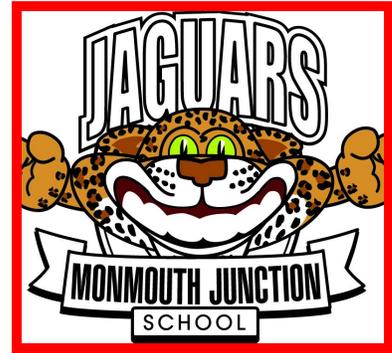


# MONMOUTH JUNCTION

Summer 2018  
Family Newsletter



18-19 District Theme:  
*"Imagine if every child..."*

## Mark Your Calendar!

### 8/30 Sneak-A-Peek ~ 4:00 - 5:00 PM

Our building will be open for ALL families to take a self-guided tour on Thursday, August 30th to help ease first day jitters. This is an opportunity for students to walk the halls, locate their classroom, and maybe bump into a classmate or two! Some students, for example, may benefit from a practice walk from the bus loop to their classroom location to make the first morning of the year a bit smoother. If you think this would be a beneficial opportunity for your child, we look forward to seeing you then (*please enter through back door near the playground!*) Please note that while the school will be open, classrooms will not, as teachers will likely not be present. Teachers look forward to seeing your child(ren) on the first day (9/6), and to meeting you at Back to School Night (10/3).

### 9/6 First Day of School for Students

This is a full day of school for all students, with lunch available for purchase. The school day begins at 8:55 AM, and the late bell rings at 9:05 AM. Dismissal is at 3:30 PM. **Note:** Parents will be permitted to escort their child(ren) to their classroom door on the first day of school if they wish to do so.

### 9/7 PTO Sponsored Ice Cream Social ~ 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Join us for an evening of fun, family, and community building to celebrate the start of a great year!

### 9/10 & 9/11 School Closed (Rosh Hashanah)

### 9/18 Monmouth Junction PTO Meeting ~ 7:00 PM

### 9/19 School Closed (Yom Kippur)

### 10/3 Back To School Night ~7:00 PM (Parent-Only Event)

Come meet your child's teacher and learn about your child's program and curriculum. As our veteran MJ families know, parking here can be a challenge! Whenever possible, please plan to walk or carpool. Many families end up parking on neighborhood streets once our lot is full and use the walkways on Monmouth Drive or Hillside Avenue to get to our campus. If you do so, please be sure to obey all traffic laws and posted signs. This will keep everyone safe and will ensure that are courteous to our neighbors! More details to follow in the coming weeks!

### 10/10 - SMILE ... It's Student Picture Day :)

## Welcome Back!

Dear Monmouth Junction Families,

We hope you have enjoyed the change of pace that summer brings and have found time to refresh and rejuvenate! Here at Monmouth Junction, we have spent the summer preparing for the terrific school year that lies ahead. Be sure to read the "Under Construction" section below to learn more about how we have kept busy this summer!

While it has been a productive summer, we miss hearing students' footsteps and laughter, and are very much looking forward to welcoming all of them back to school on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>!

This newsletter provides you with some "need to know" information about the beginning of the school year. Please read over it carefully to help ensure that our opening days are as smooth as possible.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy end to your summer vacation, and on behalf of the entire Monmouth Junction staff, welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! We know it will be a great one!

Sincerely,  
Cristina Yildostegui-Cerra  
& Kathleen Boyce

## Student Placement Information

Accompanying this newsletter is your child's classroom placement for the 2018-2019 school year. Stay tuned for a welcome letter from your child's teacher! Teachers are hard at work preparing for September and are very much looking forward to working and learning alongside you and your child.



## We're under Construction!



Things have been busy here at Monmouth Junction this summer! Like the other South Brunswick Schools, we have been under construction! Many of the projects (rewiring, new air handlers, rooftop solar panels, etc.) may not be noticeable to you since they are hidden behind the walls and ceiling tiles. Others, like our redesigned front entry vestibule, will be noticeable to all who are familiar with our school! These are exciting changes that will update our facility and/or provide added security once complete.

Most of the work will be complete ahead of the start of the school year, however a few projects may have to carry over into the fall. When your family returns to Monmouth Junction in September, please excuse our appearance while finish these projects. Lots of exciting things are taking shape and we look forward to sharing more about these changes with you in the coming weeks and months.

## Other Important Back to School Information

**Supply lists** can be found on our website. They were also distributed in June.



If you would like more information about our school's policies and procedures, please refer to the **parent/student handbook**, also on our district's website. Please don't hesitate to contact our office staff if you have questions regarding information in this letter or in our handbook.

There are many **important forms** for you to complete for the start of the year. During the first week of school, each student will take home a few forms, but many of the important ones are now electronic in the **Genesis** system for your convenience. Please plan to spend some time tending to this paperwork, and remember to return all necessary forms (paper and electronic) promptly. Your help with this is greatly appreciated!

## Reminder of School Hours



K-5	Preschool
Regular Day 8:55 AM - 3:30 PM	A separate communication for preschool families will outline start and end times for both the AM and PM sessions, as well as important arrival and dismissal information. Stay tuned!
Early Release 8:55 AM - 1:35 PM	
Delayed Opening 10:25 AM - 3:30 PM	

Snack	Lunch
<p>Please send your child to school with a snack from home each day. We encourage healthy snacks, and ask parents to be mindful of their child's independence when selecting a snack. Snacks should be quick and easy so that students can maximize their learning time!</p>	<p>Students can bring lunch from home or purchase lunch at school. Students may also purchase milk only if they bring their lunch from home. Menus are posted on the district website (<a href="http://www.sbschools.org">www.sbschools.org</a>).</p> <p>Lunch costs \$2.40. Each child has an in-school debit card to use for purchasing lunch. Chartwells, our food service provider, has menus and information on this process available on the district's webpage.</p> <p>With many new encounters for kindergarteners, we encourage them to bring lunch from home for the first few days of the school year. Of course if this isn't possible, we will help your kindergartener with this process when he/she purchases lunch.</p>

## Parent of a Kindergartener?

Congratulations! Few things are more exciting than a child's first day of kindergarten. As a former kindergarten teacher and the parent of two young children, I feel your excitement, pride, and anxiety!

Our kindergarten teachers will be in touch with you soon to set-up your Hopes and Dreams conference - an opportunity for each family to meet with their child's teacher prior to the start of the school year.

A few kindergarten-specific details:

- **Jump Start Into Kindergarten (formerly known as K Prep)** is the week of August 20th - August 24th



Parents are invited to walk their child(ren) to their classroom door on the first day. Please note that the process will be slightly different for our kindergarten families. All kindergarteners (walkers, bussers, etc.) will report to the cafeteria for the first 2 days of school (9/6 and 9/7). Kindergarten teachers will meet students there and will walk the whole class to the classroom shortly after the bell. You can escort your child to the cafeteria, take pictures, etc. Beginning on Wednesday, September 12th (remember, no school on 9/10 & 9/11), kindergarten students will enter the building as per our regular procedures. If you have any questions, please ask your kindergarten teacher at your Hopes and Dreams Conference and/or call our main office.

In June, your child took home a copy of this year's summer reading project. A fabulous committee of teachers put the packets together to encourage our students to continue learning and growing throughout the summer. We hope you and your child(ren) have been cuddling up with good books all summer long!

Enjoy these last few days of summer by reading together, working on MJ's summer reading project, and/or by visiting the public library.

If you misplaced your summer reading packet, you can download the necessary materials online by visiting our school's webpage.

### Summer Reading Reminder



## Have Questions? Need More Information?

Bus passes are provided by the Department of Transportation.



Should you not receive one (through Genesis or the mail) prior to August 31st, please contact our Transportation Office directly at (732) 297-7800.

Families who need extended care before or after the school day should contact South Brunswick's Community Education Office directly at (732) 297-7800.



## Stay In Touch With Us This Year!

Electronic Friday Folder	Twitter	Facebook
<p>In keeping with our continued efforts to “go green,” my weekly newsletters will appear in our Electronic Friday Folder (EFF). The district’s EFF provides families with important information from the school and from the community (PTO, Girl Scouts, Sports Programs, etc.).</p> <p>If you have not yet signed-up to receive our EFF, you can do so on the district’s website. You can also sign up for emergency notifications (school closings, delayed openings, etc.) from the school district there as well by signing up for our “School Messenger” system. Please do so as soon as possible so you can keep up with the wonderful things happening in South Brunswick!</p>	<p>Follow us on Twitter</p>  <p><a href="https://twitter.com/sbsdmsj">@sbsdmsj</a></p>	<p>Follow us on Facebook</p>  <p><a href="https://facebook.com/sbsdmsj">facebook.com/sbsdmsj</a></p>

<h3>PTO</h3> <p><u>Executive Board Members</u>            Sarah Slaiman Chebli &amp; Lynda Williams, Co-Presidents            Surekha Kakaraparthi, Vice President            Naveen Ramappa, Treasurer            Jigisha Biswal, Secretary</p> <p><u>Committee Chairs</u>            Leigh Ann Solomons, Science Fair Chairperson            Sarah Khalid, IT Committee Chairperson            Sowmya Ananthan, Homeroom Coordinator            Regina Whitlock, Box Tops Coordinator            Andrea Hannum, Talent Show Co-Chairperson            Sonali Vaidya, 5th Grade Coordinator &amp; Talent Show Co-Chairperson</p>	<p>We have a fantastic Parent Teacher Organization that partners with us to provide assembly programs, after school clubs, evening family events, and much, much more!</p> <p>We need your help....consider volunteering on one of our committees this year!</p> 
<p>Don't miss the <u>PTO Ice Cream Social</u> on September 7th.            All families are invited! Keep your eye out for a flyer from the PTO for details.</p>	<p>Mark your calendar for one of our first events of the year!            The PTO's <u>TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT</u> will be held on Friday, October 26th. Details to follow.</p>

## School Procedures to Help Ensure a SAFE and Smooth Start

Note: These procedures are designed to protect the safety of all students, your support with these policies and procedures is expected and appreciated. Thank you!

<p><b>Reporting an Absence</b></p>	<p>If your child is going to be absent, the school <b>must</b> be notified. You may can leave a voicemail at any hour, or can call the Main Office staff after 8:00 AM. Call (732) 329-6981 and follow the prompts.</p> <p><b>State Law</b> says that a reason for each absence must be given, and that we must call each parent who does not call to report their child absent. Please remember to call us when your child is out!</p>
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<p><b>Arrival</b></p>	<p>Doors open at 8:55 AM. Parents and students are expected to wait outside until 8:55 AM unless students are in the Before School Program. Please <u>do not</u> leave children unattended before 8:55 AM.</p> <p>The late bell will ring at 9:05 AM. All students are expected to arrive on time so that instruction can begin promptly. Late arrivals must be accompanied to the Main Office by a parent/guardian to be signed in.</p> <p>Please familiarize yourself with the following practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAM (BSP):</b> You are required to sign your child into the BSP each day. Please park in the back parking lot and enter the building through the back doors by the cafeteria. Do not use the bus loop. As per our security policy, you will need to be “buzzed in.”</li> <li>● <b>BUS STUDENTS:</b> All buses arrive in the bus loop (horseshoe on Monmouth Drive) or along the curb immediately next to the bus loop. Students enter the building through the doors near the gym.</li> <li>● <b>WALKERS:</b> Students walking to school are expected to only cross Ridge Road or Monmouth Drive at the locations that have a crossing guard. Ridge Road walkers should enter through the bus loop doors, while Monmouth Drive walkers should enter through the backdoor by the cafeteria. Help your child time their walk carefully, as students cannot enter the building until 8:55 AM.</li> <li>● <b>PARENT DROP-OFF:</b> Parking is limited. We STRONGLY encourage you not to park and to use the “Drop-Off Zone” instead. The “Drop-Off Zone” is located in the rear of the back parking lot. Enter the parking lot and pull as far forward as possible. Staff members will be there to greet you and to help your child get out of the car as you remain in your car. This helps to ensure a safe and efficient arrival for all. Please use caution in the parking lot as it is a busy place for cars and pedestrians during arrival and dismissal. Please also pay attention to all posted signs! <u>Reminder:</u> There is no parking on Monmouth Drive when school is in session!</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dismissal</b></p>	<p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> Monmouth Junction’s Main Office requires that dismissal changes be sent into school in writing on the <b>Dismissal Change Form</b>. The form will be sent to you on opening day. You may access additional forms on the school’s web page. To ensure that this information is received in a timely manner, please do not email this information to teachers during the school day.</p> <p>Dismissal will occur between 3:25 and 3:30 PM (1:30 - 1:35PM on early dismissal days). Please familiarize yourself with the following practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (ASP):</b> Students will be dismissed to the ASP, and attendance will be taken before other students are dismissed. When picking up your child, please park in the back, buzz-in, and sign your child out with the ASP staff.</li> <li>● <b>WALKERS &amp; PARENT PICK-UPS:</b> Parents should wait for their child(ren) on the blacktop at the rear of the building (near the playground equipment). Teachers will walk students out to the blacktop and will supervise as you and your child find one another and head home for the day. Please meet your child in this designated waiting area - teachers will not allow students to walk across the parking lot to meet you. Students who are walking home will be dismissed from this area as well.</li> <li>● <b>BUS STUDENTS:</b> All students will exit through the bus loop doors to meet their bus. Buses will be parked either in the loop or along the curb immediately past the bus loop.</li> </ul>
<p><b>General Notes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● During the school day, all entrances are locked. Visitors to the building must be admitted through the front door and must go to the Main Office to sign-in and obtain a visitor’s badge.</li> <li>● The front of the school building is not used for drop-off or pick-up. Instead, please follow arrival/dismissal procedures outlined above.</li> <li>● There are a few 15 minute visitor parking spaces in the front of the building. Visitors staying for longer periods must park in the back of the building and walk around to the front.</li> <li>● Some students are quite scared of dogs. If you bring your dog with you, please do not bring your pet to the blacktop area. Please wait with your pet on the sidewalk so that students are able to enter/exit the building calmly and safely.</li> </ul>