Dear Parents and Members of the River Edge Community,

It is my pleasure to return to River Edge as Superintendent for the 2012-2013 school year. As I reflect on the year that we just concluded I do so with satisfaction. It was an academically strong year with many accomplishments. Listed below are only a few of the most important activities, along with goals, for the 2012-2013 school year.

- **Language Arts:** As indicated on the NJ State Report Card, we brought achievement up approximately 15% in various grade levels. We implemented a new reading series for grades 3-5, provided extensive teacher training and deepened the culture of differentiating instruction. Working with our Literacy Coach and with the Oradell School District through the Tri-district Curriculum Office a Language Arts Curriculum for grades K-5 was written and will be implemented this coming year.

- **Transition to Middle School:** Consistent with our goal of adequately preparing 6th graders for Middle School, we formed a transition team. The team began creating a curriculum that is designed to facilitate greater consistency and readiness for the elementary schools in Oradell and River Edge. This work will continue this summer and into the 2012-2013 school year.

- **Math and Science:** While our students have always been successful in these areas, we explored our practices with an eye to improve instruction and learning. We aligned these subjects with the mandated Core Curriculum Standards. During the 2012-2013 school year we will enhance science teaching through extensive professional development and greater differentiation in math.

- **Full-Day Kindergarten:** In response to an identified need, River Edge Residents will enjoy a Full-Day Kindergarten for the first time this coming school year.

- **The Budget:** While conforming to the small 2% tax levy growth and remaining sensitive to taxpayer concerns, we worked as a team to preserve and retain all of the excellent educational programming that will prepare our students for the future. The budget has retained more than “the staples” of education for River Edge students. Our class size was retained, technology enriched, and we provided for students with special needs, keeping all our students in district. Basic Skills teachers and services for our Gifted and Talented population will continue to be offered.

- **Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying:** We created School Safety Committees, appointed an Anti-Bullying District Coordinator and updated our Code of Conduct. Awareness was raised through training and a district-wide climate survey which included parents, students, and staff was administered. The results were positive and we communicated them widely. Efforts will continue for improvement during the 2012-2013 school year to foster a positive and safe school climate.

- **Technology:** A comprehensive five-year plan was presented in December of 2011. We began to implement the plan during the 2011-2012 school year. Additionally, the buildings were retrofitted for better access and connectivity. Smart Boards were installed in most classrooms with the generous assistance of the PTO. The old computer labs are being replaced, and we will continue to be upgraded by providing more laptops and iPads in the hands of students during the 2012-2013 school year.
Superintendent’s Message (continued)

- Community and Communication. A Community Planning Meeting was held in February of 2012. It included representation of various River Edge constituencies. The strengths and challenges of the River Edge School District were discussed and goals were outlined. We will continue to communicate with the various local constituencies, as they are all stakeholders in our schools. The River Edge Educational Foundation has also reorganized and began to raise funds to benefit our students. Additionally, students in our schools traveled to entertain the seniors at Score, and we look forward to hosting the Seniors Glee Club in the schools next year.

As plans for next year solidify we will focus on improving academics in all areas and continue to provide opportunities for parents and members of the River Edge Community to learn about the School District. I thank all of you for a phenomenal year of accomplishments and wish you a refreshing and invigorating summer!

Let’s Continue to Build Bright Futures Together!

Dr. Tova Ben-Dov
River Edge Superintendent of Schools

iPads Have Arrived in New Bridge Center

Thanks to the generous donations from several families, coupled with funds that were specifically earmarked for special education students through the federal government program known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), our district was able to purchase several iPads to instruct our students in the Building Bridges and Building Connections classes. As school districts rely more on technology to assist in classroom instruction, the iPad has proven to increase student attention and motivation. This technology has also shown to enhance student receptive and expressive language skills. iPads promote acquisition of reading and writing skills and effective communication skills.

The iPad is a particularly effective device for students in the Building Bridges and Building Connections Programs. The touch screen and layout allow children with coordination and learning difficulties more easily accessible. The students are given access to the iPad throughout the day, and teachers have also incorporated the use of the iPad for individualized programming for all students.

The River Edge school district looks forward to additional iPads and other individual technological devices in the hands of students and staff!

River Edge Schools Welcomes Mr. Gyuchang Sim as a new member of the Board of Education!

Kids on the Move in Summer Enrichment

“The summer enrichment program was very successful. The creativity of our teachers gave students the opportunity to create, perform, challenge themselves mentally and physically, and have lots of fun. It was an honor to work with such great teachers and students,” proclaimed veteran teacher Chris Armen who is Director of the Summer Program. Jenna Karpowich, top right, and bottom from left, Sophia Zuniga, Connor Daly and Isabella Frost demonstrate pose from Ms. Pitingolo’s exciting “Kids On the Move” class during the summer.

Save the Date!

District-wide International Day in the River Edge Schools November 20, 2012 More details to come!
2012 School Honors!

Teacher of the Year Recipients 2012

Cherry Hill: Joanne Haggerty (left)
Roosevelt: Kara Fenarjian (center)
New Bridge Center: Maryann Durante (right)

Student Accomplishments

6th Grade NJ Math League Contest (out of 160 schools):
Roosevelt School: 19th in NJ
1st Place: Christina Chen
2nd Place: Matthew Lu
3rd Place: Bowen Xiao
4th Place: Ethan Shan

Cherry Hill School: 7th in NJ
1st Place: Laura Zhao
2nd Place: Hani Alostaz
3rd Place: Claire Whang
4th Place: Julia Scheidman

National Geography Bee
Cherry Hill: Hani Alostaz
Roosevelt: Alexander Dubey-Baggenstoss

Bergen County Educational Recognition Program
Cherry Hill: Olivia Hassett, 3rd Place

Congratulations to Our Retirees!

The River Edge Board of Education honored its retirees at the June 1, 2012 meeting. Many members of the River Edge school community attended this celebration of their years of service. A reception was held later that evening at Cherry Hill School.

On June 7th, the River Edge Education Association hosted a dinner at The Colonial Inn in Norwood to honor and celebrate the retirees and their years of service in the River Edge school district.

The retiring teachers and staff (from left to right) are: Mr. James Feichter, custodian at Cherry Hill School; Mrs. Emily Baglieri, teacher at Roosevelt School; and Mrs. JoAnn Jennings, secretary at Cherry Hill School.

“Opening the Door” to Full Day Kindergarten

Erin Hoogstrate opens the door to the upcoming full day Kindergarten program at New Bridge Center (NBC). Erin, (pictured with her mother Laura), is one of many students beginning September of 2012. Erin visited NBC over the summer to attend orientation as part of the transition into Kindergarten. She met with her teacher and other students in an informal setting.

In creating the full day Kindergarten, the River Edge BOE responded to an identified need in the community. It aligns the district with many regional and local school districts that are currently providing full day Kindergarten. It will provide the additional instructional time to help young students prepare for a rigorous school schedule and academic, standard-based demands. Students will have ample opportunity for social and emotional adjustment as well as time for play. Several orientation sessions were available to families this summer to ease transition to the full-day program.

As we make the transition to Full Day Kindergarten, there is no added cost to the district, since Kindergarten teachers are already employed full time under the previous modified full day sessions.
River Edge Welcomes Interim Assistant Principal

On August 1, 2012, the Board of Education appointed Dr. Kevin J. McGrath as Interim Assistant Principal for New Bridge Center (NBC). Dr. McGrath, a veteran educator and accomplished administrator in such districts as Wayne Township and Pine Brook, will serve for the remainder of the summer and possibly for the start of the 2012-2013 school year. Dr. McGrath has also served in multiple districts as an interim administrator, and is well prepared to ensure that our students and staff have a smooth opening come September. Dr. McGrath’s last position was Interim Principal in the Cresskill Public Schools for the last two years. Welcome to River Edge Dr. McGrath, and good luck!

A Note from the Board of Education

Dear River Edge Community,

The 2011-2012 school year has been very productive and positive. The Board and School Administrators worked diligently on numerous matters including policy, staffing, curriculum, building/grounds, and finance. In addition to passing resolutions necessary to the functioning of the schools, the Board considered and passed resolutions regarding pending legislation. These resolutions were sent to our representatives so that our opinions were heard. The Board continued its participation in the tri-district committee, and its practice of attending town council and PTO meetings. Some Trustees attended School Board workshops to enhance knowledge and skills.

The Board’s ongoing goals of cultivating community input and dialogue were addressed in a Community Planning Event. The event was facilitated by School Boards personnel and was attended by diverse constituents of our town. It was heartening to hear that others share the Administration and Boards commitment to high quality education for River Edge. It was very successful and the results will drive future goals.

As always, I encourage all of you to attend some of our meetings and to become informed about all issues pertaining to education. Voice your thoughts and concerns. Speak with our administrators and teachers who have the professional expertise and experience. We tell our children that education is vital and that knowledge is power. This holds true for life beyond formal education.

Regards,
Lucy Di Maulo, On Behalf of the River Edge Board of Education

River Edge Welcomes Interim Assistant Principal