BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS:
MASTER BOARD MEMBERS
Fort Lee was “in the house” at the Bergen County School Board meeting. Both David Sarnoff and Esther Han Silver were recognized as Master Board Members -- the only 2 receiving the award in Bergen County. Congratulations!!!

ELECTION RESULTS
Board member David Sarnoff did not run for re-election in November and his term will end as of 12/31/18 after 6 years of dedicated service. Our sincere gratitude goes out to Dave for his contribution of displaying an unselfish commitment to our staff, students and programs, exemplifying the ideals of professionalism and maintaining the high standard of excellence.

Esther Han Silver and Holly Morell were re-elected to the Board in the November election and will continue to serve the school community with their knowledge and experience as members of the Board. They will be sworn-in for a 3-year term at the reorganization meeting on Monday, January 7, 2019 along with newly-elected Board member, Kristen Richter. Congratulations and welcome!

REORGANIZATION MEETING
The Reorganization Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fort Lee High School Media Center. At this meeting, the Board will adopt a resolution for the Schedule of Meetings for the 2019 calendar year. It is proposed that some of the Public Board meetings are to be held at other school locations, similar to what was done this year with the intent to make it more convenient for residents to attend a meeting closer to their homes. Upon approval by the Board, the details of the 2019 Schedule of Meetings will be posted on the district website for future reference.
SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE:
During the holiday season we tend to reflect on the year that is coming to a close and I hope that you are able to say that many good things came your way in 2018. This is also a good time to look forward and plan for goals that you may wish to achieve. We are living in a time of exponential change it is important that we know, plan and take steps toward where we would like to be in the future. I wish you a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year!

Gifts of Thanks
The NJ Onnuri Community Church dropped off some fruit baskets for Central Office as a sign of their gratitude during this Thanksgiving season and throughout the entire year.

Student of the FLHS Floral Design Class along with their teacher, Ms. Julieth Colorado, visited Central Office with their beautiful holiday floral arrangements, proudly sharing their festive decorations with the office during the holiday season!

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:
11/5/18
Mr. Rota announced that the Fire and Security Drills are posted on the website as well as the Observance of Respect and School Violence Awareness Report.
Mrs. Romba shared our participation in the 2018 STEAM Tank Challenge – a winning combination of teaching and learning which intentionally promotes real-world problem solving. The Challenge was conducted at this year’s School Boards Conference in Atlantic City. Many Board members and Administrators cheered on the Fort Lee students as they presented an overview of their respective projects to STEAM Tank judges. Mrs. Romba congratulated this year’s participants: Gianni Rakkou, Yeju Lee, Ben Lapin, Kaylyn Chun, Chantal Chau, Yoonseo Choi, Joseph Choi and Joshua Pae, and thanked the teachers who provided leadership to enhance the ingenuity of our student entrepreneurs.

12/13/18
A Special Public Meeting was held on Thursday, December 13, 2018 to the approve the submission of the NJQSAC (New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum) Statement of Assurance (SOA) for 2018-2019 to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Adam Shrager was named the new Head Boys Basketball Coach and Neil Grant the new Head Bowling Coach for the 2018-2019 school year.

Sun Hwang (Golf) signed with Florida Southern University, receiving a full athletic scholarship. Katherine Margolin will attend the Air Force Academy and compete in Gymnastics. Congratulations on these special achievements and good luck with all your future endeavors!

Athletic News
Senior Erik Holzapfel was named our NJSLAA Student-Athlete Advisory Council representative. Congratulations!

Autism Speaks Fundraiser
School 2 students participated in the Autism Speaks Fundraiser with “Santa and Friends.”
One issue of the Common App is that it makes "shotgunning," the practice of applying to a large number of colleges while only expecting to be accepted to a few, especially easy for applicants. Some students choose to do this so that they have a wider range of colleges to choose from. The problem with this is that the tactic often causes students to neglect school fit. By applying to so many schools, it is likely that the shotgunning student has not visited or done enough research to determine whether a college is truly right for them. In addition, this strategy arguably contributes to the rapidly decreasing acceptance rates of elite institutions around the country.

Another weakness of the Common App is that it is not universally "common," with many institutions opting to accept applications exclusively from other platforms such as the Coalition Application or their own application system. This creates extra hassle for students who are already working tirelessly to complete supplemental essays for the colleges they are applying to through the Common App alone. I personally decided against applying to Georgetown and University of Maryland, College Park for this exact reason.

Despite these issues, the Common App undoubtedly has its strengths. Many selective schools already accept applications through the platform, and there is no question that the Common App is a streamlined, cohesive system for college applicants and admissions officers alike. However, with Common App's pursuit of a "one size fits all" solution to undergraduate applications, a few major weaknesses of the platform come to light.

The college application process is stressful, but can also be exciting and rewarding. A major piece of advice that I have for current juniors, as cliché as it may sound, would be to start working on applications early. Once September rolls around, it can be extremely difficult to juggle school and the November or January application deadlines at the same time.
A team of three Fort Lee High School students, Sergey Petrushkevich, Michael Kim and Arun Iyer, working under the guidance of computer science teacher Gary Glebas, are the winners of the 2018 Congressional App Challenge for New Jersey’s Ninth District. For this programming challenge, the students were tasked with creating an app of their own design and producing a video to showcase the app. The team produced approximately 30,000 lines of code using several complex programming tools (SQLite database, XML and Java) to create the medicinal pill reminder app, !Pill, for the Android phone platform. Congressman Bill Pascrell’s staff chose our winners from his 9th district, and the students are now eligible to proceed to Washington for the next level of competition. Their app is eligible to be displayed in the US Capitol Building and featured on the House of Representatives’ website, House.gov.

Already in its third year, the Robotics class is thriving! This year’s students have enjoyed building robots and learning how to program them. Currently, the students are learning how to apply assorted sensors in order to make the robots more autonomous. After utilizing the sensors, students will start preparing for the annual KISS Institute BotBall Competition. Students are hoping to build upon their success in previous competitions. Several students are also competing in the Panasonic Creative Design Challenge. For this challenge, students have to design and build a robot from scratch that performs a simulated heart transplant surgery. Additionally, they need to program an Arduino controller to coordinate and/or simulate the surgical process of anesthetizing a simulated patient, clamping off arteries to stop blood flow, replacing the heart and then finally waking the patient back up after the surgery. Good luck to all of our high school competitors!

School #2 students have been developing their STREAM (science, technology, research, engineering, arts, and mathematics) skills in coding, engineering, design, and robotics in the Makerspace with Media Specialist Maria Castano. Students in grades 2-6 have used sites such as Scratch, Code.org, and Tinkercad to code various robots, including the BB-8, Sphero, Cubelets, and Ozobots. Students have also used 3D Doodlers, K’Nex, Magna-Tiles, and Squishy Circuits to design and create. The Curriculum Department is planning to expand STREAM opportunities to all elementary schools.

The district continues to infuse technology in all classrooms and all curriculum areas. All kindergarten to grade 6 students have access to tablets and Chromebooks. Grade 7-12 have 1-1 personal Chromebooks. The learning principles of STREAM are integrated throughout the curriculum. Critical thinking, asking good questions, observation and exploration are central to learning in the 21st Century. This type of educational approach spans all subjects, enhances higher-level thinking skills, and provides strategies to access deeper learning for our students. We are embracing innovation in our district using STREAM. This approach teaches K-12 students to think creatively and engage in all subject areas using skills learned in the arts.
What’s Happening...

School 2 students participated in this year’s Turkey Trot. The event organized by Ms. Milgram, asked families and staff to donate Turkeys for a local food bank. Students participated by walking laps. This year School 2 collected 51 Turkeys!

First grade students at School 3 celebrated Thanksgiving by dressing as pilgrims and native Americans, singing songs and feasting on traditional turkey dinner.

School 3 parents and students from India celebrated at the Diwali Festival with assembly program featuring traditional dress, dances, songs and facts about their country and culture.

School 4 Mindfulness:
Throughout the year, 4GF has been focusing on expanding our “growth mindset.” We have done this so far by watching growth mindset videos about perseverance and empathy using our Class Dojo Website. To go along with these lessons, students completed growth mindset activities.

For the months of November-December, Ms. Freitag’s class has been focusing on the growth mindset of “Gratitude.” As a class, they discussed the impact and power of showing gratitude to our family, friends, and classmates. To go along with our gratitude lesson, 4GF created a project that students wrote about “Ways we can light up the world with kindness.” Students loved creating these projects to show how they can spread gratitude and kindness to the world.
What’s Happening...

**Veterans’ Day Activities:**
School No. 4 recognized Veterans’ Day in different ways. Many classrooms had veterans from all wars come to speak to their class, some skyped active military personnel, and others displayed and discussed authentic military memorabilia with their students.

Mrs. Callanan and Mrs. Tuozzolo’s first grade classes joined to discuss the different branches of the military and brought in authentic military uniforms, photos and other memorabilia for the students to see.

Ms. DeLuca’s Kindergarten and Ms. Dente’s second grade class met to FaceTime, Army Special Forces Ranger, Shawn Welch who is station in North Carolina. The students asked questions about what it is like to serve our Country and what his daily life is like away from home.

Anthony Ignozzi, Specialist, US Army visited with our second grade class. He shared photos and stories of his experience.

**School 4 Thanksgiving Celebration:**
The Kindergarten and 6th Grade Buddies enjoyed a Thanksgiving Celebration in the All-Purpose-Room. The students and staff enjoyed live music by Pat Liquori from the band, Mystic Mountain Moods. The event was catered by Cafasso’s of Fort Lee and sponsored by the School No. 4 PTA. Each year, the Kindergarten students and their 6th grade buddy share Thanksgiving day together discussing the meaning of the day and enjoying each other’s company.

**School 4 Hour of Code:**
4GF participated in the “Hour of Code” on December 6, 2018. Hour of Code is a global movement by Computer Science Education Week and Code.org reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ counties through an one-hour introduction to computer science and computer programming. This is a fun and exciting activity that we like to promote in my classroom because students get to understand how “coding of programs” work and what a computer programmer does. The students really enjoyed this and we told them that they can always do it at home as well! (Code.org).
What’s Happening at LFCMS...

8th grade students at Lewis F. Cole Middle School recently received their interviews for admission into one of three academy programs offered at Fort Lee High School. Students in Grade 8 have the opportunity to apply and gain admission into the Pre-IB Academy, Academy of Finance or the Academy of Theater Arts. Students applying for one of the academies were coached in filling out the applications, dressing professionally and responding to questions in a formal interview. Pictured above, from left to right, are LFCMS 8th Graders Andre Diaz-Ortega, Ekuyami Conteh, Lina Kahtane, Mia Wasserman after their Pre-IB interviews on December 5, 2018.

Students at Lewis F. Cole Middle School participated in a “Campaign for Kindness” during the month of November. A mural (pictured above) was first created with all students and staff contributing a fingerprint to mark their commitment to perform a random act of kindness. Students and staff were then encouraged to use social media in a positive manner by posting that kind act to a social media outlet of their choosing. All acts of kindness were posted with the hashtag #LFCMS700KindChallenge with the goal of getting at least 700 kind acts performed. This can now be viewed by searching this hashtag on social media sites such as Twitter and Instagram. The “Kindness Campaign” ended with a school-wide assembly that encouraged students to “Throw Kindness Around Like Confetti.” Students were provided with the confetti and had a blast using it as a metaphor to throw their own kindness at others. This is all part of the ongoing character education programs at LFCMS.

Students and staff at Lewis F. Cole Middle School recently participated in Unity Day 2018 by wearing orange. Unity Day, the signature event of National Bullying Prevention Month, has been recognized in the United States since 2011. To participate in Unity Day, individuals, schools, communities, and businesses wear or display orange to show support for students who have been bullied. All students who participated were brought to our athletic field to create a “Human Peace Sign.” Kindness and respect are two concepts spoken about daily at LFCMS and the core focus of our character education programs.
High School Fall Production of “The Crucible”

Fresh off a successful run of the musical comedy You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown, Fort Lee High School Theatre took on a more somber tone with Arthur Miller’s classic The Crucible.

The Crucible is a dramatized twist of the famous Salem Witch Trials that took place in Salem, Massachusetts during 1692. As a group of girls childishly, desperately point fingers around town accusing others of things in which they were guilty of; hysteria, fear, and paranoia begin to build up in the community. Sparking a cycle of distrust, accusations, and arrests, the town is thrown into chaos where everyone becomes suspected as a potential witch. This shocking tale sheds light upon extreme behaviors of the Salem townspeople brought on by dark, suppressed desires.

"With the present climate, I felt that The Crucible is more timely than ever. It is my hope that our production does justice to the original play and is current at the same time." -- Madame Jodi Etra
MINDFULNESS PRACTICE OF THE MONTH

Safari

The Safari exercise is another fun way to help kids learn mindfulness. This activity turns an average, everyday walk outside into an exciting new adventure.

Tell your kids that you will be going on a safari, and their goal is to notice as many birds, bugs, creepy-crawlies, and any other animals as they can. Anything that walks, crawls, swims, or flies is of interest, and they’ll need to focus all of their senses to find them, especially the little ones (Karen Young, 2017).

A similar exercise for adults is the mindfulness walk. This exercise provokes the same response in children that the mindful walk brings out in adults: a state of awareness and grounding in the present.

If you're interested in more information on how to encourage the practice of mindfulness in children and teens, you can check out the other exercises from this website. Otherwise, head on to the next section where we lay out some tips that you may find helpful by clicking on the link below.


CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 21, 2018</td>
<td>Holiday Break - EARLY DISMISSAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 24, 2018 -</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 1, 2019</td>
<td>Holiday Break - DISTRICT CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, January 7, 2019</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>BOE Reorganization Meeting</td>
<td>FLHS Media Center</td>
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<td>Monday, January 21, 2019</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day - DISTRICT CLOSED</td>
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<td>Tuesday, January 22, 2019,</td>
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<td>Wednesday, January 23, 2019 &amp;</td>
<td>Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences</td>
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<td>Thursday, January 24, 2019</td>
<td>(Early Dismissal for Elementary Schools Only)</td>
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