



# MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

1497 WOODACRES DRIVE MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092

908-232-8828

[WWW.MOUNTAINSIDESCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.MOUNTAINSIDESCHOOLS.ORG)

JANET WALLING - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

---

November 8, 2023

Mountainside Parents and Guardians:

We've had a busy few weeks here in Mountainside and it was nice to see so many of you at our Halloween celebrations and parent teacher conferences! I hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to connect with your child's teachers during conferences this week and gained a good understanding of their progress. I encourage you to continue to keep the lines of communication open, and reach out whenever you have questions. Working together, we create a strong partnership to support your child's academic and emotional growth throughout the year.

Please see below for some updates:

**Veteran's Day Celebrations** -- On Monday, Deerfield School held their annual Veteran's Day Assembly. We were pleased to recognize our local middle school Patriot's Pen Essay winners and to hear their inspirational essays. The assembly also included the National Anthem played by the middle school band, a moving song from some chorus members, and speeches from local veterans. I want to thank Mrs. Jenks, Mrs. Barone, Mr. Young, Mr. Wise, and Mr. Rosenblum for their work putting together this very special annual event. In addition, at Beechwood, Mrs. Groth spearheaded an annual schoolwide display recognizing veterans in students' families. This activity is always a moving reminder of the important contributions and dedication displayed by so many Mountainside families and their relatives. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

**Coffee and Conversation with Mrs. Walling - Tuesday, November 14th @ 6:00 pm** -- Please join me in the Deerfield Media Center on Tuesday evening, before the PTO meeting, for a Title I (AIM) Parent Program Information session. This is an opportunity to learn about our AIM programs, ask questions, learn about our federal grants, and understand how they are utilized to support all students in Mountainside. Please see the attached flier for more information: [Coffee & Conversation](#)

**Governor's Educator of the Year Program:** Do you know a classroom teacher or educational services professional who is dedicated, inspiring, and making a difference? If so, please take the time to recommend this person for the Governor's Educator of the Year Program. All nominations must be submitted by **Monday, November 20th**.

- Details and a link to the nomination form can be accessed below. You may submit multiple nominations for any or all of the 3 categories below.
  - **"Educators" nominated for this award must meet all the following requirements:**
    - Be an exceptionally skilled and dedicated licensed classroom teacher (PreK through grade 8) where teaching is the primary responsibility rather than administrative or supervisory responsibilities or an educational services professional.
    - Be an expert in the field who inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn
    - Actively collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a strong culture of respect and success
    - Demonstrate leadership and innovation in educational activities at the

school, district and/or state and national levels that take place both within and outside the school setting

- Have the respect and admiration of students, parents and colleagues
- Have not earned the title of Teacher of the Year or ESP of the Year for the past five years. [Click here for the history.](#)

- **"Educational Services Professionals": [Criteria](#)**

- **"Support Staff Recognition":** We will also continue with this Mountainside-specific program to recognize our paraprofessionals, secretaries and custodians. Please use the same form for these nominations.

- **[Nomination Form](#)**

Thank you for taking the time to recognize some of our amazing educators and support staff.

Please remember that school is closed Thursday and Friday for the NJEA Teachers' Convention. I hope that your children enjoy these days off and look forward to seeing everyone when we reopen on Monday.

Regards,

Janet Walling