

# Tiger Times Newspaper

Mendham Township Elementary School

Volume 3 Winter Edition 2020

## New Buses Vs. Old Buses

By: Kathleen and Bevin

Why are buses yellow? Are new buses taking over? If you have ever wondered about buses, this is a great article for you to read.

### How are the two types of buses different?

You may have noticed that there are some newer buses at the front of the school during arrival and dismissals. Students who have ridden in one of the new buses have probably noticed one key difference - the seat belts. While both types of buses are safe, the seatbelts on the new buses have shoulder straps which make them similar to the seat belts in cars. Mrs. Hogan, the Transportation Supervisor, said "The seat belts on new buses are three point seat belts."

PLEASE SEE **BUSES**, Page 3



Bus 34 in line for student dismissal.

## The Shine of the Blue Ribbon

By: Sienna and Parisa

One of the most tremendous awards that a school may receive is the Blue Ribbon Award.

A school can be awarded based on one of two choices: high-academic students or big improvement from one year to another. The Mendham Township Elementary School won the award with high-academic students!



Mrs. Barlow, Dr. Constantino, and Ms. Kotcho at the Blue Ribbon Ceremony in Washington D.C.

### How Many Schools Were Selected?

A fascinating fact is that there were 362 schools that were selected. There were only nine schools that were selected in New Jersey! Our school is the only Blue Ribbon 2019-2020 school in Morris County!

PLEASE SEE **RIBBON**, Page 3

## A New World of Virtual Reality

By: Matthew and Ryan

Have you ever heard of virtual reality (VR)? Virtual reality is an interaction of humans in the virtual space. We asked Mr. Gallo a few questions about the new VR headsets coming to our school.

We have the VR headsets because they are a learning tool to study different places and we get a better education! YAY!

The VR headsets are the property of the Mendham Township School District. Our school obtained the VR headsets last summer from a grant through the middle school. The VR headsets work by putting cell phones into the headsets. A special lens in the headsets simulates that you are surrounded in an environment.



Ryan (left) and Matthew (right) are wearing the new VR headsets.

PLEASE SEE **VIRTUAL REALITY**, Page 4

# THE DARK DEPTHS OF HALLOWEEN

By: Ryleigh, Onix, and Grace

Halloween is one of the most celebrated and one of the most loved holidays. Do you know the shocking news about Halloween this year? Do you know why so many people love Halloween? This terrifying article digs into the deep depths of Halloween and has your answers!

## THE HALLOWEEN PARADE

This year the annual Halloween Parade was indoors because of pouring rain!

The fourth graders sat in a square inside the Old Gym while younger students marched around them. The fourth graders' favorite costume from the parade was Forky from Toy Story 4. All the fourth graders chanted FORKY!!! FORKY!!! FORKY!!!

The younger students sat in the New Gym and watched the first and second graders' parade. At the final parade, the third and fourth graders marched around the school. The younger students sat against their hallway walls and stuck their hands out to get high fives from older kids.

Scary masks were turning around corners and costumes based off characters and tall props were all over the school. The most popular costume at the parade was Descendants.

Even though Halloween is once a year you can still share scares everywhere!



The Halloween Parade was so much fun!

## Halloween Favorites

### Mr. Gallo Technology Teacher

**Movie:** Hocus Pocus

**Song:** Purple People Eater

**Character:** Dracula

**Favorite Part:** Costumes

**Favorite Costume Worn:** 70's skate Disco guy

**Candy:** Three Musketeers Bar

### Mr. Gormly P.E. Teacher

**Movie:** Hocus Pocus

**Song:** Monster Mash

**Character:** Frankenstein

**Favorite Part:** Candy

**Favorite Costume Worn:** Red Power Ranger

**Candy:** Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

### Mrs. Riina Third Grade Teacher

**Movie:** Nightmare on Elm Street 3

**Song:** Thriller

**Character:** Ghost

**Favorite Costume Worn:** Emoji

**Favorite costume in Halloween Parade:** Tornado

### Zach Grade 4 Student

**Movie:** Nightmare Before Christmas

**Song:** Spooky Scary Skeletons

**Costume:** Cowboy Riding a Dragon

**Favorite Part :** Candy

**Trick or Treating Spot:** Drakewick

### Tira Grade 4 Student

**Movie:** Nightmare Before Christmas

**Song:** This is Halloween

**Costume:** Mal

**Trick or Treating Spot:** Drakewick

### Maria Grade 4 Student

**Movie:** Little Shop Of Horrors

**Song:** This is Halloween

**Costume:** Evie

**Favorite Part:** Candy!

**Trick Or Treating Spot:** Drakewick

**BUSES: Why are buses yellow?**

FROM PAGE 1

We interviewed Ms. Debra, bus driver of Bus 34, and Mrs. Hogan. In their opinions, the new buses are less bumpy, the engine runs quieter, the new buses are cleaner, and they have three point seatbelts.

A lot of people wonder why buses are yellow. But **why** are buses yellow? Mrs. Hogan shared, “Buses are yellow so people can see them easily and notice the buses quicker.” We also read in an article from Smithsonian Magazine (September 4, 2019) that the yellow is a color that was specifically formulated for use on school buses in North America in 1939. The color is now officially known as ‘National School Bus Glossy Yellow’.

Whether you ride on a new bus or an old bus, it is interesting to know more about the big yellow buses that get us safely to and from school each day.

For more information about **Bus Safety**, please see **Page 6**.



Bevin sits on the bus with three point seat belt and secured instruments.



Kathleen sits on bus holding a backpack with lap seat belt.

**Tiger Times Fourth Grade Reporters**  
 Ana, Rachel, Bevin, Kathleen, Ryan, Kira, Sienna, Parisa, Chase, Noah, Grace, Ryleigh, Onix, Matthew, Evelyn, Ashley, Nahla, Mariel, Griffin and Olivia

**RIBBON: Special Ceremonies**

FROM PAGE 1

There is a ceremony every year in Washington, D.C. to award all of the Blue Ribbon schools. This year, on Friday, November 15, 2019, Ms. Kotcho, Mrs. Barlow and Dr. Consantino traveled to a ceremony in Washington D.C. to receive the award. On December 4, 2019, Mrs. Allen and Ms. Kotcho drove to Trenton to receive an award that all the Blue Ribbon Schools selected in New Jersey were given.

The ceremony and the award is a moment all teachers and students will never forget!

**Teacher Highlight**

We interviewed Mrs. Barlow to learn about her experiences accepting the Blue Ribbon Award.

**Tiger Times Reporter:** Who did you meet in Washington D.C.?

**Mrs. Barlow:** I met a keynote speaker named Erin Gruwell. She is the teacher on which the movie “Freedom Writers” is based. I also met Betsy DeVoss, the Secretary of Education.

**Tiger Times Reporter:** How did you feel about accepting the award on stage?

**Mrs. Barlow:** I felt so unbelievably proud and honored to accept the Blue Ribbon award on behalf of my MTES colleagues. The entire experience was amazing and I will always cherish the fact that I was chosen to represent MTES!



Ms. Kotcho and Mrs. Allen at the Blue Ribbon Ceremony honoring all New Jersey award winners in Trenton.

## VIRTUAL REALITY: Fun Technology

FROM PAGE 1

We started in January with virtual tours that are teacher controlled. First, we toured the International Space Station (I.S.S.)! It felt so real! We also went to Mt. Everest. Sometimes when you looked down you thought you were about to fall off! We will also design our own tours using software that is updated, a new version of Google Expedition.

All in all, VR headsets are amazing tools to help us get a better education and more fun!



Example of the VR headsets you will hold to your head.

## Poetry Corner

I AM **HUNGRY!**

By: Andrey

I am Hungry.  
I wonder when my food will come,  
I hear the pan sizzling,  
I see the empty plates,  
I want FOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOD!  
I am HUNGRY.

I pretend I'm filled with food.  
I feel the forks and spoons,  
I worry I wouldn't be full.  
I cry if I won't get dessert,  
I am STILL HUNGRY!

I understand it took a while.  
I say that I am VERY HUNGRY!  
I dream it rains all kind of food,  
I try to enjoy it lots.  
I hope my food will get here soon,  
I AM STARVING!  
Oh, food's here I'm out.

## Chickens and Their Unknown Facts

By: Evelyn, Nahla and Ashley

Would you like to know more about chickens than you already know?

We have three chickens and their names are Oreo, Penny and Lucky. They are all different kinds of chickens. Oreo is black and white, Penny is brownish reddish and Lucky is a gold color. They live in our garden in a chicken coop.

The chicken coop has a fence around it and a heater for the water. The chicken coop is red and has two windows. It's a chicken's dream home!

We learned from Mrs. Parke that they are not siblings, "They are all different kinds of chickens, so they are like an adopted family."

Chickens have about 8,000 feathers. In the winter, they will get another coat of feathers. Also, there is a heater in their chicken coop for when the temperature is very cold cold and below zero.

Chickens have a few predators. Mrs. Parke told us, "Chickens are low on the food chain. Hawks and other raptors will attack them. Other animals such as foxes, coyotes, bobcats and bears will attack them." We have put a fake black owl outside to keep the hawks and other animals away from the chickens.

All in all, chickens are one of the most unique animals at our school. Chickens are wonderful animals and we hope you love them as much as we do!



Chickens eat fruit, grains, leaves, insects and worms.

## The Library Flood...A True Story

By: Olivia, Mariel and Griffin

PSHHHHHHHHHHH! Do you know what happened at the Mendham Township Public Library in August? There was a flood!

A sprinkler broke in the library. It happened behind one of the walls and damaged some of the walls and the carpets. One problem was that they had to rip out the carpets and the whole Children’s Section was affected.

Volunteers came to help to put the books in boxes. They boxed about 30,000 books so repairs could be made.

Mrs. Harrison, the Children’s Librarian, told us, “Luckily, no books were damaged during the flood but it was very inconvenient being partly closed

whilst the library was repaired.”

It took about six weeks for the repairs to be finished and part of the Library was closed.



The Children’s Room of the Library.

Mrs. Harrison said, “During this time, we could not access the children’s area of the library and our storytimes had to be held in the Community Club.”

The Mendham Township Library fully opened on October 22nd with the Children’s Room and middle room having new carpeting.

We can all work together to make the library even better. You can donate money to help get new additions such new shelving, new paint, and new carpeting throughout the library.

## Looking Forward to Third Grade!

By Noah and Chase

Did you hear about all the fun things third graders get to do at MTES?

They get to go on fun field trips. On one trip they traveled to The Bronx Zoo. When we went to The Bronx Zoo we learned about interesting animals. There were some cool things like an obstacle course and we also went down slides. Overall we had a very enjoyable time.

Another field trip was to Sandy Hook Beach. We caught crabs and small fish. We even got to take a few seashells home. We also learned about the history of the area. Did you know that Sandy Hook used to be a military base?

These are just a few of the cool things that happen in third grade.

## Teacher Highlight

We interviewed Mrs. DeGise to learn more about third grade.

**Tiger Times Reporter:** Why did you choose to be a third grade teacher?

**Mrs. DeGise:** I choose to be a third grade teacher because I love working with kids and helping them learn. Third grade students are a great age to teach!

**Tiger Times Reporter:** What do you think about third graders using lockers?

**Mrs. DeGise:** They use the lockers for their coats and backpacks because there are no cubbies in our classroom. Using lockers allows them to be responsible for their belongings.



Chase, Noah and Mrs. DeGise

## Snowy Holi-YAYS! By: Rachel, Kira and Ana

We surveyed students to see which Winter Holidays students celebrated at MTES. Here is information about each of the Winter Holidays.

During Hanukkah, the Jewish people remember how the courageous Maccabees fought and beat powerful Armies win back Jerusalem. The Maccabees went back to the destroyed temple. Unfortunately, there was only enough oil to light the candle for one single night. They needed DAYS to go get help to rebuild the temple. But a miracle happened and the candle burned for eight nights in a row. This was enough time for the Maccabees to get help.

On this holiday, families cook foods that require oil in order to honor and celebrate the miracle that saved the Maccabees so many years ago. The Jewish people have been celebrating this miracle for thousands of years.

Kwanzaa is a holiday that honors African-American culture. This celebration is held from December 26th until January 1st. Dr. Maulana Karenga, an African-American teacher, started this holiday in 1966. He wanted to help African Americans learn about their African history, culture, and customs.

Christmas is a celebration of Jesus Christ's birth. This holiday originated in ancient times and is still celebrated today. During this holiday, you gather with friends and family and eat a feast. You exchange presents put up decorations and a Christmas tree.

Yule celebrates the Winter Solstice. It is celebrated because it is the shortest day of the year and all of the following days are longer. Similar to Christmas you give gifts and gather with friends and family.

Diwali is the festival of lights. It is a special Hindu festival that celebrates good over evil. Diwali is the most celebrated holiday in India and it is also celebrated throughout the world.

Which Winter Holidays are celebrated at our school? We surveyed about half of the students at MTES to find out:

Christmas 181	Hanukkah 22
Kwanzaa 6	Diwali 4
Yule 0	

### Important Bus Safety Information

By: Bevin and Kathleen

- You should always keep your backpack in the seat with you. If it is not and you have to exit quickly, your backpack will be in the way.
- When the bus is moving and the bus driver is talking to someone on the radio, it is important to keep your voices down so the bus driver is able to hear.
- When you are on the bus you should always keep your seat belts on.
- If you do not wear your seat belt or it is too loose, there is a chance you could get hurt.
- Do you know how to hold your instrument on the bus? For all string and big band instruments, put your instruments on the floor between your legs and hold them at the top. For small band instruments, put them on your lap.

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