

## OCEAN CITY'S SUPERINTENDENT WINS STATE AWARD

Dr. Kathleen Taylor is the Superintendent of Ocean City School District. She was recently named the Superintendent of the Year in the State of New Jersey. On October 25th, Dr. Taylor was honored by the New Jersey Association of School Administrators. She was awarded by Ocean City Board of Education President Joe Clark and Vice President Jacqueline McAllister. Dr. Taylor will represent New Jersey in the American Association of School Administrators Competition. The winner of this award will be announced in the spring of 2018.

With 24 years experience as a school administrator Dr. Taylor came to Ocean City in 2006. She previously served in Sea Isle City and Haverford Township, Pennsylvania. Dr. Taylor has been in the Ocean City School District for 12 years. She started in 2006, which means the kids that were in Kindergarten when she started are now graduating from Ocean City High School this year! Dr. Taylor is a past president of the Cape May County Superintendent's Association. She also currently serves on the Ocean City Education Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce. She was recognized by the New Jersey State Board of Education on December 6th. She was one of two regional superintendents of the year, along with Charles Sampson of the Freehold Regional High School District, that were named at New Jersey School Boards Association Workshop. This took place on October 25th in Atlantic City.

We had the opportunity to interview Dr. Taylor about her award! We asked Dr. Taylor how did she feel when she received the award. Dr. Taylor responded, "I was very happy and excited to receive this award. I am very proud that I am a part of the Ocean City School District. I am also very proud because this award belongs to all of us here in Ocean City." We then asked Dr. Taylor if she was proud of her accomplishment. She said, "I am very proud of this accomplishment. However, what I'm most proud of is our students, teachers, and staff that work together. This is really *our* award because we work together as a school community to make our school district as great as it is." Then, we asked if this was the first time that she received this award and Dr. Taylor explained, "It is the first time I received a state award, but I have been awarded for other



recognitions." Last, we asked Dr. Taylor how hard is it to be a superintendent. Dr. Taylor responded, "It is hard work and it takes a lot of time. However, the rewards are many because I am able to be with the students every single day."

Being a Superintendent is a very big honor and we are very lucky to have Dr. Taylor as ours. The Ocean City Primary School is very lucky to have such an amazing superintendent helping the Ocean City Schools to be the best that they can be. Once again, we just want to thank Dr. Taylor for all your generosity to the school district and congratulations on this accomplishment!

By: Casey Adamson and Hannah Loro

## LEGO RACECARS ZOOM INTO PRIMARY SCHOOL!



The picture above shows one of our third grade students, Jonathan, with his "Pencil Car" that he designed and built with his partner Alex in the LEGO-Space. Each student drew a blueprint of what they wanted the car to look like.

The picture below shows Mrs. Libro's third grade class during the race competition. The Parent Teacher Association purchased the 34-foot yellow track that the cars race on. Thank you PTA!



This year a LEGO car racing tournament is happening during our technology class at the Ocean City Primary School. Third graders at the school have been challenged to engineer a LEGO racecar that will race against other cars. Each student works in a team with two other students and had to design a really fast car. First, we came up with ideas and then drew pictures of what we thought the car would look like. Next, we went to the LEGO-Space and built the cars using different colored LEGOs. Once we built them, we tested them on our brand new racing track that our PTA bought for us. Now, we are getting ready to race them in a tournament!

The yellow racing track holds 4 cars at a time and is really long. At the end of the track is a scoreboard that tells you how many seconds it took for the car to get down the track. The cars get put in a lane and Mr. Kohr counts down, 3-2-1, and then flips a button. "Swish!" the cars zoom down the track!

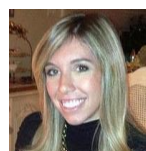
We asked Mr. Kohr why he thought of doing the LEGO racing and he said, "I wanted the third grade students to have an opportunity to learn about engineering. LEGOs are a great way for students to build and then re-build their own designs. But most importantly, what is more fun than LEGOs!?" We asked him where all of the LEGOs came from and he said, "Last year third grade students came up with the idea for the LEGO-space. They wanted a place to build stuff! They ordered the 65,000 LEGOs that are in the room now." Last, we asked him which car was his favorite and he said, "I can't choose just one, I love them all! All of the third grade teams came up with really interesting and unique designs, I was so impressed!"

We asked our friend Josh from Ms. Naplagic's class what he thought about the project, "It is really fun for the third graders because mostly everyone loves LEGOs and we were really pumped up to get into the new LEGO room!" The racing tournament is going to happen in February and March and the winning team gets a prize! We can't wait to see who wins! On your mark, get ready, LEGO RACE!

By: Callie Erney and Tatum Collins

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE OC PTA FOR THE LEGO RACE TRACK! IT IS SO COOL!

## NEWSPAPER CLUB CONTACTS



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# OCEAN CITY PARADES

BANG, BANG!!! HONK, HONK!!! The parades in Ocean City are to celebrate a holiday or an event. There are different kinds of parades. There is the Halloween Parade, The Christmas Parade, and so much more! In the parades, people from Ocean City and Upper Township Schools join our parades. There are also many floats that the people in the parades actually make. The people in our community actually make the floats each year and sometimes you can spot a familiar face on one of the floats!



## MANCO & MANCO

“Chomp! Chomp!” Manco & Manco is a world famous pizza place on the Ocean City Boardwalk and it is a really good one! When they first opened, Manco & Manco only had plain pizza and soda but now they have all different types! They have spectacular pizza that isn’t the same as any other pizza and people line up for blocks in the summertime just to get a slice of Manco & Manco. People have been known to wait over an hour for this pizza!

You can order all types of pizza with different topping choices such as, cheese, broccoli, spinach, pepperoni, or fresh jersey tomatoes! I recommend their broccoli pizza because it is my favorite! Their pizza is unique because the dough is crispy on the bottom. Also, the cheese and sauce are perfectly blended. Manco & Manco opened their first pizza place in 1956. Frank and Kay Manco are the founders of Manco & Manco. Did you know one of Manco &Manco’s traditions is making their pizza right in front of their customers? This is why whenever you stop by on the Boardwalk in the summertime you can watch the chefs make the pizza right in front of you! You can see the pizza makers spinning dough up to the ceiling! It is a pretty cool talent to have.

In 2017, Manco & Manco remodeled the 9th street Strand Theatre on the Ocean City Boardwalk to make a new and improved Manco & Manco. The new pizza shop is modern and very large! It even has its very own gift shop! They have 3 locations on the boardwalk but they also have a location in Somers Point that is open all year round. They deliver, so why wait!? If you haven’t tried Manco & Manco or if you are just in the mood for pizza order now and have a pizza night!

By: Jonathan Di’Amico and Nicholas Baker

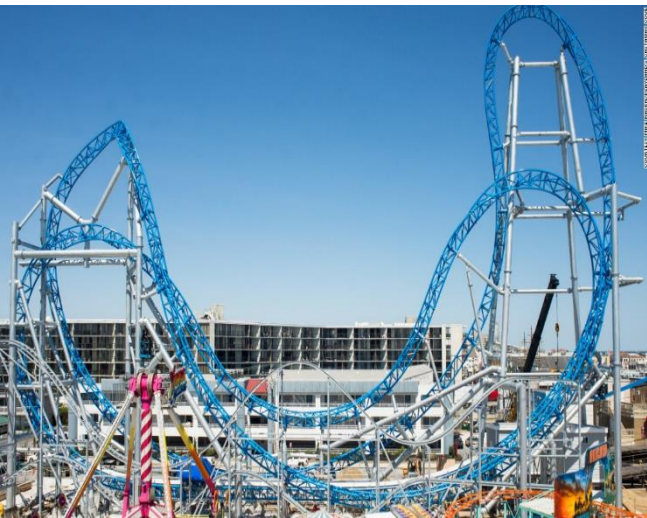
# THE GAILFORCE ROLLERCOASTER

In Ocean City, the Gailforce is being taken down! In case you do not live in Ocean City or do not know about this roller coaster we will tell you what the Gailforce is. The Gailforce is a roller coaster. A very big one, too! It is 125 feet high and it is very wide. It is very cool and it goes up and down very fast, going at a rate of 64 MPH. Any passenger in their roller coaster has thrilled it riders with a series of twists, dips, and loops. It was built on the Ocean City Boardwalk in Playland and it opened in the summer of 2017.

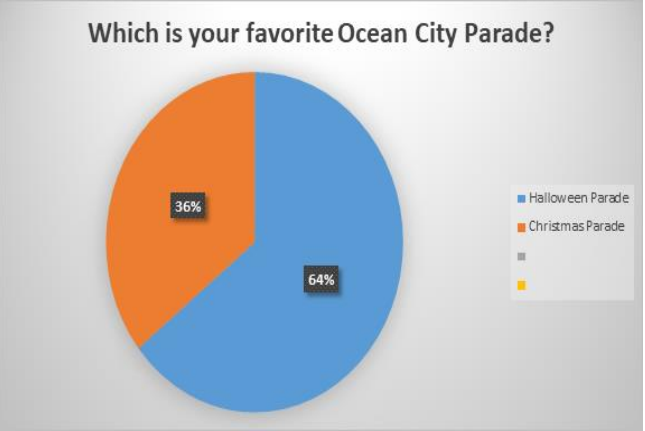
Unfortunately, they took it down because it was shaking and very noisy. It was found that the track’s rails were not completely in alignment, giving passengers a slightly bumpier ride than intended. It was always safe but just a little bumpy! Therefore, in order for the builders of the roller coaster to fix the tracks they had to take it down. However, the good news is they will be putting it back up! They are building new tracks with steel for a smoother ride this summer when it reopens! Work crews used cranes to dismantle the blue tracks and a new track is expected to be completed by this spring! The goal is to have it reopen in Playland by Easter weekend, April 2018!

If you don’t have a chance to go to Playland and try this new roller coaster this Easter break then definitely give it a try this summer! Just grab your tickets on your way in and bring them right to the ride! Give Gailforce a try and see how much you will enjoy it!

By: Benedict Belskis and Joshua Mathis



A lot of people come to the parades to be a part of them! For example, Santa, Miss Ocean City, Little Miss Ocean City, and even Miss New Jersey all have made appearances at our parades every year. As the parades process down Asbury Avenue all the citizens of Ocean City and Upper Township watch from the sidewalk. Some visit from other nearby communities, too. During the Christmas and Halloween parades the people in the parade give candy out to the children who are standing and enjoying the parade. There even is an Easter Parade! After the annual Ocean City Easter Egg Hunt people go to the Easter Parade with the Easter Bunny as the special guest! There are many families and children form Ocean city in the parade, too! You can even be part of one of them if you want! If you do not want to be a part of any of the parades just go and watch one! You will be sure to have a wonderful time! So don’t forget to catch the Easter Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny this Spring!!



By: Faelyn Clark and Isabella Baron

I like to read books...do you? I also like to watch movies...do you? The Public Library is where you can borrow books and you can get a movie or two. However, the library has much more than just books and movies, they have all sorts of cool clubs and activities!

One of my favorite things that the Public Library has is fun activities for kids like LEGO Club! Lego Club is when you get to build with fun Legos. If you join Lego Club you get to do show and tell on what you built. Lego Club is really fun! I like Lego Club because I saw my sister and her friends build a house with some Lego people in it! And if you have some extra time you get to play. if you want to join Lego Club make sure you go into the left room and make sure it has movies in it! If you like crafts there is some you can do too. If you want to go to the crafts at the library they have cool crafts. I had a lot of pine cones and stuck bird food on them and tied a string to it and when I got home I tied it to trees so the birds could come and eat yummy snacks! There are much more activities you can do at the public library. If you want to go to the library it is on 17th street and it is in Ocean City, New Jersey! My sister’s favorite thing to do when she gets there is to go on the computers and play games. They have a computer lab where there are computers you can play on!

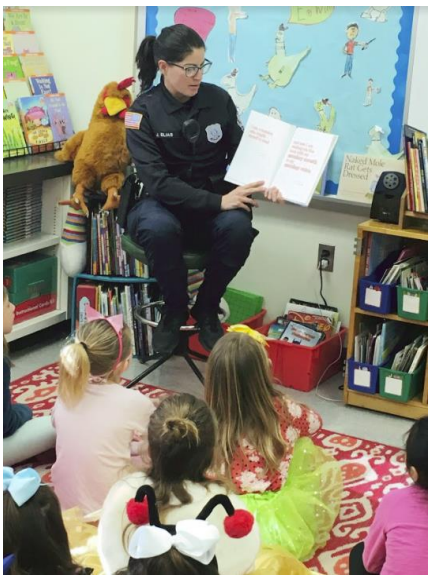
By: Lauren Cesari

# FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY





## OCPD OFFICER JEN



Officer Jen is a police officer in Ocean City and she is a very special one! One of the duties Officer Jen has is to stay at school and make sure all the students are safe. We asked her what her favorite piece of equipment is that she uses on the police force. She told us, “My favorite piece of equipment is my bicycle. I like riding to the Primary School on a nice day to see all the children there.” We also asked her why she chose to be a police officer. She said, “I chose to be a police officer so I could give back to the community and make sure everyone is safe in Ocean City.” Officer Jen's favorite part of her job is to see everyone everyday at the Primary School. Especially the students.

Officer Jen helps with the safety assembly that the police department does for our school. They talk to the students about the importance of bike safety. Usually at the safety assembly, Officer Jen describes the importance of helmets by getting a watermelon and putting a helmet on it. Then she drops it from the stage. There is also a watermelon without a helmet. The watermelon without the helmet always cracks. The one with the helmet does not crack. The watermelon represents our heads. So, she is telling us to always wear a helmet when you are riding a bicycle or if you are on anything that you can get an injury from. Officer Jen is also a part of the PTA. She sometimes helps with things in the Primary School. She helps out with events like the Snowball Dance, Polar Express Pajama Day, and the PTA Crafts. Last year she put Santa Claus in jail! Officer Jen is the best police officer we could ask for and we love seeing her visit us at the Primary School when she stops by. When Officer Jen is around we know that we are safe and in good hands to have a police officer like her protecting our school!

By: Brynn Madden and Peighton Clemmens

## THE BEST PLACE TO GET A PET

Did you know there is a awesome place to get a pet? It’s called the Ocean City Humane Society and they save animals who live on the street. They help them find a good, loving, human family for animals. If you are looking for a pet, this is the place to go!

A great reason why you should get your next pet from the Humane Society is because adopting animals saves the animals lives. Unlike pet stores, who breed animals to sell, the Humane Society saves the animals from bad families or from being abandoned on the street. They also take much better care of them. The animals don’t even cost that much money to adopt. Usually, there is an adoption fee of \$100. It is even cheaper for you to get a pet from the Humane Society than a regular pet store.

Another major bonus of adoption is that the Humane Society does expensive operations for free. They offer neutering, rabies shots, and chips that help you find your lost pet. Also, if you bring your pet to have a yearly trip to the Humane Society for a vet visit you will get 10% off the price! That is better than going to a regular veterinarian. I know all of this because my dog, Audrey, was adopted from the Humane Society. She was adopted before I was born and has been my dog my entire life. She is a Shitzhu and is black and white. She loves sleeping, lying down, and eating tasty treats. One of her favorite things to do is to take walks on the beach, but she is still afraid of the water. Maybe one day we can get her to go in!

The Humane Society is only a dog and cat shelter but they are an animal control center, too. An animal control are people who take care of wild animals until they can put them back into the wild. So sometimes there could even be wild animals at the Humane Society. One time there was a swan there! He broke his wing so a worker at the Humane Society had to bring him to his car. They fixed the swan’s wing and let it go back into the wild when it was fully healed.

There are many animals in the Humane Society! Ryan, who works for the Humane Society said, “There are 120 cats and 8 dogs right now. The Humane Society makes sure they find the right pet that is right for you when you are looking to adopt. First, they will be asked a few questions about yourself. Next, your family will meet the animal. Then, you will take the animal home for a week. Last, you adopt the animal.” So now you know the Ocean City Humane Society is the place to adopt next time you are looking for a new pet and want to give a pet the perfect home! They are located at 1 Shelter Rd in Ocean City. By: Rebecca Rodriguez



## JOHNSON’S POPCORN



Have you ever wondered what is in the popcorn at Johnson's popcorn and why it tastes so good? Johnson’s Popcorn has been one of the most famous icons of Ocean City! Johnson’s popcorn has several locations along the Ocean City Boardwalk. It is located at 14th street, 6th street, and 8th street on the Boardwalk of Ocean City. There is also a location on the Wildwood Boardwalk. You can spot the stores by looking for their red and white awnings along the boardwalks. This corporation has been around since 1940. The owners name is John Wilson Stauffer. Even though the smell of the hot caramel oozed over the popcorn is a very familiar smell to the visitors and citizens of Ocean City, the owner’s favorite flavor is the butter popcorn. However, he also loves his new recipe that he made a couple of years ago! It is the chocolate popcorn! It has become a very popular recipe. Unfortunately, it is only served in the winter. The main store is at 14th Street & Boardwalk, which is the only store open all year long! You can order popcorn containers to give out as gifts or favors for any event that you are hosting.

There are many flavors of popcorn that you can purchase at Johnson’s Popcorn. Cheddar Cheese, Platinum, Caramel, Salty & Sandy, Chocolate Drizzle, Peanut Crunch, Butter, and Tri-Flavored. However, almost no one knows the secret formula! This is because the workers are not supposed to tell anyone. Here’s one big fact I could tell you! All of Johnson’s Caramel Popcorn is “hand mixed” in large copper kettles. You can spot how they mix it if you pass by the store one day and watch them do it! Many people enjoy having a tub of Johnson’s popcorn whenever they can get it so if you haven’t tried any don’t miss out on this delicious popcorn! By: Wilson Stauffer



# CHECK OUT THE GREEN SCREEN



Have you ever used a green screen? Well, the students at the Ocean City Primary School are using one! This year Mr. Kohr set up a green screen at our school and we have been making really cool videos for our student websites. But you might be wondering, what is a green screen?

A green screen looks like a big green sheet and around it are a bunch of weird looking umbrella lights that help with the lighting. So you stand in front of the sheet with a regular video camera, but the green screen makes it look like you're somewhere else other than where you are . It takes the green background and replaces it with a different video. For example, if you wanted to be in a baseball stadium the green screen would make it look like you're in a baseball stadium or on top of Mount Rushmore!

We asked Mr. Kohr how it works and he said, “the video that we capture goes into a video editing program on the computer that can recognize anything that is green and flip it with a different video. Lots of movies use green screen technology. It can make you look like you are flying or make it look like you’re on the moon!” When we asked Mr. Kohr how he set it up he said, “It was easy! The green screen is just a green sheet that you hang over a metal frame. It reminded me of building a tent.”

So far, students are using the green screen to make an introduction video for their student websites and we even used it during writing to make a video out of our writing assignments. A student in my class Wilson said, “I think it’s pretty interesting, how all of the science and technology works. It was so cool because it can pretty much animate you and make it look like you’re doing anything...like flying or even make it look like you’re a part of a Star Wars movie!”

Mr. Kohr said that he is, “planning to add more technology to the green screen studio next year.” I think it will be pretty cool because I love using technology and I love making videos!

By: Kai Linthicum and Alyssa Watson

# STUDENTS CREATE WEBSITES

Have you ever wanted a way to share your work with the whole school? You can now do that by making your own website. We have made our own websites in 2nd and 3rd grade! You are probably wondering, “how did we do that?” For our website we used Google Drive so we can access our website at school and at home. It also saves our work as we go! Our website can show our work from all of our specials. If you made a special painting in art you can put it on your website! If you wrote a special writing piece you can put on your website! These websites have been growing and growing! There is no limit as to how much can be added to our sites! We can put on as much as we want to!



Sharing our work on our websites was a great idea! We learned how to do this in the Tech Lab. I asked Mr. Kohr how he came up with the idea of making our own websites. Mr. Kohr said, “I wanted a way for students to share their work that they completed across all subjects. I wanted them to be able to share all of their successes and achievements with their parents, teachers, and friends.” We use the sites the most to collect our work.

One of the best parts about making our own websites in the Primary School is that we can continue to add pages and assignments for the rest of the year and even take them with us to the Intermediate School and High School. We can continuously add work to our websites as we move from grade level to grade level in Ocean City.

There are many different kinds of websites that can be created. Have you ever seen Mr. Kohr’s website? His website looks very very different from ours. We only have a couple of pages, but Mr. Kohr has more than a couple. He says, “My site that I created for the Tech Lab is very similar to the student sites. I use a more complicated program, but the idea is the same. Websites are a great way to share pictures, writing, and videos in a neat and efficient manner.”

The most important thing to share with you is that these websites are completely safe and only we can share them! They are private and everything is locked with a secure password to get into them. The websites are private because we don’t want just anyone looking at our sites. In order to access the site, we have to log into their Google account. This way our work is safe and secure.

Now that you know about website.You can try to make your own! Just set up a Google Account on your computer and hit “Create Website!” It’s simple! I can’t wait to see what you create!

By: Joshua Lenko

# THE SNOWFLAKE BALL



Do you like to dress up? Do you like to dance? Well I do! If you love to dress up and go dancing as much as I do then we have something at our school called the Snowflake Ball. It is the Father/Daughter and Mother/Son dance!

This dance is located in the cafeteria at the Ocean City Primary School. It is a dance where mothers and their sons along with fathers and their daughters could dress up and go dance all night. They have yummy food, too! Such as, hoagies, chicken, and wings. Lots of children are given the opportunity to go for a fun night out with their parents. If your parents are away or unable to go then you could always bring your grandmother or grandfather with you! They play FUN games and have GREAT music. They play Pop and Hip Hop music. All you have to do is get dressed up, put your dancing shoes on, and then do your hair. Once you do all that you're ready to go!

Thank you to the PTA for letting us have this fun dance every year! The PTA does a wonderful job setting up and making the dance all that it is. Teachers come to visit and help with the dance, too! They have wonderful sponsors from the Ocean City community that also make this dance possible. The dance took place this year on Friday, February 9, 2018. If you missed attending it this year be sure to check it out next year around the same time! You will be sure to have a fun night! There is even a DJ, photo booth, and door prizes you could win. It starts at 6:30 and ends at 8:30. Don’t miss it next year!

By: Julianna Vitko

# A BENCH THAT HELPS

Do you know what the Buddy Bench is? The Buddy Bench is a bench that kids who don’t have someone to play with at recess could sit at. When other students see a student sitting at the Buddy Bench, they could take that opportunity to go over and ask if the person sitting at the Buddy Bench would like to play with them. The Buddy Bench helps form friendships, keep kids busy and so much more!

Ocean City Primary School had a huge ceremony when the Buddy Bench opened. The students in every class and grade were brought outside with puzzled faces. The Buddy Bench was covered with a big white sheet and a red ribbon was surrounding the playground. The students did not know what it was going to look like. When everyone surrounded the area outside we watched as Dr. Taylor cut the ribbon and took the sheet off the Buddy Bench. Everybody was so surprised! We never had anything as special as the Buddy Bench in our playground.

We interviewed the Primary School’s guidance counselor, Mr. Dougan and we asked him how the school developed the idea for the Buddy Bench. He responded, “OCPS was trying to look for ideas for where kids could go when they needed someone to play with. Mrs. Smith then came up with the Buddy Bench idea. Everyone at OCPS thought the Buddy Bench would be a great idea and it sure was!” Mr. Dougan continued, “One of the greatest things that came out of the Buddy Bench is that when there is, child that is looking sad and is sitting at the Buddy Bench someone always goes up to that sad child and asks that child to play!” So the next time you need a buddy at recess, don’t worry, just sit down at the Buddy Bench and someone will surely come to ask you to play with them.

By: Emma Rodriguez and Ivi Young

