



# Superintendent's Report

**March 12, 2026**

We celebrated Read Across America Week last week at Hillside Elementary School. There were many reading events during the week, including a *Stop Everything and Read* moment each day and read-alouds by staff and visitors. The Closter Police Department visited and spent a morning reading to students in 18 classrooms. The whole week celebrated the joy of books and reading!

Congratulations to our Science Olympiad Team! The team competed in the New Jersey state finals tournament on Monday, March 9, 2026, at Middlesex College in Edison, NJ. The Tenakill Middle School team has placed first in the Division B competition! We are so proud of our students for placing first in the state for the second year in a row. Thank you to Ms. Moidu and Mr. Hernandez for leading the team!

The Profile of a Closter Learner Rubric Committee met again last week and continued their work on our district goal. As the committee progresses through its work, it is giving deep thought to how best to implement the rubric once it is complete. The three subcommittees (PreK-2, Grades 3-5, and Grades 6-8) have completed their drafts of the rubric, with descriptors for each characteristic at three proficiency levels. So, for each of the six characteristics listed in the Profile, they have identified two or three indicators of how students in the grade band would demonstrate that characteristic, and then what that looks like for a student who is approaching, meeting, or exceeding proficiency. At the next Profile Rubric committee meeting, the committee will align the indicators across grade bands to ensure progression of skills for each of the six characteristics.

I'm excited to share that our [district](#), [Hillside Elementary School](#) and [Tenakill Middle School](#) websites have been updated with a fresh new look and improved navigation. If you haven't had a chance to explore them yet, we encourage you to take a few minutes to check them out! As we continue to make improvements, you'll notice we'll be refreshing the photos throughout the sites to feature the faces you know best — our own students and staff. Be sure to visit the Latest News section on the district homepage to stay up to date on the most recent announcements, highlights, and happenings from across our schools. I hope you enjoy the new sites — as always, your feedback is welcome!

What a spectacular performance! On Saturday, March 7th, Porchlight Productions brought the magic of *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* to life, and our students did not disappoint. Twenty-eight talented performers from grades 2 through 4 took the stage and wowed the audience with their singing, dancing, and storytelling. From the opening number to the final bow, it was clear that our young performers had worked incredibly hard, and their enthusiasm and talent shone through every moment of the show. A huge thank you to the dedicated crew and staff who worked behind the scenes to make the production a success. We are so proud of each and every one of our student performers — you were absolutely amazing! Bravo! *Aladdin, Jr.* will be performed by students in grades 5-8 on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Come support our performing artists!

The Closter PTO will host their annual gala next Friday, March 20, 2026, from 7:00 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Edgewood Country Club in River Vale. The theme is a Garden Soirée. Tickets are on sale on the Closter PTO webpage. Don't miss out on this fun evening!

The administration and Board Finance and Physical Plant Committee have spent considerable time over the past several months working collaboratively to prepare the preliminary 2026-2027 budget, which Floro Villanueva, our Business Administrator, will walk us through this evening. This budget reflects our continued commitment to protecting all student programs and maintaining our facilities, while remaining mindful of the financial impact on our taxpayers. Floro Villanueva's outstanding leadership throughout this process deserves recognition, as does the dedication of the Board Finance and Physical Plant Committee members, whose efforts help ensure that every student benefits from a quality education in safe, well-equipped, and up-to-date facilities. Following Board approval of the preliminary budget, it will be forwarded to the Executive County Superintendent for review and approval. The public hearing for the final budget will take place at our Board of Education meeting on April 30, 2026. We are video recording tonight's presentation and it will be posted to our district website (under Latest News) for anyone who was unable to attend the presentation and wants to learn more about our budget.

*Vincent Mc Hale*