Whitehouse School News Fall Greetings from All of Us!!! November 2019 Learning & Growing Together

Dear WHS Friends & Families,

Whitehouse School is quite unique. Each year since 2005, we have come together as a school community to embark on an annual thematic unit. This year, our topics of study have been inspired by the 50th Anniversary of when the United States put a man on the moon! As an entire school, we are going to commemorate this auspicious accomplishment, the Apollo II Mission, which took place on July 20, 1969.

Did You Know...10 Fast Facts About Our School's Moon Study?

- When we engage in a thematic unit, we try to springboard off of a selection from children's literature. The whole school then reads the same book. This year's novel is from the Magic Treehouse series and is entitled, *Midnight on the Moon*, by Mary Pope Osborne. Over the summer, the H.S.A. graciously purchased a copy of this book for every classroom AND every second grader! (Thank you, Mrs. Zanardi, Mrs. Rosell & Mrs. Burgey!)
- 2. When we begin our study, we try to integrate it into 3 or more subject areas that we would naturally address in school. (For example, we may be working on a writing unit on non-fiction text, so science astronomy facts would be a good point of focus.)
- 3. Teachers have already planned their lessons and each grade level will examine a specific area:
 - a. Kindergarten Astronaut Life
 - b. Grade I Stars, Planets, & Constellations
 - c. Grade 2 Space Travel
 - d. Grade 3 The International Space Station
- 4. Once students have finished exploring their topics and showcasing their research, they will do a "Moon Walk" through the halls as we look at all of the displayed work and share ours with others.
- 5. We are officially "launching" the unit with a skit performed by students on November II (Thank you, Ms. Bengels!)
- 6. We will also discuss our thematic unit and perform the skit at the Board of Education meeting on the evening of November 12.
- 7. We will be hosting an Astronaut-in-Training, who will visit us for an entire day in January (Thank you, Mrs. Schlosser!)
- 8. We will have a moon-centric New Jersey Makers Day event on March 20 (Thank you, Mrs. Yukniewicz!)
- 9. We will all take a field trip to RVCC in the Spring for a moon-related experience!
- 10. We will watch a children's "moon" movie together as a school in May or June!

Warmly,

Ann T. DeRosa, Ed.D.

Are you kidding me?

How does a man on the moon get a haircut? iti əsdiləz:=:Eqlibəsuy

Mission Statement

WE ARE CUBS OF CHARACTER!!!

The mission of Whitehouse School is to provide children with a nurturing environment where they will feel safe and accepted. Our school community encourages respect and builds independence while fostering academic and personal growth and creating a love for learning.

CHARACTER CORNER

November's Theme Gratitude

November Awareness Efforts & Service Projects:

- Local Food Drive
- Holiday Placemats for Veterans in VA Hospital

Juidance News

Character Corner



Awareness Week Photos

Students completing their friendship pledge cards



Students thanking a firefighter from Whitehouse Fire Company



Learning & Growing...

October was awareness month where we highlighted important concepts such as respect, healthy coping skills, conflict resolution, and making positive friendship choices.

Students and staff celebrated **The Week of Respect** from October 7-11. The topics of respect and good choices were discussed. Students described ways to show respect and completed friendship pledge cards. On October 7th, we observed World Day of Bullying Prevention by wearing blue to show worldwide solidarity in eliminating bullying. This also happened to be Fire Prevention Week and the Whitehouse Fire Company came to WHS for a fire safety presentation. Not only did students learn valuable fire safety and prevention strategies, but it also gave Whitehouse students and staff the opportunity to thank and show our respect to our first responders.

The week of October 14-18, was designated as **School Violence Awareness Week**. The students and staff wore purple on Tuesday, October 15th, as a reminder that we use different ways to solve our problems rather than to hurt each other with our words or hands. Friday, October 18^{th,} students received a special presentation from Officer Gilmurray of the Readington Police Department during lunches on healthy ways to solve conflict and eliminate violence.

Whitehouse School also celebrated **Red Ribbon Week** from October 21-October 25. This is a special week set aside for schools to celebrate a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Over 100,000 schools and communities nationwide joined in the event, making it the most successful drug prevention activity in America. On Tuesday, October 22, all students and staff members dressed in red and on Friday, October 25th wore shirts backwards to turn our back on bullies. They also wore their red ribbons for the entire week!

VUISE

Reminders

Please check at home for Lice to prevent it from spreading. Don't share hats, earbuds or hair accessories/ products

Character Corner

Be a good **friend** by working to keep germs from spreading. Stay home when you are sick. Wash your hands, cover coughs, and use a tissue to blow your nose.



Learning & Growing...

HAND WASHING—This is very important!!!

Hand washing with warm water and soap is our best defense against common viral illness. Wash for 20 seconds minimum. Hand sanitizer is an excellent alternative when you do not have access to soap and water, but it should not take the place of good hand washing. The nurse worked with each kindergarten class to teach about proper handwashing.

There are other ways to help maximize your child's immune system:

· Vaccinate everyone in your family against the flu! The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone age 6 months and older.

• Ensure that your child is getting an adequate amount of sleep every night. Children age 5-10 should get 10-11 hours of sleep each night.

 \cdot Maintain a healthy diet of fruits and vegetables for you and your children.

 Participate in regular exercise or activity. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend children get at least 60 minutes of activity daily.

With the colder weather comes cold and flu season.

Many parents ask when they should keep their child home from school. Here are guidelines to follow:

 \cdot A temperature of 100 degrees or higher. Your child must be fever free without the use of fever reducing medications such as Advil or Tylenol.

 \cdot Vomiting and/or diarrhea -keep child home until 24 hours without any.

• Any unusual rashes (should be evaluated by your healthcare provider).

 \cdot Treatment of bacterial conjunctivitis requires 24 hours of medication before returning to school.

• Strep Throat requires antibiotic treatment. Students must be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.

· Earaches should be evaluated by your primary care provider.





Please contact me directly if you wish to set up a speech meeting during Parent-Teacher Conferences!

Character Corner Gratitude: noun

the quality or feeling of being grateful or thankful

Synonyms:

- Thankfulness
- Appreciation
- Gratefulness

Antonyms:

- Thanklessness
- Ungratefulness



Learning & Growing...

We Are Working On Our Speech Goals!



There are so many Fall activities you can enjoy together as a family that also promote communication skills! Here are two ideas you can use to work on your child's speech goals at home:

<u>Watching Football:</u> Football season is here! Each time a team makes a touchdown, ask your child to practice football themed words (e.g. if your child is practicing the /l/ sound, you can practice the words 'football', 'field', 'completion', or 'player'). You can also have your child practice the targeted words for each yard gained during plays (e.g. if twelve yards are gained during a play, practice a word twelve times). Pick a category and pass a football back and forth during commercial breaks while naming items that belong to a group (e.g. fruits, heavy items, and occupations) or use adjectives to describe NFL team mascots. The possibilities are endless!

<u>Hayrides:</u> If you take your child on a hayride, have him/her describe what they are seeing. Model the use of prepositions (e.g. 'over', 'under', 'by', 'through', 'near', and 'across') as you discuss the landscape of the ride. Promote the use of these complex terms, instead of the use of non-specific words such as "over there", to describe the location of an item. If your child is working on a speech sound, challenge him/her to find as many things along the way that contain his/her targeted speech sound.

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Kindergarten

Reminders

Remember to return your signed puzzle bucket to your teacher on or before the due date.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on November 4, 5, and 6, so those will be Early Dismissal days for the children.

Character Corner

Kindergarteners spent the first few months of school attending to their social and emotional learning (SEL). Students have learned what it means to have a full bucket and how we can be bucket fillers. Attending Town Hall Meetings each month, reflecting in an SEL journal, reciting our Whitehouse School Chant daily, and learning about a little frog named Kelso, who is a responsible decision maker, are just a few of the many ways we address your child's social and emotional learning in school. November is the month we focus on gratitude. We are grateful for your continued support at home as you help your child identify times when they exhibit this character trait by filling in a puzzle piece on their bucket! Thank you!

Learning & Growing...

The kindergarten children will continue their phonemic awareness study of letters and sounds this month. The boys and girls will be actively involved in many shared reading experiences, handwriting, word study, and retelling activities where the letter sounds will be emphasized. Blending sounds, making, and reading short vowel words are some of the ways the children will utilize their vowel knowledge. They will also be encouraged to include vowels in their writing. Don't forget to review those sight words at home too!

In science, we will be working hard and learning a lot about trees and weather. We will continue to participate in many investigations such as observing trees in our schoolyard using our five senses, comparing trees and leaves for similarities and differences, communicating our observations orally and with drawings and a word or two. The children will also be observing and comparing weather by using their senses and tools, recording weather observations using pictures and words and building and using a windsock. When you walk into a kindergarten classroom, you will find some very active little scientists!

In math, the boys and girls will be working with shapes to build their spatial reasoning by naming shapes, seeing position and shape, making comparisons among flat and solid shapes and building three-dimensional shapes from building materials. The children will be also be discovering and creating patterns using a pattern block template. Be on the lookout for our Native American pattern necklaces.

As you walk through our halls you'll see pumpkins, Indian corn, and turkeys. We will be very busy in kindergarten this month!





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Party is on November 26th at 2:00pm.

Thanksgiving



Gratitude buckets are due to your teacher by Monday, November 25th.

Character Corner

One way our classes have come together is by having a Morning Meeting each day. In our Morning Meeting, we get to know each other as we do various greetings and activities. We also use this time to problem-solve ways we can be bucket fillers and show each other that we respect one another.



Learning & Growing...

first Grade

Our first graders have kicked off this year in an extremely positive way! We have made new friends, renewed old friendships, and came together as new classroom communities.

In Writer's Workshop, we are finishing our Small Moments unit of study and moving into How-To Books. Students will be working on how to explicitly tell someone how to do something using organizational words such as first, next, then, and last. In Reader's Workshop, we are working on building good reading habits, such as taking a sneak peek to get ready to read, setting goals for reading, rereading to make our voices sound smooth, and using strategies to tackle tricky words. In Phonics, we are using our detective word skills with our class mascot Rasheed.

In math, we are more than half-way through Unit 1. This unit extends children's understanding of adding and subtracting within 10. At home you are encouraged to practice these skills using your child's i-Ready account.

Our Social Studies unit focused on communities, citizenship, laws, and rules. The children have been learning about laws and rules as they apply them at school and in the community. This unit fit in very nicely with our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) program.

We just started our first science unit on Sound and Light. In this unit, students will learn that sound comes from vibrating objects. They will explore volume and pitch. When they study light, students will work with sources and receivers. They will explore how to use sound and light devices to communicate information.





*Parent/Teacher Conferences -11/4, 11/5, 11/6 (These are early dismissal days for students.) *Early Dismissal -11/27 *No school on 11/7, 11/8 and 11/28 and 11/29

Character Corner

Second graders show good character! This November we are talking about Gratitude. Students will learn how to show gratitude and identify different things they are grateful for. When your child demonstrates gratitude at home this month, have him or her color in a puzzle piece. Don't forget to sign and return the bucket at the end of the month.

Learning & Growing...

Autumn greetings from Second Grade!

We have been very busy building our stamina and learning strategies to strengthen our reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension skills. As you read with your child at home, stop and ask him or her questions about the characters or plot. Remind your child to "chunk out" tricky words and to read smoothly with expression!

Second graders will soon begin to explore nonfiction in both Readers and Writers Workshop. Students will be immersed in factual information and will learn how to glean important information, research topics and identify different characteristics of nonfiction books. By the end of the Writing unit, students will have researched and written an informational book.

Mathematicians have been busy learning various addition, subtraction and word problem-solving strategies. We will continue strengthening our math discourse skills and using a variety of strategies to solve problems.

Our first social studies unit focused on government and communities and we have begun our first science unit, Pebbles, Sand and Silt. Additionally, we have worked with the Master Gardeners and have learned about the role and importance of soil. We are looking forward to many exciting discoveries!!

November:

1st: Town Hall Meeting
4th-6th: Parent/Teacher
Conferences
7th-8th: No SCHOOL
13th: 3rd Grade Clubs
20th: Raptor Trust Trip
27th: Early Dismissal
28th-29th: NO SCHOOL

Character Corner

Our students are engaged in routine school-wide and daily classroom Social **Emotional Learning** (SEL) activities such as Town Hall Meetings, Morning Meetings, Self-Reflections and Mindfulness. Our theme for November is Gratitude and December is Patience. Thank you for encouraging your child to demonstrate these positive character traits at home. At the end of each month, please remind your child to return his/her monthly bucket puzzle with your signature. We look forward to celebrating the fact that we "expect respect" at Whitehouse School each day.

Learning & Growing...

The weather is getting cooler, but things are really heating up in third grade! Our morning is packed full of exploration and discovery. Citizenship has been the third grade focus during social studies. We have learned about rights, responsibilities and ways to be a good citizen. After celebrating Constitution Day on September 17, each class created their own "Class Constitution" which established the framework of rules by which a positive learning environment is maintained within the classroom.

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At WHS, we are using our beautiful school grounds to extend our learning spaces beyond the classrooms. For starters, third graders are getting their hands dirty in the WHS Garden. With the collaboration and leadership of our Master Gardeners, students are learning how to care and maintain a successful garden. In October, students got busy pulling weeds and taking soil samples as a way to prepare the beds for the winter and upcoming spring planting season.

Moving on to math, students are using problem solving strategies such as equations, drawings and explanations to "express their thinking" and validate their answers with extended responses. Building multiplication and division fact fluency is also part of our lessons. Students will continue to practice with the goal of mastering the 0-10 facts by the middle of March. Many resources are in place within the classroom to help our students achieve this goal. At home, students are encouraged to regularly log onto their student accounts in Reflex Math and IXL.

Each day following lunch and recess, students are actively engaging in literacy. The beginning of our year focuses on building routines and stamina in both reading and writing. Students are independently reading and writing for longer periods of time. The writing genre for this marking period is personal narrative. The students are gathering ideas from their decorated writers' notebooks and from people and places in their lives that matter most to them.





VIIISIC

Mrs. Laurie Levesque, Wednesday & Thursday classes 534-4411 ext. 4141

Ms. Jessica Richter, Friday classes 823-0454 ext. 2016

Character Corner

"It is the sum of our small, everyday choices that defines who we are."



Learning & Growing...

During Music class at Whitehouse School, we strive to provide your children with a rich educational experience by exposing them to a wide variety of musical styles and genres. It's a bit like encouraging children to try many different kinds of vegetables....something initially perceived as being "yucky" might just turn out to be a big hit! Here are some tips for expanding your child's "musical palate" at home.

• Have family listening time, with each person choosing his or her favorite music. Music streaming apps and services are great tools and can offer up some wonderful surprises!

• Encourage your child to share songs learned at school, even if they can only remember a portion of the song.

· Plan a special outing to a ballet, concert, musical or festival.

• Read a musical story with your child, such as *Carnival of the Animals* or *Peter and the Wolf.* Many musical books include an accompanying CD.

• Encourage your child to listen to movie soundtracks. Many of these feature the classical and musical theatre genres. Examples include the music from *Star Wars, Superman, Batman, Cars, Frozen, Moana, Coco* and other animated films.

• Experiment with your child to see what instruments you can create with household objects. A quick Google search yields many interesting ideas, as does watching clips of the musical group, "Stomp"!

Learning & Growing...



Character Corner

Gratitude

In the art room, we are very thankful to have a nice selection of art materials which allows our children to explore many different art mediums.



I am amazed at how quickly time flies when you are creating art! It will be Thanksgiving before you know it and we are in full swing with so many art projects. All grades started the year off with a STEAM project, where teams were challenged with creating the tallest structure possible using 4 pieces of newspaper and tape. I loved seeing their minds at work as they were figuring out different ways to achieve this task. They were great!

Our Kindergartners learned how to mix primary colors to make secondary colors by squishing paint between folded paper and turning them into adorable blotter bugs. They also learned that the color wheel is actually in the same order as a rainbow. We then learned all about caterpillars and created a 3-dimensional art project based on the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. Following the life of a caterpillar brings us to their next project, which is a painted butterfly. We will then move to the ocean for a fun art lesson about turtles!

First graders started the year off with a multimedia project based on the book Elmer The Patchwork Elephant by David McKee. They painted with glue and paint to create Elmer in the jungle. Their next project was a little creepy as we created a spider spinning a web! This was challenging because it's never easy drawing with white oils on white paper, but they did an amazing job! We then got a little messy with a chalk rendition of Chengdu from Chengdu Could Not, Would Not Fall Asleep by Barney Saltzberg. Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae will be our next literary connection and they will learn how to create magic paint.

Our second graders are Zentangling feathers, which will then be displayed as large wings in the hallway. They learned nine different zentangle patterns and created some of their own as well. Listening to zen music as they create allows them to practice being mindful. They will then be learning how to draw zebras and color them with complementary colors.

Our third graders are busy drawing their rainforest birds and composing their artwork. They've learned how to draw a snake wrapped around a branch and all sorts of leaves and flowers, not to mention sloths, monkeys, chameleons, frogs, butterflies, caterpillars, spiders, newts, lemurs and more! They are looking amazing!

Thank you for sharing your children with me. Seeing their enthusiasm in the art room brings a smile to my face everyday.

Physical Education

Reminders

Make sure to remember to wear comfortable clothes and sneakers for your P.E. days!



Character Corner

In September, students showed responsibility by using the P.E. equipment properly and putting it back where it belonged. Now, we will expand on friendliness and focus on gratitude.



Learning & Growing...

Welcome to the Physical Education Newsletter page! Your children have been very busy moving their bodies and learning that "being fit is fun!" The students are "having a ball" in the Whitehouse gymnasium. During the month of September, students practiced the proper way to throw overhand and underhand. Key concepts they learned included: stepping with their opposite foot, getting their elbow up, and following through. Their skills were put to the test during our games of "Wall Ball" and "Pin Guard."

In the beginning of October, the children started the FitnessGram Testing, a comprehensive fitness assessment test for youths. (www.fitnessgram.net). Each student is tested in six different areas to measure flexibility, muscular strength/endurance, and cardiovascular endurance (sit and reach, curl ups, pull ups, push ups, and a modified snake run). The testing is done twice a year: Fall and Spring. After Spring testing, students will have the opportunity to see if they improved on their score. If you would like more information on the FitnessGram Test, you may visit www.fitnessgram.net

The students will soon be learning single jump rope fundamentals such as the Basic Bounce, Side Swing, Jumping Jax, One Foot Hop, and the Full Twist.

Physical Education Website: You may also visit our website for more information about our class, the FitnessGram, and other information you may need.

> Teacher Information: If you have any questions, here is our information.

Karen Kozal

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Learning & Growing...

Library

Please help your child to remember to return his/her library book on the assigned library day. Thanks!

Character Corner

September was the month of **Responsibility** ... and we are always responsible for our library books at WHS Library!

Friendliness was easy for our Cubs of Character!

Our new focus will be **Gratitude** and how grateful we are for books and family that reads to us!!

Thank you...

to all the families who participated in the library's instruction sheet for summer. We have fabulous photos on the WHS bulletin boards of these students enjoying an **Out of this World Summer!**. These students received coupons to check out 10 extra books from the WHS Library to be used during any week this school year.

Highlights for the coming months...

Ask your **Kindergarteners** what a series is. They will respond, "More than one book about the same character." We are exploring many "Super Series" (we fly like Superman when we read one!) that are of interest to young children, to help inspire them to read more.

Grade 1 will be comparing the content of Fiction books to Nonfiction books, as a prelude to a more in depth study of nonfiction text features in January.

Grade 2 will be celebrating our national holiday of Thanksgiving as they read narrative nonfiction books on how this glorious food fest came to be!

It's coming, **Grade 3**! The wait is almost over. Soon the students will learn how to use the scanner to check out their own books. Woot woot!

Keep up the great reading! ... Mrs. Zanardi

Jomputers

Reminders

Learning & Growing...

Wendy Reardon wreardon@readington.k12.nj.us 908-534-4411 ext. 133 Tuesdays Wednesdays Fridays

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Character Corner

Each month, one grade level completes a lesson showcasing our character education theme:

In November, the first graders will be creating Gratitude turkeys.



In the Computer Lab, we are back in the swing of things and chugging along, full steam ahead. Each grade started the year off with projects and activities designed to refresh and/or establish students' basic computer skills.

In **Kindergarten**, students explored using the mouse, touchpad and the touch screen computers. Students are practicing these skills by playing interactive games and activities on the computer.

First graders mastered logging onto their computers with their usernames and passwords. They have been reviewing Microsoft Word and have had the opportunity to explore a bit of what capabilities the program has by creating several Word documents and printing. In November, students will be using our class pets, the Bee Bots, along with a webquest to learn about some community helpers and reinforce their social studies unit.

In **second grade**, we started the year off by logging into our Google Classroom. Students created a Google document entitled "Summer Highlights." They had to list five activities they did this summer and insert a picture. In addition, they were re-acquainted with some features available in a Google Doc, including changing fonts.

Students in **third grade** also brushed up on their computer skills by logging into their Google Classroom. Students created an All About Us slideshow as a class. This activity allowed each student to learn about their classmates' interests and likes.

Each third grade class started the school's new typing program. This program will help our students to become more efficient at typing. **The program is available for use at home**. The Typing Club program website is https://readington.typingclub.com. Students log in using their usernames and passwords. Please email me for assistance with this new program. Students will also be practicing during computer lab time.

Please visit the school website and go to the computer section under "classrooms" for age-appropriate educational websites you can enjoy at home.

Spanish

Reminders

A great way to review and practice Spanish vocabulary is playing online games :) Please visit the Spanish website to have direct access to the links.

Character Corner

We have learned how to say in Spanish:

Responsibility "Responsabilidad" and Friendliness "Amigable or Amistoso"

Learning & Growing...

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful start we had in Spanish! I can't believe how much the students remember from last year and how eager the kindergarteners are to learning a new language.

In fact, Kindergarten is learning greetings, colors, numbers (up to 20) and stating their names and how they are doing. Also, they can follow simple commands and sing some songs in Spanish.

First grade has reviewed greetings, basic questions, directions, colors, numbers up to 30 and the days of the week. They are getting familiar with the weather and some Halloween vocabulary. First graders have enjoyed learning new songs and games and they loved completing their Halloween project!

Second grade is studying the calendar in detail (state the date, season and weather) and clothes, which they are going to connect with colors and weather.

Third grade is focused on stating the date for yesterday, today and tomorrow, the alphabet and school materials. Third graders are able to spell their first name and last name.

Both second and third graders are learning about the Mexican Holiday "El Día de los Muertos" (The Day of the Dead) by reading a book and watching a video about this holidays.

Saludos, Señora de los Santos Extension News

Reminders

Kindergarten and Grade 1 Sunshine Math has started! Each week, it is due on Wednesday!

Character Corner





Learning & Growing...

Hello! My name is Mrs. Yukniewicz! I teach Second and Third Grade Gifted and Talented, Third Grade Honors Math and Kindergarten - Third Grade Extensions. Last year, we changed our name from Enrichment to Extensions. Please understand that in Extensions, we "extend" on the curriculum your child is already learning in the classroom, while the Gifted and Talented and the Honors Math programs have their own curriculum.

I will be working hard to engage the students in challenges they find interesting and motivating. I love to see the excitement for learning and I am inspired by the students' eagerness to learn. When students step into my room, their faces light up and they know they are going to be challenged!

We also provide Schoolwide Extension programs for all students. Sunshine Math is back this year and is already in full swing! The Sunshine Math Program is from September to January for the kindergarten and first grade classes. Second and third grade classes will begin a similar program in January. Sunshine Math is a ten-week program designed to complement the regular math curriculum. Students receive challenge worksheets each Friday and work on them at home. The problems require students to think critically. Parents are encouraged to talk through the problems with students and may offer strategies. Students should return their worksheets on the following Wednesday to their classroom's "Sunshine Math" folder. The challenge worksheets are also posted online so students can access multiple levels of challenge.

Whitehouse School also offers a GREEN Science Fair in February and a NJ Makers Day Challenge in March.

If you have any questions regarding the programs I teach, please do not hesitate to contact me! I can be reached at lyukniewicz@readington.k12.nj.us or (908) 534 - 4411 ext 4127.