

We have been very busy in Blue 4 for the second half of the year. It seems like only yesterday we were looking out the window as the snow came down and complaining about the cold. Through it all, we still had fun times-a New Year's Eve party with noise makers, a Valentine's Dance with red hearts all over, and even a Chinese New Year with florescent Chinese dragons and rice for all to taste. Although we doubted it, spring did finally show up.

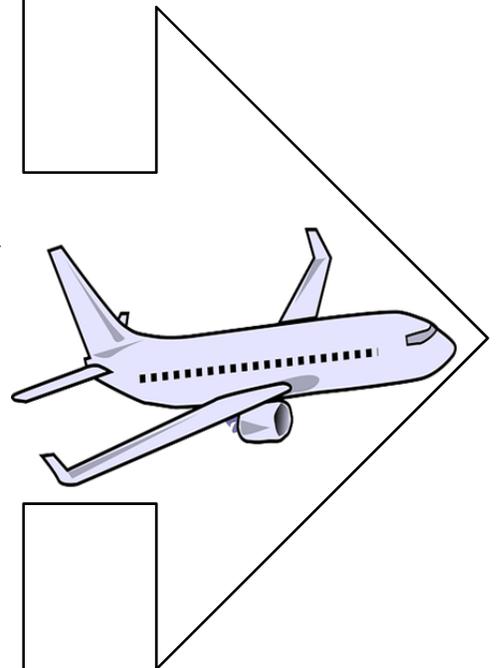
We all took turns hosting a chosen "Theme Week" celebration for the rest of the school. Our theme was "Disney". We learned about Walt Disney and how he created Mickey Mouse. Then the whole school got a chance to make their own mouse ears, see pictures taken at Disney World, and eat Mickey Mouse cupcakes made with Oreo ears.

For Cinco de Mayo, Blue 3 & 4 made delicious salsa from scratch that Akshay enjoyed trying now that he is becoming an expert at tasting new things. Akshay also made a beautiful Hershey's Kiss rose bud for Mom on Mother's Day. When we went to Ikea, Ely was fascinated by the airplanes she could watch out of the window at lunchtime, so you can imagine how excited she was on our field trip to Newark Liberty Airport a few weeks later. We do not want to forget to thank Ely's Mom and sister and Angelina's Mom for attending our Utterly Elegant Tea Party. Both girls were thrilled that you were there.

During class time we have been continuing with everyday activities such as Circle where Angelina does a great job when she is our meteorologist and tells us all about the day's weather. Recently, we worked on an Insect Book where we learned that insects have three body parts, six legs, and antennae.

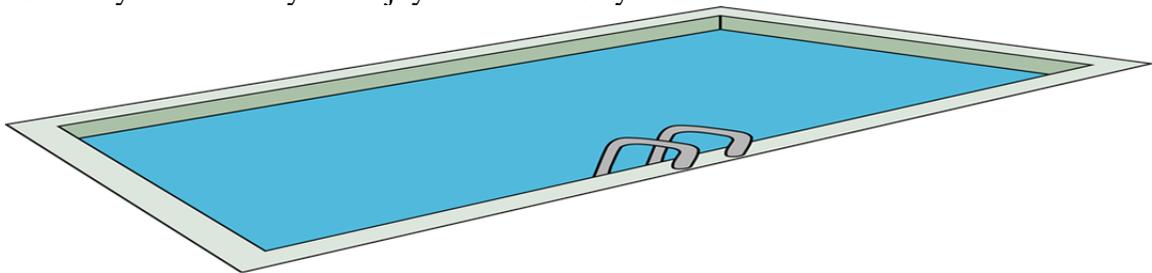
Field Day was a very special day for everyone. Jovann loved going from one fun activity to another-so much to do and look at-it was hard to know which way to go first. Justin also loved Field Day. He thought the food was great and that beautiful smile stayed on his face the whole time. Father's Day came right before school ended, but we made sure that our gifts were done in time. Justin worked very hard mixing all the ingredients to make Dad a special present.

Lastly, we want to congratulate our high school graduates; Louie, Angela, and Oliver and wish them the best of everything. We also want to congratulate our own Jovann on his eighth grade graduation-we are very proud of you! We hope everyone has a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in September.



Mr. Stephen Eisenhardt – Occupational Therapist

The therapy department had a wonderful year with the Therapeutic Swimming program. It was a great opportunity for students to move around in the water with greater ease due to the buoyancy it provides. Swimming allows the therapists to work on gross motor activities including strengthening and stretching exercises to enhance what we do within the regular school environment. Positioning the students is much easier in the water along with being able to keep the balance of students who normally cannot stand on their own. Students also love the sensation the water provides and the socialization opportunity. The baby pool was very useful for some of the smaller children; it is less intimidating to them, allowing them to move around the water comfortably. The therapeutic swim is a big part of our program throughout the school year and everyone enjoyed it immensely.



Mrs. Lynn Fiore -- Occupational Therapist

The warmer weather has allowed the OT/PT Garden Club to begin planting outdoors. The student members, Elizabeth and Tiffany, have been busy transplanting herbs and many flowering plants that have grown from seeds started this past winter.

Many students have had fun interacting with computer games using our touch screens, adapted switches and the Wii. Sean and Renee have shown a lot of improvement in these areas.

The sensory room is also a popular place to visit and interact with various tactile and visual media.

Congratulations to our graduates and have a great summer!



Mr. John Lucas -- Vocational Education

We have had a great year in Vocational Education. All of the classes have been participating in all or some of the following activities at some point during the school year. Assembling projects for Color a Smile, Weichert Realtors mailings, and Morris View Health Facilities, where each month we make 60 cards to be distributed to patients.

Each day a class assembles the "Breakfast Cart" and takes it around the school to sell various items. The classes have helped with the Holiday Store and several students help put away the chairs each week after Music Assembly. Two students go out to work at The Sports Page in Morris Plains to help assemble packets of sports cards to be distributed by the Boy Scouts at Memorial Day. It has been a busy year and thanks to everyone's help in making it a successful one.

Mrs. Jennifer Dussault -- Activities of Daily Living

Hello from Activities of Daily Living. We have had another wonderful winter and spring and have kept busy doing lots of different activities.

In the Yellow Community we have been working on the recognition of cooking utensils and tools that we use weekly when we cook. We also worked hard learning how to recognize new foods. Yellow 3 was able to go to the supermarket and look for the food items we have been working on. We had fun shopping and buying the items. We then ate in the new food court which was enjoyed by all.

In the Blue and Ocean communities, we worked on recognizing the items in the house and their function. Blue 3 and Ocean 4 were able to go to IKEA and "window shop" for the furniture that they liked for all of the different rooms in the house. We have some aspiring decorators in the group! Blue 4 and Ocean 2 read the book "Pancakes, Pancakes" by Eric Carle where they learned how wheat is ground into flour. We then went to the Cooper Grist Mill in Chester, N.J. and were able to see this process in action. Back at school we took the flour that was ground for us and made it into delicious pancakes.

Have a very safe and happy summer. I can't wait to see everyone back at school in September.

Mrs. Diane Lange -- Ocean 2

Greetings to you from the students in Ocean-2!

Abi, Josie, Renee, Sean and Tiffany have had a wonderful year of learning, friendship and many activities. A highlight of our year was our unit on the people, culture and landmarks of Greece culminating in a celebration of the region on the 100th Day of School. We hope you had the chance to stop by and see our display!

The students in Ocean-2 have had a delightful spring! They have enjoyed spending time outdoors including field trips to Simons Park on a beautiful day and Somerset Patriot's Stadium. They thoroughly enjoyed RDS Field Day as well. Sean rode on the trackless train many times and Renee enjoyed the music! Another wonderful outdoor trip was to the Grist Mill. We saw the old way that pancakes were made! We also enjoyed a picnic lunch and Josie enjoyed the beautiful surroundings! And finally, another great field trip that we experienced was to Space Farms Zoo where we explored the wide-open grounds and saw many animals including six ring-tailed lemurs! Abigail was delighted with the sounds they made!



And.....speaking of lemurs, did you know that the Ocean Community completed a unit on Madagascar, an island off the coast of Africa where these creatures live? Some of them like to swing from tree branch to tree branch, jump and dance! Others eat bamboo! We learned that there are many different species of lemurs and they are in danger of becoming extinct. We decided to have a popcorn sale to raise some money for a donation to help "Save the Lemur." We watched a movie "Island of

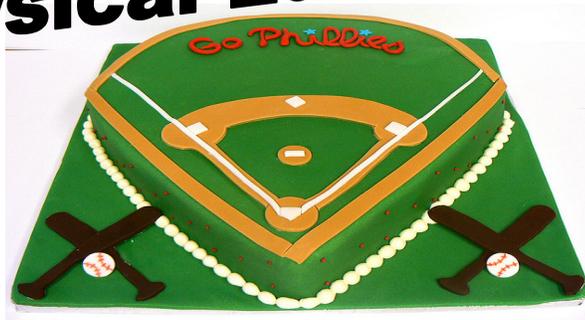
Lemurs" about these endangered creatures. We also contacted the scientist who was in the movie, Dr. Patricia Wright and she has agreed to let our school "adopt" one of the lemurs she is studying! After a school-wide poll, Tiffany announced that we picked a "sifaka" lemur to adopt. We can't wait to hear more about our lemur! We will keep you posted on our new Facebook page!

One last note.....if you happened to hear music in the halls on a Monday morning, that was the RDS Marching Band Club! We have had a good year marching to different songs such as 76 Trombones, YMCA, When the Saints Come Marchin' in, You're a Grand Old Flag and Surfin' USA! We have had a wonderful year in Ocean-2! Along with our wonderful personal aides, Fran and Amanda, we wish you all a happy and healthy summer!

Mrs. Randi Botwinick -- SpeechTherapist

"Speaking of Spring" is what we say in the Speech Therapy room this Season! We have been having a wonderful time teaching the students all about spring. We have used activities on the iPad to learn new vocabulary and to answer Wh (Who, What, Where) types of questions. The students have enjoyed matching and memory picture games, making Earth Day related posters, and cards for Mother's Day. The children used a variety of assistive technologies to complete these activities. These included the use of the iPad and computer. We were very excited to go on some great field trips which reinforced the students' language learning and social skill development. We went to a local park and the children played, explored, and enjoyed eating their lunches in a new place. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting summer program. As always, thank you for sharing your children with us. We continue to learn from one another.

Physical Education



Mr. Chris Caffrey

Greetings to all!! We hope everyone is ready for a fun-filled summer. The students have had a very busy spring in Physical Education. We have continued to work on hand-eye coordination and movement skills throughout the year. Various sports activities include adapted beach ball volleyball, bocce ball, and Tee-ball. Some of the students' favorite activities include the bolster swings in the Play Zone, as well as riding the adapted tricycles outside in the beautiful spring weather. The students are also looking forward to our field trip to Morris Central Park to utilize the adapted playground and baseball field.

I would like to congratulate all the students on their successes, and thank all the parents for their dedicated support. Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to the upcoming events and activities.

Mrs. Karen Carbone -- Physical Therapist

As another school year comes to a close, I would like to praise and thank all of the students for their hard work in PT each and every day. You have achieved so many of your set goals this year including: independently pedaling the adaptive tricycle, walking the length of the hall in the gait trainer, climbing the stairs, swimming the length of the pool during Therapeutic Swim, independently watering the plants and dancing and singing to all the Wii Dance songs.

I would also like to thank all of our wonderful and dedicated teachers, personal aides, nurses and administration who help to make every day a fun and exciting learning experience for all of us at Regional Day School.

A special shout out to our 2015 graduates: Angela, Oliver & Louie. Congratulations and the best of luck to each of you as you begin the next phase of your life! I will miss your beautiful smiles and warm greetings each day. Wishing all staff and students a safe and fun summer!

Mr. Jeff Mason -- Art

CREATURES MADE

Creatures made of late
Insects they do abound
Lifeless is their state
Decorations round
Bees and ants and ladybugs
From paper crafted there
In spring they do enrapture us
We swat and stamp and stare
They seem to all belong inside
Our latest large collage
A steamy pond with lilies round
A colorful homage
To Claude Monet whose Father would
Prefer he be a grocer
His paintings still their looking good
Provoke us to look closer



Artist: Claude Monet
Style: Impressionism

Completion Date: 1916
Series: Water Lilies

Mrs. Claudia Welsh -- Yellow 1



It is hard to believe that another school year is coming to an end and ESY will be beginning shortly. The four students in Y-1 have been growing by leaps and bounds before our very eyes. They have been growing not just physically but also educationally.

We went to the Rainforest (Café) and saw monkeys, elephants and all kinds of exotic birds. Jose loved hearing the sounds of the jungle and feeling the thunder shake and rumble. Bassem was all about making the sounds of the animals and laughing after every one.

Right before Mother's Day we spent the day at Heaven Hill farm where we each got to dig in the dirt and plant flowers. That gave us the inspiration for the gifts that we made for the moms. We even went on a hayride around the farm so we could see where the animals lived.

Madison loved looking up at the lights and the motorcyclists at the Shriner's Circus. We had front row seats and had a great time watching the tigers and dogs perform all of their amazing tricks.

Our last trip of the year was a beautiful day at Central Park (not New York) where Francis loved playing baseball and running the bases. This is a beautiful, handicapped accessible playground located right around the corner from RDS. It is located on the Greystone campus. There are ball fields, skating rinks and all kinds of activities .You should take a ride through and see. It was so much fun.

We have had visitors of all ages who are so impressed at the great job the students do working in the classroom. I am proud of each and every one of the students who continue to surprise and amaze every day of the year.

Mrs. Amy Rufino -- Speech Therapist

Spring got off to a great start this year in Speech. Students in all of the learning communities helped color, paint, and decorate large communication symbols for our department's bulletin board in the hallway. While decorating these symbols, students learned vocabulary words for the spring season and then enjoyed looking for them in the hallway as they passed by. Students continued learning new vocabulary for spring activities through hands-on activities. The iPad was a fantastic tool for teaching language. By programming current vocabulary into the Proloquo2Go app, it allowed students to increase their participation in conversation and answer questions.

Students in a small group of Blue 4 and Ocean 2 students enjoyed playing a Fishing for Phonics game. They used a magnetic fishing pole to fish for letters which they matched to words beginning with those letter sounds. This game was a hit and we expanded it to fishing for other vocabulary cards and even small objects! Students using more advanced augmentative communication techniques such as switch scanning continue to enjoy the Bluetooth Switch Adapter purchased last year by the RDS PTA. This switch adapter allows the iPad to be controlled by a head or hand switch. Students enjoyed apps such as "Splat the Clown" and "Pirate Treasure".

Field trips in the spring have given students great opportunities to practice social and community awareness skills. Students in the Ocean Learning Community recently visited the Rainforest Café. Students were able to use a picture menu to make choices and practiced good social skills while dining with their peers. Students also enjoyed looking at and listening to the animals and sounds of the rainforest.

Students in the Blue learning community visited Newark Airport. They also practiced good safety and community awareness skills while staying together with the group on a tour and traveling to a terminal for lunch on an airport bus. Students were able to observe the airport up close and all listened attentively to their tour guide.



Mrs. Meryl Varney -- Blue 3 On the Move

The year has gone by so quickly and we have gone so many places. In January we went to see the movie "Paddington" and it was great. Louie and Qawdirah watched with wide eyes when the loveable Paddington Bear came to life. In February we celebrated the 100th Day of School by learning about the country of Greece and making a beautiful Greek house. Estefania, David, Alex and Oliver tore paper to look like stone that covered the outside of the house. All of the classes' houses were put on display like a Greek town. Ms. Diane's and Ms. Deb's classes treated us with Greek dancing and Greek food. It was a special afternoon.

In March we started making our invitations for the Utterly Elegant Tea Party. We voted on making a Teapot as our invitation pattern. Alex and Oliver painted the teapots pink. Louie and Qawdirah counted how many invitations were going to each class to decorate and the classes did a fantastic job. Nicky, David, Estefania worked in an assembly line to assemble the invitations. We all counted the YES and NO responses. Ms. Virginia taught Blue 3 & 4 how to make beautiful flowers, for the centerpieces, which were displayed in china teapots and pitchers. Even the Girl Scouts helped! Alex and Mr. Harry made the butterfly place cards on the Ellison machine. The glass terrarium favors were beautiful. Ms. Elaine helped us collect the jars by eating lots of spaghetti sauce! Ms. Jen and the class made delicious loaf cakes, David's favorite task! Alex emptied the mixture into a bowl, and used a head switch to operate a mixing wheel. The school's OT and PT students helped decorate the gym and tied the raffia on the jars. Everyone helped set the tables. Mr. Darren played beautiful music and it was truly an "Utterly Elegant Tea Party."



TRIPS---Our trip to Pet Smart was one of the highlights of the year. David liked seeing all the fish and Alex saw a Guinea pig up close and personal. Nicky liked the frogs the best, Estefania liked the cats, and Louie, Qawdirah and Oliver were so excited to see the dogs being groomed. All the students liked having lunch at the Food Court. Costco with Mr. John is always a fun trip especially when we can help buy items for the school's Breakfast Cart. Oliver and Louie really like the pizza for lunch! We also went to Ikea. We sat on the sofas, looked at appliances for the kitchen and learned about sheets for different beds. Mr. Steve helped Qawdirah and Nicky pick out a blue star that lights up, for the sensory room. Bowling was fun. Estefania pushed the ball down the ramp using two hands! Louie and Oliver rolled the ball down the lane and there were strikes by Nicky and Alex. Also, Mr. Chris' field trip to the new adaptive playground was a hit with all of us!

We went with B4 to the Newark Liberty International Airport which was so interesting and fun! We saw model airplanes which Alex and Oliver really liked. We went into the Control Room where the entire Airport is monitored. We saw where President Obama's plane lands and also saw fire trucks that put out airplane fires. We had lunch in the terminal, yum!!!!

Community Service is very important in B3, and during Vocational Education we pick up the recycling from the classrooms and bring it to the recycling plant at the end of Jean St. B3 also makes cookies for the staff to collect money for one of our students who is in the hospital in New York.

Graduation is always exciting with three graduates this year; Angela and our classmates Oliver and Louie. They have all become a part of the RDS family and we wish them the best.

The B3 staff and students wish the RDS staff and families a Wonderful Summer!

Mrs. Debbie Vetsas -- Ocean 3

Ocean 3 has had a really great school year! We got to experience and learn so much! We also took so many fabulous trips during the year. Swimming was a big hit! Brandon and Ryan were like fish in the water and looked forward to swimming every week. Jessica enjoyed relaxing and stretching in the water. We also went to Central Park in Morris Plains and play a baseball game against our friends. Ryan really hit the ball. Jessica loved "running" the bases really fast with Mr. Steve! After the game we go to walk over to a nice playground. Danny liked the slide and Jessica enjoyed going on the wheelchair swing. Then we enjoyed a nice lunch under the tent.



We learned all about Lemurs in the spring. We even adopted one in Madagascar! The whole school voted and decided which one to adopt. As part of our unit, we went to Space Farms to see the Lemurs they had there. They were talking to all of us and were very friendly. We saw other animals too. JayQuari liked watching the bears, Danny enjoyed the monkeys, and Ryan was laughing at the lemurs. We go to eat lunch by the lake. While we ate lunch Brandon watched the bears nearby. We also got to go to the Rainforest Café to see where the lemurs live. Danny and Brandon really enjoyed the food. Jessica enjoyed watching the storms that we saw while we were there. Ryan liked looking at all the animals they had there. It was a great lunch! For our spotlight show we are performing a number for the lemurs to help save them and raise awareness for this endangered species.



Our unit on Greece was great! Our 100th day celebration was really fun. We all worked hard learning Greek dances, making and tasting Greek food, and learning about the land. You can see our two Greek dances at the Spotlight show! We sampled some great Greek food at the Jefferson Diner at the end of our unit.



We hope everyone has a great summer! See you in summer school!