

Sage Mahwah News and Events

2025-2026 Volume 1

WELCOME!

Welcome to the first edition of the 2025-2026 Sage Mahwah Newsletter! We are excited to share updates, highlights and stories from our school community. We have been off to a great start this school year, as we have been busy settling into routines, making connections and engaging in meaningful learning experiences. Our mission is to provide a safe, small therapeutic and challenging educational community that integrates social, emotional and academic growth through the collaboration of students, families and staff to empower and prepare students with the skills needed to realize their potential and achieve success. In this newsletter, you will learn more about our approach, meet some of our dedicated staff, and discover how we partner with families and districts to ensure every student has the tools they need to succeed. We look forward to keeping you connected and informed of what we know will be a wonderful year. Thank you for being a part of our Sage Mahwah community!

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

11/6 - 11/7: School closed for New Jersey Teachers' Convention

11/12 & 11/13: Parent-teacher conferences (12:30 dismissal)

11/26: 12pm dismissal

11/27 - 11/28: School closed for Thanksgiving

Save the Date for our Winter Showcase at 1pm on December 19th!

MEET OUR CLINICAL DIRECTOR

Please join us in welcoming our new Clinical Director, Dr. Lauren DePinto, DSW, LCSW! Dr. DePinto most recently served as the District Coordinator of School-Based Mental Health Services and Crisis Intervention Counselor for the Ridgewood Public Schools and was a part of their special services team since 2005. She earned her Doctorate in Clinical Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania School for Social Policy and Practice, a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Science in Social Work and Sociology from Seton Hall University. With nearly 25 years of clinical social work experience, Dr. DePinto specializes in supporting the social, emotional, psychological, and educational needs of children, adolescents, and families through integrated evidenced based mental health services in education and school-based mental health scholarship. Dr. DePinto is excited to bring her wealth of knowledge to Sage and has already been working closely with families and districts. For out-of-district referrals or consultations please contact Dr. DePinto at lauren.depinto@sagealliance.com.



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BUILDING A BETTER LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

You may have noticed some changes around the Sage Mahwah campus! Over the summer, our school underwent several important building upgrades to create a safer and more comfortable environment for our students and staff. We are excited to share that all new exterior doors have been installed and we replaced several classroom doors, improving both security and accessibility throughout the building. In addition, a brand-new HVAC system was put in place, ensuring that classrooms and common areas will be comfortable with reliable heating, cooling and air circulation. These improvements reflect our continued commitment to maintaining a welcoming, safe and supportive space for learning.



CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES

During the week of October 6th, Sage Mahwah held its annual Week of Tolerance and Respect, where we celebrated our diversity as a community. Each day had a different theme: Everyone is a Rock Star (wear rock and roll t-shirts), We're All One Team (wear sports jerseys/hats), Multicultural Day (wear something from your culture), and Put Bullying to Bed (wear pajamas or sweats). Both students and staff enjoyed bonding over what makes us unique!

What better way to celebrate the diversity of our students and staff than with food? On Multicultural Day, the centerpiece of the week, we came together for a school-wide luncheon that was both a festival of diversity and a feast of food: a feastival! Students and staff shared their heritage, culture, or places meaningful to them by bringing in a traditional dish reflecting their background. Together, we sampled dishes and celebrated each other. Thank you to Mr. Newman for organizing this wonderful week!



LEVELING UP TOGETHER

On October 10th, students and staff enjoyed a field trip to Dave and Buster's! While playing games and spending time together, our students practiced important skills such as teamwork, communication, patience, and flexibility. They also had the chance to work on decision-making and problem-solving as they managed tickets and prizes. This is one of our most popular field trips, as it gives students the chance to connect with other students and staff and apply the strategies they've been learning in school in a real-world setting. It was a fun-filled day of growth and community building. We're looking forward to our next field trip!