

# Garwood Times NJ

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## LINCOLN SCHOOL SETS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

Submitted by Tamara Benc

Lincoln School staff and students are proud to announce that they are official Guinness world record holders. In March 2020, over 350 students and staff members donned self-made butterfly wings and, in a carefully orchestrated program, made their way into the record books for the largest gathering of people dressed as butterflies.

The work for the attempt began nearly six months earlier as plans were being made for the district's annual Read Across America celebration. Each year The Cat in the Hat visits Lincoln School to congratulate students for their reading efforts. At the start of the 2019-20 school year, a decision was made to "change up" the annual program by adopting the theme "Books help readers take flight into new worlds." To support that theme, the staff began working with students to each craft a personal set of wings to be worn on the day of the visit of The Cat in the Hat and world record attempt: March 3, 2020.

Thanks to the assistance of the art teacher, Mrs. Rebecca Planer, as well as Mrs. Carol DelConte, co-coordinator, students were given the opportunity to express their creativity through their wings.

Members of the staff and community generously helped with the official counting, videotaping, and timing of the event - all elements of the world record process to which applicants must strictly adhere. Mrs. Tamara Benc, who coordinates the Read Across America assembly and annual book swap and spearheaded the world record attempt, made nearly 400 sets of antennas for participants to wear. Video, photographic, and written evidence was submitted to Guinness and nearly nine months later, in December 2020, the district received word that their attempt by 367 students, teachers, and staff was successful. Readers are encouraged to do an online search using the phrase "Guinness world record: largest gathering of people dressed as butterflies" to access the official site and announcement.



Photos by Garwood Public Schools



(above) Lincoln School staff and students became official Guinness world record holders. In March 2020, over 350 students and staff members donned self-made butterfly wings and, in a carefully orchestrated program, made their way into the record books for the largest gathering of people dressed as butterflies.

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# GARWOOD’S NEWEST BRAVEST

Follow Garwood Fire Department on Facebook

On Saturday, December 12th, 6 probationary members of the Garwood Fire Department graduated the Union County Fire Science Training Academy and have become firefighters. It was a long 6 months of training for them and they earned it. Help us in congratulating them!.



## ANNOUNCING THE NEW OFFICE OF DR. EDWARD SOMMA IN BERKELEY HEIGHTS

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After graduating from medical school, Dr Somma served his internship in Internal Medicine at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Seton Hall Post Graduate School of Medicine, where he was elected Chief Resident of Internal Medicine in his final year.

Dr. Somma has been in practice in Union and Middlesex counties for over 20 years, with an emphasis on excellence and compassion for his patients. He has served as the physician for the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Board of Health of Hillside and has served the Board of Education for Woodbridge NJ. He was granted the Humanitarian of the Year Award by Trinitas Health Foundation in May 2014, for his dedication to the community and his outstanding service to the goals of the Foundation.

Dr. Somma has special interests in various fields of Internal Medicine, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases and arthritis/rheumatology. He has represented to major pharmaceutical companies, such as Schering-Plough and Pfizer, in a consulting and educational role for his peers. Dr. Somma has been a clinical educator for Seton Hall’s Physician Assistant Program as an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.



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## FEBRUARY EVENTS AT GARWOOD LIBRARY

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Monday, Wednesday and Friday

from 9 am to 4 pm,

Tuesday, Thursday from 9 am to 7 pm.

and Saturday 10 am to 1 pm

February 15, the Library

is Closed in honor of President's Day

### Library Board Meeting

February 3 at 7:30 pm

A meeting of the Garwood Library Board of Trustees will take place in the Library. This meeting is open to the public.

### Virtual Red-Hot Robotics

February 4, 11, 18, 25, and March 4 at 3pm

Kids will explore the basic and complex technology used to design and build robots. Each participant will pick up a robot kit before the start of the program. The program is open to children in grades 2 to 6. Please register for the class by phone or on the Garwood Library's events calendar. 20 participants.

### Virtual Kid's Craft

February 9, at 3 pm

Pick up craft supplies from 10 am to 7 pm on the 9th and follow the Facebook tutorial at 3 pm. Registration is required and is limited to 15 participants. Sign up on the Library website's events calendar or by phone.

### Managing Stress and Anxiety

February 11 at 7 pm

Join Diane Lang, Therapist, Educator, Author, and Positive Living Expert, as she discusses how to help create a balanced lifestyle by relieving stress and anxiety. Learn the signs of "Burnout," the impact of stress and anxiety on our bodies, and ways to simplify your life so that you can feel more empowered, motivated, and healthier. Please register on the Garwood Library website event page or by phone at 908-789-1670. Once registered, a Zoom link will be sent prior to the start of the program.

### Hoppy Valentine's Day

February 12 at 3 pm

Join the Library for a story time and stuffed animal stuffing. Pick up your kangaroo and little baby joey by 1 pm. Join Ms. Maryanne at 2 pm on the Library's Facebook page to enjoy a Kangaroo story time video and kangaroo stuffing. Please register on the website event page or by phone. Limit 20.

For kids 3rd grade and younger

### Virtual Adult Craft

Tuesday, February 16, at 3 pm

Pick up your craft supplies from 10 am to 7 pm and watch the Facebook tutorial at 3 pm.

Registration is required and is limited to 10 participants. Sign up on the Library website's events calendar or by phone.

### Book Discussion Group

February 22 at 1pm

via Zoom Join us for a lively discussion of this month's book. Check with the Library for their latest book selection. 908-789-1670. Once registered, a Zoom link will be sent via email.

## STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT MUMMIFICATION

As part of the Ancient Egypt Unit, 6th Grade students in Ms. Drummond's Social Studies class learned about the mummification process. In order to understand it better, each student mummified a piece of apple with salt and

baking soda.

After two weeks students examined the mummified apple and compared it to a piece that was not mummified. The difference was quite amazing!



Photo by Garwood Public Schools

## THE GIFT OF KINDNESS

Danielle Libutti, a 2nd grade teacher at Lincoln School in Garwood, NJ, organized "The Gift of Kindness" campaign for a second year. The event

is used as a 10-day countdown to winter break and has been a way to teach the students how to spread kindness throughout the community.



(above) Ms.Libutti and Jackson, a 2nd grade student.

Photo by Garwood Public Schools

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Thanks to the combined efforts of the Garwood First Aid Squad, The Garwood Fire Department, The Garwood Rest, The Crossroads, and The Garwood Girl Scout Troops # 41290, we were able to have another successful year of donations for the Toys for Tots Campaign. Thank You to all that donated. \$860 collected will be matched by Donateatoy.org.



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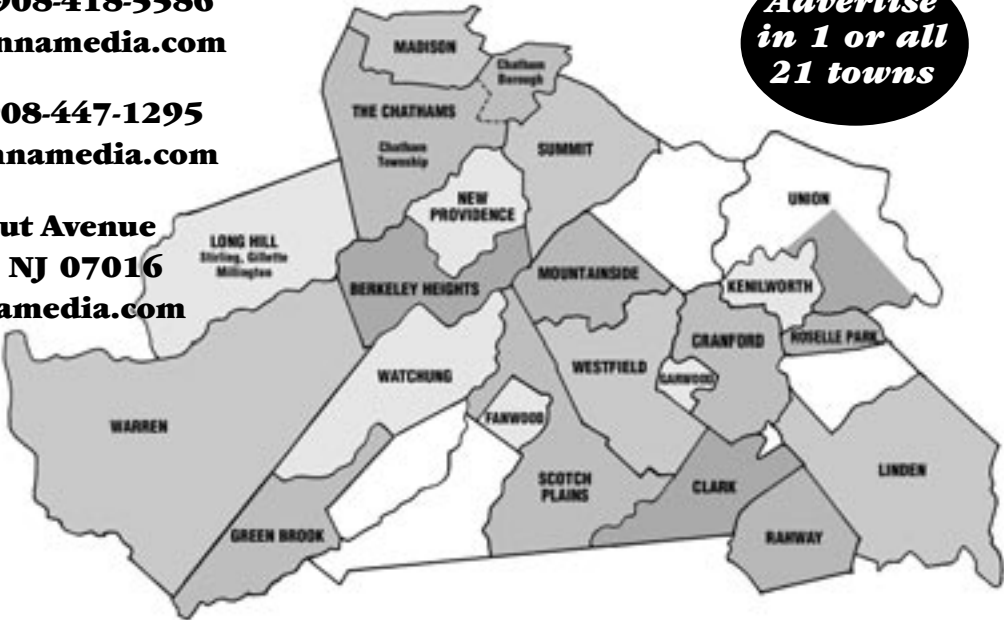
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# REFLECTIVE SAFETY VESTS NOW AVAILABLE TO ALL RESIDENTS

The Borough of Garwood has expanded the reflective safety vest program so that any resident can now request a free vest to improve their visibility with motorists while walking at night. Since the program launched last month, the Garwood Police Department and Garwood Police Commissioner and Councilman Michael Ince have distributed nearly 50 free reflective safety vests to seniors living in the municipality. Seniors were targeted in the first phase of the public safety program because they are at higher risk for pedestrian fatalities.

"I'm excited to see that this important public safety program is expanding to include all residents in the Borough," Mayor Sara Todisco said. "I hope that the demand for these reflective safety vests remains high and that all of us living in the Borough continue to do what we can to protect ourselves and prevent tragedies."

According to the latest data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 76% of pedestrian fatalities are at night, and 22% of all pedestrian fatalities were 65 and older. The

organization recommends pedestrians wear reflective materials or use a flashlight at night, improving visibility with motorists. Residents can request a reflective safety vest by visiting the Garwood Police Department headquarters at 403 South Ave, Garwood, NJ, ring the dispatch bell within the vestibule, or contact Police Commissioner and Councilman Michael Ince at mince@garwood.org. "This program is just one of the many ways that we are working to improve public safety within the Borough," said Mayor Todisco. "We remain committed to doing all we can as a Borough to ensure that everyone who lives and works in Garwood can do safely."

(right) Residents can request a reflective safety vest by visiting the Garwood Police Department headquarters at 403 South Ave, Garwood, NJ, ring the dispatch bell within the vestibule, or contact Police Commissioner and Councilman Michael Ince at mince@garwood.org.



# GIFTED AND TALENTED CONTINUE THROUGH PANDEMIC

Submitted by Carol DelConte

Members of the Garwood Public Schools Gifted and Talented class have been meeting virtually since September. But during the first week of December, eight students in grades four through eight gathered for an in-person full afternoon session of team building and independent activities. Students remarked that the two hour session, held at a socially-safe distance in the school cafeteria, was a "morale booster" and that it was "good to have in-person meetings once a month to work together without being separated by a screen." One middle school student noted, "We can communicate better during in-person sessions. Online we don't communicate as well." An eighth grader said, "The session helped us dust off the team skills that have not been used in a while...It helped me visualize what it was like before the pandemic." Yet another student stated, "Even though everyone was wearing a mask, it was better than seeing them through a screen as I normally do."

In this year's G&T program, students have been asked to consider the many new hobbies and skills people honed during the early days of the

pandemic. Everyone was home-bound; people learned to sew, cook, and craft; they read new genres of literature and improved their musical skills. So, using this idea as a springboard, students in the enrichment program will teach themselves a new skill or develop a greater understanding of their chosen subject; ideas include origami, cooking, sign language, calligraphy, a town-wide tree survey, a Union County historical tour pamphlet, and a teen

wellness manual. Each student will work independently from January through May on their three part plan: learn something new, create an artifact, and make a video. Throughout this time period, students will check-in weekly with the program coordinators, Mrs. Tamara Benc and Mrs. Carol DelConte, and meet once a month at the school. The program will culminate with individual presentations by students at the annual G&T Parents Night event in June.



(above) Gifted and Talented students met in December to team build and plan future activities.

Photos by Garwood Public Schools

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