

FORT LEE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



FORT LEE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Ms. Haquisha Q. Taylor
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Ms. Jaime Cangialosi-Murphy
Director of Human Resources

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE: GOVERNOR HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE AT FLHS:

On Monday, March 18, NJ Governor Phil Murphy held a press conference in Fort Lee High School's Media Center. Governor Murphy and other elected officials present discussed school funding and the increases in school aid received by many New Jersey school districts. The Fort Lee School District will receive the benefits of a proposed 12% increase in state aid for the 2019-20 school year. This increase in revenue will impact the district by addressing some of the needed expenses associated with the opening of the LFCMS addition. In the photo with Governor Murphy are FLHS Principal Lauren Glynn, Mayor Mark Sokolich, Congressman Bill Pascrell, Commissioner of Education Lamont Repollet and Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco. The press conference can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZ-Sl3zdXYk>.



2018-19 Governor's Educators of the Year



The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) aims to recognize educators and encourage them to become champions for education and advocates for students and teachers. Honoring exemplary teachers and educational-services professionals promotes a culture that recognizes excellence, creates a sense of pride, and brings public attention to the work of outstanding educators. The Governor's Educators of the Year (GEOY) recipients were presented with plaques at the public Board meeting held on Monday, March 18 at Lewis F. Cole Middle School in recognition of their outstanding educational service supporting the students of Fort Lee Public Schools.

2018-19 Governor's Educator of the Year (GEOY) Nominees		
School No. 1	Jill Purritano	Teacher, Grade 4
	Mary Vincenti	Paraprofessional
School No. 2	Jessica Tomarchio	Kindergarten Teacher
	Tara Deady	Smart Readers/Teacher Grades 1 & 2
School No. 3	Dana DeLucca	Resource Room Reading & Language Arts Teacher, Grades 1-5
	Dawn Ohrnberger	Paraprofessional
School No. 4	Mary Rizzo	Teacher, Grade 3
	Genia Alabugina	Paraprofessional
Middle School	Priscilla Yoon	Language Arts Teacher, Grade 7
	Holly Alasio	School Nurse
High School	Diego Lombardo	Physical Education Teacher
	Tara Lawlor	Guidance Counselor

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**1/22/19**

On Monday, January 22, 2019, the public meeting of the Fort Lee Board of Education was held at School No. 1. Mr. Rota had the pleasure of introducing Principal Giacomelli. Mrs. Giacomelli introduced the 6th grade Science teacher, Ms. Minutola, and her students who did a presentation and talked about some S.T.E.M. activities that they're doing and how they bring it from the classroom and out into another venue and back into the classroom.

Mrs. Tuck shared that on Sunday, January 6th School No. 4 students participated in a Day of Service in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King – 35 kids came out for the event. Mrs. Han Silver commended Ms. Colbath for being nominated for the Bergen County School Board Association's Executive Committee. Mrs. Han Silver also commended Ms. Cho for getting involved with the New Jersey School Board Association's Non-College Bound Learner's Task Force.

2/4/19

The public meeting of the Fort Lee Board of Education was held at School No. 2 on Monday, February 4, 2019. Mr. Rota shared that the Board was presented with the School Safety Data System (SSDS Report) for the 1st period (July 1st to the end of 2018). Mr. Rota had the pleasure of introducing Principal Brennan. Mr. Brennan introduced a select choir of young ladies who performed two (2) selections. These young ladies had to try out and practice after school with the Music teacher, Ms. McMahon. They performed in the Winter Concert and did an awesome job. Ms. Colbath thanked Mr. Rota and the school Board for approving her participation at the National School Boards Association Convention in Washington. Ms. Colbath highly recommends other members on going next year. It was an opportunity to meet other State representatives in Washington. Ms. Colbath said it was really well done.

FORT LEE COMPLETES QSAC MONITORING BY THE NJDOE:

The QSAC (Quality Single Accountability Continuum) evaluation took place in the Fort Lee Public Schools on February 20, 2019, which included site visits, document review and meetings with key district administrators. The visiting team focused on monitoring and

evaluating the Fort Lee School District in five key components that have been identified to be key factors in effective school districts. These components are Instruction & Program, Fiscal, Governance, Operations, and Personnel.

Across New Jersey, and in Fort Lee, there is a common vision shared by all educators that all students should have access to a quality education. This is achieved when students have the opportunity to succeed as they advance through each grade and develop the skills and knowledge needed to choose a successful path following high school. Starting last academic year, the district administrative team and members of the QSAC committee have been preparing for the visit. Members of the team worked to analyze, collect and organize documents, reports, data and other evidence to share with the evaluators before and during the visit.

Some of the specific areas of emphasis were as follows:

- A focus on teaching and learning, including an accountability balance for student proficiency and student progress as measured by multiple points of data;
- Continual teacher and school leader professional development;
- A tiered approach to supporting student achievement;
- A district budgeting process aligned to improving student achievement and teacher practice; and
- An improvement to the learning environment, culture and governance that is collaborative, consistent, and predictable.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) in recent years has shifted their monitoring and evaluation emphasis from compliance to assistance, with a focus on capacity-building and improvement. The accountability system consolidates and incorporates the monitoring requirements of applicable state laws and programs and complements federal mandates. The administrative code for NJQSAC requires each district to undergo an evaluation every five years. The district received positive preliminary remarks and feedback following the visit. The final evaluation report is expected in the Spring.

HR/PAYROLL ONSITE DAYS:

These will be HR/Payroll Onsite Days - "Bring Our Services to You" We will be available at each school building to answer and assist with Human Resources and Payroll Questions for district staff.

Here are the dates:

Wednesdays 10 am to 2 pm

March 27, 2019 - School 3

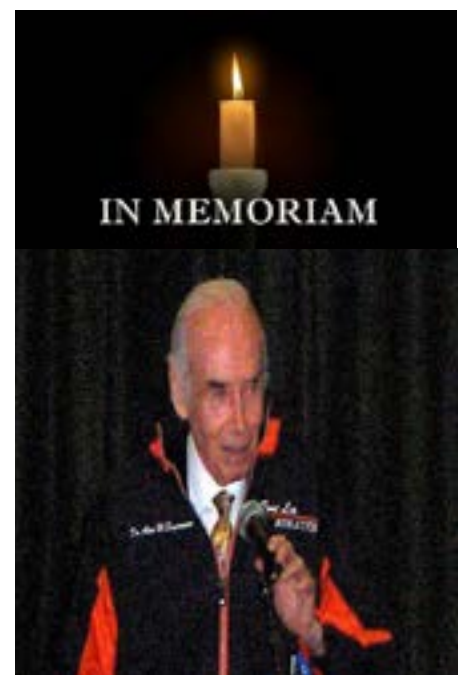
April 3, 2019 - School 1

April 24, 2019 - School 2

May 8, 2019 - Lewis F. Cole Middle School

May 22, 2019 - School 4

June 5, 2019 - Fort Lee High School



Dr. Alan W. Sugarman, age 94, died peacefully on Sunday, March 17, 2019. Dr. Sugarman was a former Superintendent of Schools, who served our District for over 20 years (7/1/1980 - 7/1/2000) and briefly served as an Interim Superintendent in 2005. For those of you who remember, the Fort Lee Board of Education honored Dr. Sugarman at its December 18, 2006 board meeting. During his twenty-year tenure, the Fort Lee School District was recognized throughout New Jersey as a school district that focused on excellence and provided students with an outstanding education. The middle school field was named the Dr. Alan W. Sugarman Sports Complex in honor of Dr. Sugarman's contributions to the school district and to the community of Fort Lee. May he rest in peace.

Athletics News

HALL OF FAME

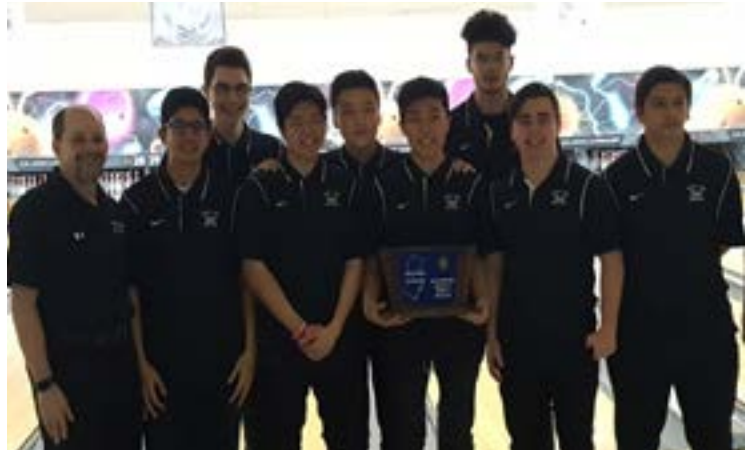
New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association Coaches Hall of Fame announced the selections from Bergen County for 2019. Congratulations to the Fort Lee honorees!

INACTIVE:

Richard Kelly
Fort Lee
Boys' Basketball

ACTIVE:

John Ziemba
Fort Lee/Emerson
Boys' Basketball, Girls' Volleyball



Boys' bowling team poses with the North 1B, Group II State Sectional Championship Trophy. This is Fort Lee's second state sectional championship in three years.



Freshman Alexander Almeyda, Jr. holds up the 113lb bracket at the NJSIAA Region II Tournament at Mt. Olive after clinching the 1st place slot at 113, becoming Fort Lee's first region champion since 1999. Almeyda, Jr. was also named the "Most Outstanding Wrestler" of Region II.



Alex Almeyda, Jr. has his hand raised by the official, signaling he has won the match and with that, the 113 championship at the Region II tournament hosted by Mt. Olive.



Members of the varsity boys indoor track team celebrate winning their fourth consecutive Big North Conference, American Division title at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island, NY.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2019

School No. 4 celebrated Black History Month in a variety of ways. Our ESL program read the biography of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Spanish and English. The students then wrote the famous, "I have a dream" speech, Yo tengo un sueño in Spanish and English. The Kindergarten classes watched BrainPop, Jr. videos on Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, George Washington Carver, and Jackie Robinson. All grade levels read biographies, watched videos, learned about influential people and participated in discussions for Black History Month.

Throughout the month of February, LFCMS celebrated Black History Month by recognizing the accomplishments and influence of one person each school day. The individuals were chosen based on their positive impact towards social justice and American values. A short biography was read each morning during the daily announcements, and various classroom lessons throughout that respective school day focused on this person's life and achievements. Those recognized throughout Black History Month are listed below, and links to biographies of their lives are posted on the middle school's website.

Tuesday, February 5: Harriet Tubman
Wednesday, February 6: George Washington Carver
Thursday, February 7: Nelson Mandela
Friday, February 8: Thurgood Marshall
Monday, February 11: Thomas Mundy Peterson

Wednesday, February 13: Larry Doby
Thursday, February 14: Sheila Oliver
Friday, February 15: Barack Hussein Obama
Wednesday, February 20: Colin Powell
Thursday, February 21: Maya Angelou

Friday, February 22: Black Women in Computer Science
Monday, February 25: Rosa Parks
Tuesday, February 26: Jackie Robinson
Wednesday, February 27: Langston Hughes
Thursday, February 28: Dr. Guion Bluford

On Friday, February 22nd, members of the African American Club at Fort Lee High School celebrated Black History Month. During the assembly students participated in a fashion show, read poetry and sang for the faculty and students in the audience.



Lunar New Year Assembly S#3...



Lunar New Year 2019

School No. 4:

On Friday, February 1, 2019, the School No. 4 PTA hosted a Lunar New Year Celebration Assembly. The event featured a Traditional Dragon Dance with drum music, a Cultural Fashion Show, a Tae Kwon Do demo, a Guzheng Performance(Chinese Traditional String Instrument), and a Kpop Dance Performance.



School No. 4 enjoyed a Kpop Dance performance by ILD/I Love Dance.



Mr.. Ambrosio, Principal and Mrs. Kim, grade 4 teacher, took part in the Lunar New Year Fashion Show by wearing traditional Korean outfits.



During our Lunar New Year celebration, the students enjoyed a Guzheng Performance (Chinese Traditional String Instrument) from CAFC/Chinese American Family Coalition.



School No. 4 students participating in the traditional fashion Show that featured Chinese and Korean outfits.



Students from School No. 4 participated in the Tae Kwon Do demo by United TKD of Fort Lee.

100th Day of School...

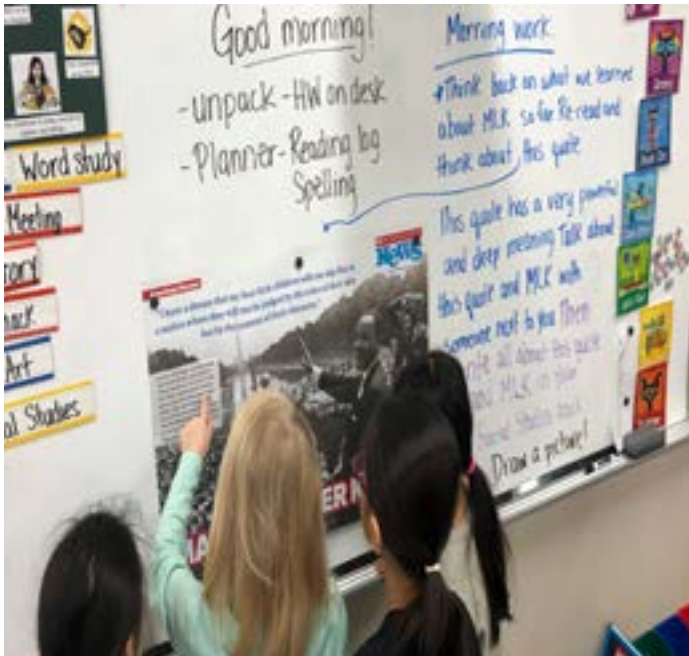
School No. 1:

School No. 1 - For the 100th day of school, 2CM had parent volunteers to help run 100th day activities. The center activities had students participate in 100 different workout moves, create a 100th day crown, complete a challenging math puzzle and race with a partner to fill 10 pepperoni pizzas using their knowledge of skip counting. The students also had to create a picture incorporating the digits 100. 2CM had a blast celebrating the 100th day of school!



School No. 1 - Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Mendoza's grade 2 class are pictured celebrating the 100th day of school.

What's Happening@ S#1...



School No. 1 - Ms. Holman's class studying the powerful words of Martin Luther King Jr. and thinking of ways to carry on the light, love, and peace he wanted for all in our everyday lives.



School No. 1 - Ms. Holman's class thinking outside the box, using crates as reading nooks during independent reading time!



School No. 1 - Ms. Holman's class taking a break to practice mindfulness through guided meditation.



School No. 1 - Ms. Holman's class observing snowflakes with all of their senses to create descriptive writing pieces. Also, observing the change from ice crystals to liquid on the black construction paper is very interesting!

What's Happening at S#2...

School No. 2:

School No. 2 students attended a Lion Dance Assembly in recognition of the Lunar New Year. The students also proudly participated in the Kids Health Heart Challenge and raised over \$2,500 for the American Heart Association. This event was an inspiration to the students in the spirit of helping others, while helping themselves to realize the importance of exercising to lead a healthy lifestyle. Under the leadership of our Music Teacher, Ms. Sarah McMahon, the Select Chorus performed at the public meeting of the Fort Lee Board of Education on Monday, February 4th, accompanied by 1st Grade Teacher, Ms. Clara Min, who played the flute.



School No. 2 students celebrate Lunar New Year with a Lion Dance Assembly.



School No. 2 students raised over \$2,500 for the American Heart Association by participating in the Kids Health Heart Challenge.



School No. 2 celebrates the 100th day of school.



The School No. 2 Select Chorus performs for the Board of Education.

What's Happening at S#3...

School No. 3:

This year, School No. 3 has been focusing on celebrating our wonderfully diverse student population. We have done this through special morning announcements, in which staff and students speak about their customs, culture and traditions. Parents and students also contributed by producing several informational and entertaining assembly programs. To date, we have shared the cultures of our Hispanic, Indian, Korean, Japanese and Chinese populations. Black History month was celebrated by fifth and sixth graders who took a class trip to Bergen PAC to see a production about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. In addition, a variety of class projects were done in which students researched the contributions of famous African Americans.



Students perform at School No. 3 Korean Assembly Program.

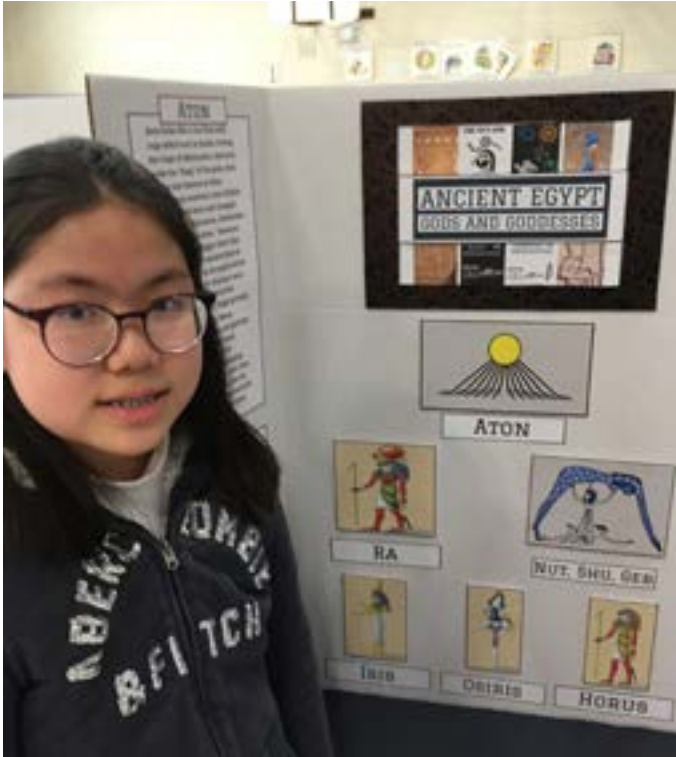


Assembly at School No. 3 introducing Japanese Culture.

Ancient Egypt Museum at S#3...

School No. 3:

As a special class project, our sixth grade classes created an Ancient Egypt Museum at our school. Grades 4 and 5 were invited to look at the exhibits and learn more about ancient Egyptian history from the sixth grade students.



What's Happening @ S#4...

School No. 4:

The SADD Committee's 7th Annual 2019 Project Cicero Book Drive was once again successful. During the four week drive, School No. 4 collected 3,303 books! The books will be donated to needy children in our area!



School No. 4 enjoyed celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday along with Read Across America Week. The entire week was filled with individual classroom reading activities, science experiments, and mystery readers.



Mr. Ambrosio reading the Dr. Seuss Book, "I Could Read with My Eyes Shut", to Ms. Deluca's Kindergarten Class!

What's Happening @ S#4...

School No. 4:

On February 8, 2019, the School No. 4 PTA hosted their annual Daddy-Daughter Dance at the Fort Lee Recreation Center. This semi-formal event has become one of the great events that School No. 4 hosts. This year, nearly 140 adults and Kindergarten through Grade 6 students attended!



Pictured below is the School No. 4 kindergarten team who celebrated the 100th day of school with various activities such as, bringing in 100 items for show and tell, discussing their favorite part of school throughout the 100 days, and building towers with 100 cups.



What's Happening @ LFCMS & FLHS...

PIZZA WITH A PROFESSIONAL: Lara Nikola, Founder and President of Smart Sips Coffee and featured on Shark Tank, came to visit the LFCMS 8th graders on February 27 as part of our Pizza with a Professional series. This allows professionals from the greater community to volunteer their time to come and speak to our students about the preparation and work needed for their respective professions. After the formal presentation, students have the opportunity to eat pizza and ask questions in a less formal setting. This program is in its third year at LFCMS and is headed by 8th grade guidance counselor, Ms. Brigida. Former professionals have included lawyers, doctors, police officers, marketing executives, actors and more.

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS: On Friday, February 22, Mrs. Etra and students from Fort Lee High School's Academy of Theater Arts visited Lewis F. Cole Middle School's physical education and health classes to conduct interactive workshops on improvisational acting. The high school students first performed improvisational skits to showcase this theatrical form. After the demonstration, middle school students were invited to break up into smaller groups to work with the high school students and create their own improvisational skits. The goal of this program is to get our middle school students to become more comfortable with public speaking and to think about participating in the theater program at Fort Lee High School.



Pictured informally chatting and enjoying pizza are (from left to right) Amishi Mittal, Rena Kim, Athena Lau, Ashley Kim and entrepreneur Lara Nikola.



Pictured (from left to right) are Fort Lee High School's Academy of Theater Arts students John Elias Hatcher, David Efraimov, Jillian LoScalzo, Andrea Ferrera and Anna Novak.

What's Happening @ LFCMS...

POSITIVE MESSAGES: Lewis F. Cole Middle School is committed to the social and emotional well-being of our students, and views this as equally important as our academic standards. Part of the mission is to positively improve the mindset of our students who bravely manage peer pressure, low self-esteem, gossip and rumors at the middle school level. Improving the culture and climate encompasses all areas of the middle school building, which includes our student bathrooms. The LFCMS Foreign Language Club and Student Council members, led by Mrs. Francisco and Ms. Reicherz, respectively, worked with our guidance counselors and Assistant Principal Mrs. Ruesga, to send positive messages to our students in the most vulnerable places. Pictured below are the stalls in one of the female bathrooms at LFCMS.



ORCHESTRA DAY: Each school year, the string orchestra ensembles from Lewis F. Cole Middle School and Fort Lee High School get together for "Orchestra Day." This occurred on February 26 and allowed the students to get together to collaborate and perform for each other. The goal is to promote the string orchestra programs at both levels and to encourage our middle school students to continue their string orchestra participation at the high school level. Pictured above are the high school string orchestra students, led by director Mrs. Stephenson, performing for the middle school students in the gymnasium at Lewis F. Cole Middle School.



What's Happening @ FLHS...

Fort Lee High School:**"Girls Who Code"**

Recently, four students from Fort Lee High School (Adriana Cavallo, Haley Lifrieri, Michelle Dominguez, and Mia Tosic) participated in a "Girls Who Code" competition in New York City under the guidance of Computer Science teacher Gary Glebas. The girls are all currently taking Computer Programming C++ Honors taught by Mr. Glebas. At the competition, the girls were given eight programming problems to solve in a two-hour time period, and the two-person team of Adriana Cavallo and Haley Lifrieri **WON THIRD PLACE!** Congratulations to all participants and Mr. Glebas!



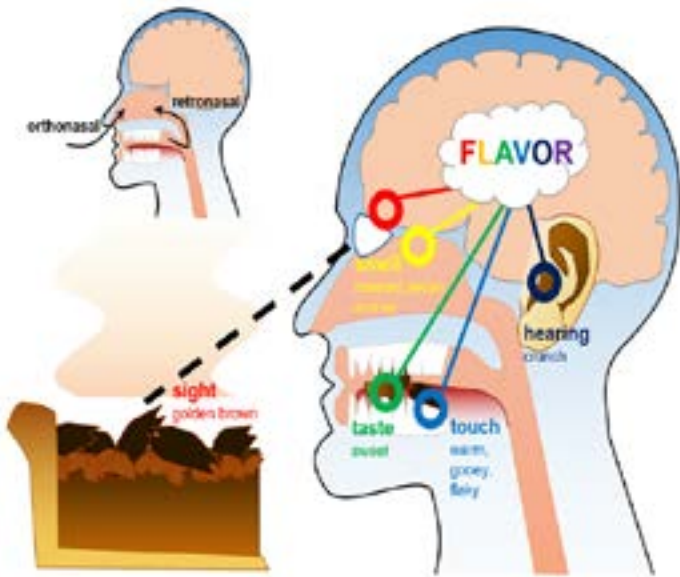
Fort Lee High School students sang at an assembly in celebration of Black History month.



MINDFULNESS PRACTICE OF THE MONTH:**Really taste what you're eating.**

With the taste, textures, and temperature of foods so different, mindful eating is one of the easiest practices. Ask everyone to spend the first few minutes of certain meals silently playing with the food in their mouth, noticing the varied sensations of, say, a spoonful of hot oatmeal topped with fruit, nuts, and cinnamon, or a warm juicy burger and cold mushy bun—with that burst of sweet, liquidy ketchup. Your mind will inevitably run away at some point (to whether bath time will be late today or you forgot to call the dentist...). When you realize you've stopped focusing, simply bring it back

Mindfulness Activities to do as a Family: <https://www.parents.com/fun/activities/5-mindfulness-activities-you-can-do-as-a-family/>

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

Monday, April 1, 2019	Board Meeting (at School No. 3)	7:30 p.m.
Thurs/Fri/Sat, April 4, 5, 6, 2019	HS Spring Production of "Godspell 2012"	7:00 p.m. (Thurs/Fri) 3:00 p.m. (Saturday)
Mon-Thurs, April 15-18, 2019	Spring Recess - SCHOOL CLOSED	
Friday, April 19, 2019	Good Friday - DISTRICT CLOSED	