

To: Parents/Guardians  
From: Mark Solimo  
Date: January 28, 2010  
Re: Board Meeting of January 26, 2010

**F.Y.I.**

**Superintendent's Report**

On Friday, January 22, 2010, twelve students from the Robert L. Craig School participated in the annual National Geographic Geography Bee. Participants included four representatives from grades six through eight. Contestants were selected from preliminary contests held in their Social Studies classes. Participants included Daniel Bouliga, Nicholas Bullaro, Jeannette Carias, Kevin Henao, Jenny Huang, Madriek Jordan, James Pichardo, Daniel Pizzuto, Nicholas Sarmiento-Arias, Tohfa Singh, Raquel Teixeira, and Ethan Torio.

Students had to answer questions relating to U.S., world, and cultural geography, and were eliminated after getting three wrong questions. The last two remaining contestants competed in a final round, where they both received the same questions. The runner-up in the school wide competition was sixth grader Nicholas Sarmiento-Arias, and the 2010 Robert L. Craig School National Geographic Geography Bee Champion was sixth grader Ethan Torio. Congratulations, Ethan! A special thanks goes out to Mr. Greg P. Keelen for coordinating the Bee and to Mr. Harris Hirsch for technological assistance.

Music students in grades one, two and three are developing rhythm accompaniments for several of the songs they have been rehearsing from the beginning of the year. Such songs as "Do-Re-Mi", "This Land Is Your Land", "This Little Light" and others are being performed as singing and rhythm activities. These performances involve students in several ways- 1) They are learning to identify many rhythm instruments by name and visual recognition. 2) They are learning how to accompany singing activities with various rhythms, from simple to more challenging ones and 3) They are also learning to work together in a team in a framework using the abbreviation D.R.U.M. which stands for Discipline, Respect and Unity to create Music. Teamwork is the basis for all successful musical performances and students are enjoying this new aspect of classroom activities.

This year, Mrs. Mongilia is implementing the Basic Skills Math program for grades 1-8. Working in small groups, students at each grade level meet once or twice each week. At some grade levels, Mrs. Mongilia also goes into their regular math class to provide extra support. Instruction involves test taking strategies, math vocabulary, and reinforcement of their grade level activities. Mrs. Mongilia will also sometimes introduce a concept during Basic Skills which has not yet been covered in class. This is an advantage to the students because the small group allows them to ask more questions and they are familiar with the material when they see it in class. Because students experience success in the basic skills environment, their teachers often report that the students have more confidence in the regular math class.

**Finance**

1. Approved the following 2010 Title I ARRA Budget:

20-450-100-101	Salary	20,522
20-450-200-200	Benefits	4,107
20-450-200-300	Prof. Consultants	<u>14,000</u>
		38,640
2. Approved 2010-2011 addendum between the Moonachie Board of Education and South Bergen Jointure Commission for the three classrooms in July 2010.
3. Approved Business Associate Agreement between LDP Consulting and the Moonachie Board of Education to facilitate compliance with the Privacy and Security Rules and the HITECH Amendment to HIPAA.
4. Adopted waiver of compliance with respect to the districts participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2010-2011 school year.