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ISSUE №2  
2023 - 2024

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# MIDLAND PRIDE

*A Publication of the  
Rochelle Park School District*



## Message from the Superintendent, Dr. Sue DeNobile

This newsletter greets you with prideful information about the Rochelle Park School District and Midland School. As Spring is upon us, and we near the end of the third marking period, we are reminded of how quickly the school year is passing. Just last month I provided the district's mid-year report to a large audience of parents/guardians and students at the Board of Education meeting. This report highlighted the numerous offerings and strides made for our students, within the school, and across the district. If you missed this report you may access it on the district website at [www.rochellepark.org](http://www.rochellepark.org).

Surely, academic and instructional growth are of tremendous importance, but they deserve to be balanced with social and emotional growth as well. Our many and continued efforts will be joined by "Parenting in the Digital Age", a special event designed for our community under the leadership of the Rochelle Park Education Association (RPEA) and supported by the Board of Education (BOE) and the Midland School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). "Parenting in the Digital Age" is dedicated to developing healthy, balanced behavior in children and adolescents. Please see page 3 for a message from the RPEA on what promises to be a spectacular event, and mark your calendars to join us on May 1st!

Partnerships between school and home benefit every student. Support for healthy growth extends far beyond the classroom walls and school environment. We surely recognize that parents are a child's most influential teacher. So, we invite you to join us in our efforts to enhance communication, discuss academic performance, address behavioral concerns, and support personal development. We encourage conversations and questions with your child such as "What did you learn at school today?" "What are you studying?" "Please show me something you are working on in school." As we all know this invites conversation and places importance on learning; surely a good thing! Interestingly, studies have found students believe their parents are more interested in their grades than being a caring community member. Perhaps together we can shift this perception for our students. What if we asked questions that placed an emphasis on kindness, empathy, and compassion? Questions such as "Who did you help today?" "Did you witness any acts of kindness or compassion today?" "Have you noticed someone who may need some support?" "Did you hear any kind words or gestures by anyone?" If we begin to shift the conversations and questions to incorporate thoughts and behaviors connected to kindness, empathy, and compassion we are more likely to convey the message that these attributes matter as much as academic growth. Further, research supports that when people feel a stronger sense of community their physical health is improved and their overall growth, including academic achievement, is enhanced. Collectively, we can aim to enrich every student's educational experience alongside promoting the importance of being caring community members.

Again, please join us on May 1, 2024 for a most special presentation that will support our collective efforts to enhance and promote a caring community. See page 3 for details.

As always, thank you for your partnership and support. Together we are making a difference!

### MIDLAND PRIDE

**P** OSITIVE 

**R** ESPECTFUL 

**I** NSPIRATIONAL 

**D** ETERMINED 

**E** XCELLENT 

Be Positive + Be Respectful + Be Inspirational +  
Be Determined + Be Excellent = MIDLAND PRIDE!

# Principal's Page

Dr. Courtney Carmichael, Principal

## Inspirational Student Success

Congratulations to our new members of the National Junior Honor Society who were inducted, March 15. Students are chosen based on high grade point average, involvement in student activities, character, and volunteerism in and outside of school.

### Grade 7 New Members

Sydney Hand  
Irem Hartoka  
Liberty Marolda  
Ryan Natera  
Aarya Patel  
Charlotte Pezzillo  
Ayan Ramani

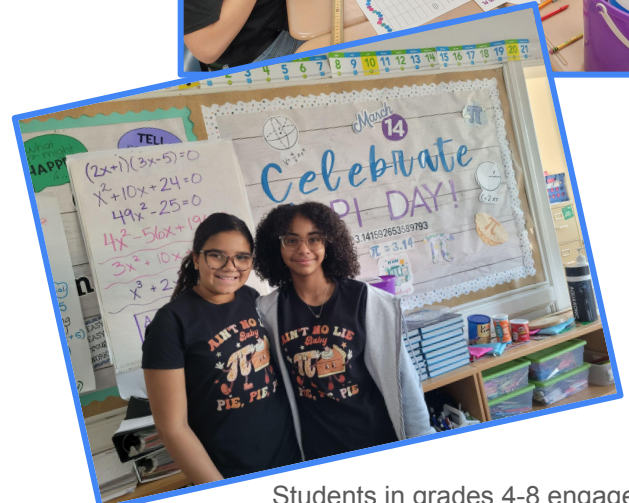
### Grade 8 New Members

Jaylynn Aspilcueta  
Wynafred Dzandu-Hedidor  
Alexa Santana  
Issayero Wisse

The following members were installed as officers to help lead the organization:

**President** Philip Rodriguez  
**Vice President** Tiffanie Dowly  
**Secretary** Emma Herbeck  
**Parliamentarian** Jared Vasquez

## Pi Day: Infinite Fun Ahead!



Students in grades 4-8 engaged in activities that brought out the irrational sides in all of us!

# ***RPEA PRIDE brings you “Parenting in the Digital Age”***

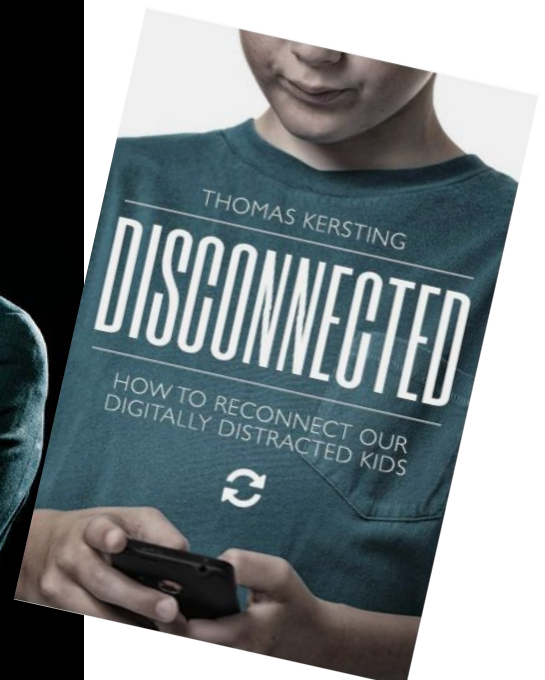
*Save the Date  
May 1st  
and  
Register below*

The Rochelle Park Education Association is excited to welcome renowned psychotherapist, family counselor, author, and educator, Tom Kersting, to Midland School. He is one of the most sought-after experts in the field of mental health, family relationships, parenting in the digital age, and over-device use. On the evening of May 1st, he will be speaking to parents as well as students in grades four through eight about healthy, balanced behavior with screens and social media.

The open event will include dinner for all who attend as well as child care services monitored by Midland School teachers for children pre-k through third grade so parents and older siblings can attend Tom Kersting’s presentation.

The RPEA would like to thank the Rochelle Park Board of Education and the Midland School PTO for their contributions to help make this event possible.

Please save the date and [register here](#) for this incredible event.



# Spotlight on Curriculum

**Mrs. Cara Hurd**  
Director of Curriculum

On Tuesday, February 20th, teachers participated in a professional development entitled, The Kinesthetic Classroom: Teaching and Learning Through Movement. During this interactive session, teachers learned about the connection between classroom-based physical activity and academic achievement, while participating in a number of activities that demonstrated how physical movement enhances the teaching and learning process.



Students in grades 3-8 will be taking the NJSLA in ELA, Math, and Science.

The assessments are scheduled to be taken during the month of May. A more detailed schedule of dates will be released in the next few weeks. Stay tuned!

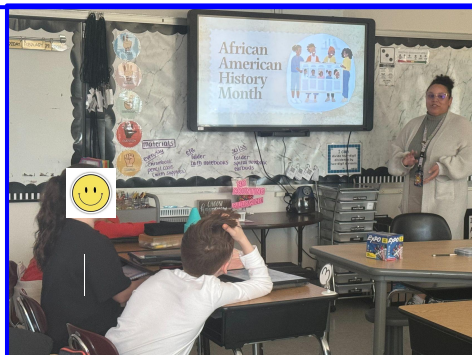


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# Education is Special!

**Mrs. Rebecca Garcia,**  
Director of Special Services

During Black History Month, Social Work Intern, Cynthia Quinones created character education lessons for students from Pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. These engaging lessons focused on introducing African American culture's inspirational figures and pivotal moments. Through interactive activities and multimedia, students learned about historical icons while reflecting on diversity, equity, and inclusion. This initiative celebrated Black history and empowered students to embrace diversity and stand against injustice, fostering a more inclusive future.



On March 11, 2024, the staff participated in an essential professional development session focused on suicide prevention. Wendy Sefcik from the Bergen County Department of Health Services and Maureen Brogan from Rutgers University, led the session equipping staff with invaluable strategies to effectively engage with youth in times of need. Through their presentation, staff learned the QPR method: how to Question, Persuade, and Refer youth for support. This training not only enhanced the staff's ability to recognize warning signs but also equipped them with the skills to intervene and connect young individuals with the necessary resources and support networks.

**Join us.**  
**All are welcome!**

**SEPAG (Special Education Parent Advisory Group) Meeting**  
**March 26, 2024 @ 6:00 pm Virtual**  
**Zoom Link will be sent on the March SEPAG Flyer**

## Toys for Tots

During the month of December, Midland School families donated 634 toys to the Rochelle Park Police Department for the annual *Toys for Tots* toy drive. The toys were distributed to Tomorrow’s Children Hospital, Sanzari Children’s Hospital, Valley Hospital Pediatric Center, the 508th Military Police, U.S. Military Families and many others. Officer Ken and members of the department rewarded the top 4 classes who donated the most toys with a pizza party.

# SRO News

Lieutenant Stapleton,  
School Resource Officer



## L.E.A.D.

Officer Ken is proud to announce that the 2024 L.E.A.D classes have begun. Officer Chris, Officer Doug, and Officer Todd are currently teaching the 5th grade L.E.A.D. classes. The Kindergarten L.E.A.D. classes will begin in the coming months. L.E.A.D. stands for Law Enforcement Against Drugs, and the curriculum includes goal setting, decision making, pro-social bonding with others, identifying and managing emotions, and communicating effectively.

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# TECHNOLOGY TIPS

Mr. Kevin Cox,  
Technology Coordinator

## ~~Exciting New Technologies in 2024~~

- With our new copiers fully installed, the staff is loving the functionality with all new features they have to offer.
- Over the past few weeks, our teachers were given the opportunity to test out 5 different Interactive Boards in their classrooms, as the district looks to replace all of our current interactive boards. Students and teachers provided feedback so we can choose a board that works best for everyone’s needs.



**Website Update:** The new website and phone app are coming along beautifully. We plan on rolling out this new website on July 1, 2024.

# News from the Business Office

**Dr. James Riley**  
Business Administrator

## Summer P-EBT

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture announced a new benefit program that will provide **funding for families to purchase food in the summer**. For details and to learn how to apply to the Summer EBT benefit program access this [link](#).



2024 - 2025  
Budget Public Presentation  
will be held on  
April 23, 2024  
7:30pm in the  
Midland School Gymnasium

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has expanded eligibility for **Free/Reduced price meals**. If you think you may be eligible, please fill out the application [here](#).

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*Please review District Policy [5516](#) Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices and the [Midland School Parent Student Handbook](#) for "Use of Electronics". We ask for parents/guardians to partner with us, speak with your children, and encourage appropriate practices for cell phones and other electronic communications. We welcome you reviewing [District Policies and Regulations](#), readily accessible to all.*

## ADMINISTRATION

**Superintendent:**

Dr. Sue DeNobile

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**Business Administrator/Board**

**Secretary:** Dr. James Riley

[jriley@rochellepark.org](mailto:jriley@rochellepark.org)

**Director of Curriculum &**

**Instruction:** Mrs. Cara Hurd

[churd@rochellepark.org](mailto:churd@rochellepark.org)

**Principal:** Dr. Courtney Carmichael

[ccarmichael@rochellepark.org](mailto:ccarmichael@rochellepark.org)

**Director of Special Services:**

Mrs. Rebecca Garcia

[rgarcia@rochellepark.org](mailto:rgarcia@rochellepark.org)



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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