

# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD TAPPAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER, 2017



## iCONNECT: Character Education

This year's Character Education theme at TBD is well underway. During school-wide assemblies and activities on Wise Wednesdays throughout the year, the students are learning about the tenets of iConnect.

These tenets build positive social skills and foster positive

relationships. The students are learning about "iConnect" by: using eye contact; listening respectfully; using I messages; using eyes, ears, and words; and lending a hand in the community. Please ask your child(ren) about "iConnect." The home and school are connected!

## New Website to be Revealed in January, 2018

The Old Tappan District is transitioning to a new website in January. In doing this, updated features will be available to you, including push notifications of calendar events for each of our schools and District if you choose to subscribe. This transition will also merge nicely with an increased ease of social media use for our schools. We are excited about the change!

### TEACHER WEBPAGES

During January and February, the teachers will be switching over to their new webpages and learning the new web tools. We ask for your patience during this transition phase. It all will be worth it. Thank you!

### TBD & CDW Google Classroom Sessions for Adults

Please click [HERE](#) to register to attend one of the following Parent Workshops:

17 November - 9:00 AM (CDW Learning Pod)

27 November - 1:30 PM (CDW Learning Pod)

29 November - 9:00 AM (CDW Learning Pod)

30 November - 5:30 PM (CDW Media Center)

30 November - 7:00 PM (CDW Media Center)

to learn about — the features of Google Classroom and how to help your child at home.

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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# PROMOTING MESSAGES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND WELLNESS FOR YOUTH

## CELEBRATING WELLNESS

We celebrate wellness and positive choices in middle school. However, we recognize the growing impact addictive behaviors have in our society. Oftentimes, students may not fully grasp their vulnerability to addiction, as it knows no human or societal differences.

### ALUMNI IN RECOVERY

This month, our eighth-grade students heard first-hand how destructive addiction actually affects young people. Our students learned from alumni that there are better choices for coping and for decision-making than drugs and alcohol. CDW students learned through others' stories.



Community Garden at CDW, cultivated by Grade 7 students

## Environmental Awareness

### CDW COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our middle school students are enjoying hands-on experiences, as they learn about concepts of sustainability, industrial farming, local farming, service

learning, environmental resources, and collaboration. Together, with their teachers, the seventh-grade students, built a Community Garden.

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BUILDING THE  
COMMUNITY GARDEN.



CULTIVATING THE LAND  
AND HARVEST.



SHARING THE HARVEST  
WITH FOOD PANTRIES.



## GROWTH



The Charles DeWolf Middle School officially was designated as a Future Ready School in New Jersey. The faculty celebrated their successful progress and look forward to continuing their work with students.

The T. Baldwin Demarest School faculty is working, by grade-level, on Self-Directed Growth Plans. This unique model of growth has been state-approved for our District because it fosters deeper thinking and creativity.

### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

The autumn season is filled with changes — changing colors and changing temperatures. In schools, faculty, staff, and students embrace change — the only constant and our means to betterment.

Whether searching for a school leader, rethinking middle school programming, or assessing student initiatives, we strive to make our schools better tomorrow than they were yesterday.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family!

- Danielle M. Da Giau, Ed.D.

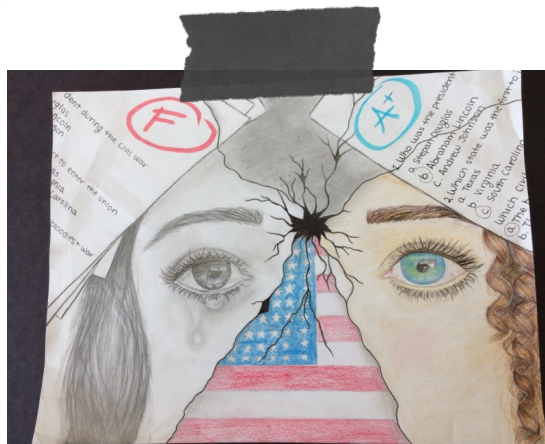
## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

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Using their garden as an outdoor classroom, the teachers and students cultivated the land and harvested crops that were then donated to local pantries. Seeing the process of construction through donation of locally-grown goods will continue for these seventh graders, as they now begin building an indoor greenhouse. This will be used for starter plants that will be transferred to the Community Garden in the spring. An added dimension to the students' learning will be composting. Through an earned school grant, the students will learn how to use biodegradable waste from the lunchroom to make soil for their Community Garden!

## SOCIAL JUSTICE MESSAGES WIN STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

This year's New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) Teachers' Convention theme was: Social Justice=Education Justice=Student Success. A walking exhibit at the Convention entitled "The Awakening - Through Our Eyes" highlighted students' stories through different media. Middle and high school students had the choice to highlight personal perspectives or that of a student onlooker. Proudly, six CDW student-artists were featured in the exhibit. Aligning with our Social Justice course offered in eighth grade, these student-artists embraced opportunity and raised teachers' awareness through their artwork.



Juliana, Grade 8, Social Justice  
NJEA Second-Place Winner

## SUMMER ENRICHMENT

We would love to hear your thoughts as we plan for the next Summer Enrichment Program. Click [HERE](#) to share your feedback!

Summer Program...

# 2018

July 9-13

July 16-20

July 23-27

July 30-August 3