Check out this month’s special section, with information and resources for all your back to school needs!

Facebook / Twitter / Instagram
A Child’s Place School
1409 West Front St. in Lincroft
732-747-0141
AChildsPlaceSchool.com or email director@achildsplaceschool.com
Open Monday through Friday: Nursery Class Half day – 9 am to noon
Nursery All Day - 8:20 am to 2:30 pm (12:15 pm on Friday). Primary
Class – 8:20 am to 2:30 pm (12:30 pm on Friday). Monday through
Friday office hours – 8 am to 4 pm.

Tried, Trusted, And True: 2019 marks 45 years that A Child’s Place
School (ACP) has been serving local families with a unique school experience for their young children (2 ½ to 7 years old). Tried and trusted, alumni are recalling their happy times at ACP. These alumni parents attribute their school and professional career success to the start they had at ACP and are enthusiastically enrolling their own children at the little red schoolhouse on West Front Street in Lincroft. As these parents walk through the familiar building, they notice change but find comfort in the fact that A Child’s Place School has stayed true to its belief in how young children learn best.

The only truly Reggio Emilia-inspired school in Monmouth County, children are viewed as capable and competent, and their ideas and thoughts are valued and heard. Learning is facilitated through the child's own interests with experienced teachers listening, watching and guiding them, helping to move the thinking forward and importantly, giving children time to think, play and experiment. Children develop a true, authentic love for learning to carry forward into the next school.

In 45 years the essentials have remained the same, but changes in the needs of families are carefully considered. This year some of those changes include longer extended care hours and an exciting new weekly program for toddlers with their caregivers.

They love to welcome visitors and invite you to visit their website at AChildsPlaceSchool.com.

Atlantic Eye
Four locations in Long Branch, Little Silver, Holmdel and the newest location in Wall Township.
For locations, hours, services and appointments at any location, visit AtlanticEye.com

Vision plays such a crucial role in everyday life, and that’s why the doctors at Atlantic Eye offer a full continuum of the most up-to-date eye care procedures for restoring and maintaining eye health and function for their patients. From routine eye examinations to cosmetic improvements to state-of-the-art eye surgery, they are dedicated to providing comprehensive, high-quality, personalized eye care. The guiding principle of their team of physicians and staff is to always provide the highest standard of patient care and service.

Some of their services include advanced custom cataract surgery, laser vision correction, corneal transplant surgery and DSEK, and they are also sought out for expertise in glaucoma evaluations, laser therapy and retinal care for diabetes and macular degeneration. They perform eyelid rejuvenation, Botox and Restylane procedures in the office too. No matter what procedure you choose, the knowledgeable and friendly staff is committed to providing you with all of the information you need to feel comfortable with the process.

Atlantic Eye is also there to help you with any eye injuries and emergencies. They have the expertise, the experience and the facilities to take care of you and your family members should an eye-related emergency arise.

In addition, they have an Optical center offering a wide selection of frames, and the newest lens technology for each specific prescription.

For a more in-depth look and to explore all of the outstanding services offered by Atlantic Eye, please visit their website at AtlanticEye.com or call 732-222-7373.
Founded in 1967, Brookdale Community College enrolls more than
18,000 students annually, empowering a diverse community by providing
open access to high-quality and cost-effective, educational and lifelong
learning options with clear paths to personal, educational and economic
success. Brookdale offers AA, AFA, AS and AAS degrees in 75 academic pro-
grams with options.

Brookdale also offers courses online. In fact, seven of the most popular
degrees are offered fully online, and online students pay the same in coun-
ty tuition rate no matter where they live.

Brookdale is committed to equally emphasizing these values guides:
1. Educational excellence through engagement, assessment and innova-
tion
2. Economic empowerment through access, opportunity and entrepre-
neurial partnerships
3. Institutional integrity through academic freedom, stewardship and ac-
countability
4. Diversity through inclusivity, human equity and individual perspective

To better serve residents everywhere, Brookdale also has regional cen-
ters. There is a full-service campus in Freehold, as well as locations in Hazlet,
Long Branch, Neptune and Wall.

If you would like to learn more, plan on attending the Open House on
Sunday, Nov. 17 from 1 to 4 pm at the Robert J. Collins Arena on the Lincroft
campus.

Colts Neck Dance &
Performing Arts Academy
410 Route 34 in Colts Neck
732-866-3930 (office)
ColtsNeckDance.com, email coltsneckdance1@gmail.com
Summer hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10 am to 7 pm
Fall Hours Monday through Thursday 10 am to 8 pm, Friday 3 to 8 pm,
Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Colts Neck Dance & Performing Arts Academy has been providing
quality dance education for 25 years. CND is dedicated to empowering stu-
dents on their own unique dance journey, whether it’s training as a profes-
sional or recreational. Regardless of age, ability or prior experience, you’ll
find a safe and inclusive environment where everyone learns, grows and
experiences the joy of dancing.

The incredible teachers are associated with Dance Educators of Amer-
ica, New Jersey Dance Teachers Association, Certified in Acrobatic Arts, the
continued on page 36
American Ballet Theater National Curriculum, Yoga and Rhythm Works. The staff is experienced professionals with national and international production/ballet companies and dance majors or minors.

Current students are enrolled in local dance companies, dance teams and local performing arts high schools. They have attended summer programs at Joffrey Ballet, Walnut Hill, Marymount Manhattan and numerous national dance competitions. They have performed at Walt Disney World’s Parades, World Showcase and World Dance Championships. Dancers perform locally at the Colts Neck Tree Lighting Ceremony, Memorial Day Parade, Brandywine Senior center and support fundraising opportunities. They offer excursions and master classes in New York City with award-winning Broadway casts and choreographers.

In the summer there are classes and camps with visiting guest teachers from New York City. The fall schedule includes Mommy & Me, Creative Movement, Combination Classes, Tap, Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Modern, Hip Hop, Ballet, Pre-Pointe, Pointe, Acrobatic Arts and Yoga.

Their alumni have pursued dance at Pace, Rutgers Mason Gross, the University of the Arts and George Mason, to name a few, while others have moved onto executive positions on student-run dance companies. The professional alumni work for ballet companies, cruise lines, concert touring groups and Broadway shows, and some even came back to teach for CND.

CND offers 50 percent off tuition to military families and 10 percent off annual tuition when paid in full by Sept. 15. There is an inclusive program for special needs dancers and a community extension program active within local schools. A trial class and secure a complimentary recital ticket when you attend Open House on Thursday, Aug. 15. Call today for a special tour.

For your convenience, Colts Neck Dance Wear is located in the lobby and offers competitive pricing on dancewear.

Making a Difference for Kids & Families! The Community YMCA & YMCA of Western Monmouth County are here to help build bright futures for kids of all ages and abilities. As families soak up the last weeks of summer and transition back to school, the Y offers parents and caregivers peace of mind with programs that enhance the learning of young people ages 2½ and up. Y programs help kids discover who they are and what they can be. As a partner to schools, the Y provides safe, trusted and nationally recognized preschool, before- and after-school care, swim safety, sports and play, teen leadership, therapeutic counseling, social support, arts enrichment, and so much more.

Kids stay active during and after school with the Y, helping to combat childhood obesity by encouraging children to enjoy physical activity and learn about proper nutrition.

The Y nurtures the potential in every child through programs that focus on the arts for all ages, as well as leadership, civic engagement and college-readiness activities for teens.

Back to school can be challenging for children going through difficult personal and family experiences. The Y’s Counseling & Social Services team provides in-school support for the emotional and social development of teens and adolescents in our communities.

Y programs are based on the core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Financial assistance is available to families in need. View the many programs at TheCommunityYMCA.org and YMCanj.org. Learn more about our Y’s coming together at YMCanj.org/strongertogther.
When a dog visits Dogs On The Farm & Cats Too for a vacation stay or a day of daycare, it’s like entering doggie paradise. Suburban and urban dogs can’t help but get excited over the scents, sights and sounds of the horse farm. What a play day!

Even more exciting is seeing their friends from their last visit. It’s like “Cheers”; everybody knows your name, and they’re always glad you came. Staff and doggie friends greet arriving dogs happily and welcome them in to play, run, climb and swim in the large play yards.

Pet parents have been trusting Dogs On The Farm with their dogs for 17 years because of their outstanding service and high quality of care. The modern, clean and safe facility has secure fences and well-trained staff. But, maybe most important to the dogs themselves, is the fun and loving environment. Every staff member is a dog lover who love providing visiting dogs the best stay possible, whether that means lots of time playing with other dogs, private walks around the farm, cuddle time, training games or other activities. Enrichment activities change daily and focus on a dog’s hierarchy of needs, including physical, mental, emotional and social needs.

Pet parents can view their dogs playing and having fun from live webcams and daily photos and videos, but the real proof comes when the dog finds out they’re back at Dogs On The Farm. They pull their owners right off their feet to get in to play faster. It’s so exciting; owners always have to spell out “F-A-R-M” while discussing vacation plans.

Visit Dogs On The Farm online to read more about doggie enrichment activities you can try at home and to view a sample of Dogs On The Farm’s monthly enrichment activities calendar.

For more than 35 years, eMedical Urgent Care has been providing high-quality and caring healthcare in two locations: Middletown and Berkeley Heights. They are a walk-in clinic. No appointment is needed. Each center offers complete urgent care, lab and x-ray services, including vaccinations and back-to-school physicals.

Urgent care is a great alternative when your primary care provider is not available. They will send your visit information electronically to your primary care provider upon request.

The staff is comprised of highly trained, board-certified emergency and family physicians, providing you care during convenient hours, designed to fit your schedule.

eMedical Urgent Care accepts most major insurance carriers, and

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their eCard discount program is an affordable option if you are uninsured. They are a proud member of the Urgent Care Association of America. They hope you will “feel better knowing we’re here.”

Goldfish Swim School provides swim instruction to children ages 4 months to 12 years old in a unique setting with highly trained instructors, small class sizes (maximum 4:1 student to teacher ratio), shiver-free 90-degree pools, and a state-of-the-art water purification system. The colorful tropical-themed facility includes an air-conditioned viewing gallery where parents can watch lessons, a spacious family dressing area with private changing rooms, snack bar and retail shop. Families with kids of different ages and skill levels can conveniently have all of their swimmers in the pool during the same half hour time slot. And you can schedule makeup classes when necessary. Goldfish offers perpetual lessons and families can enroll at any time.

Swim lessons give kids a lifelong skill of water safety and an outlet for exercise, along with developmental benefits and being able to reach developmental milestones more quickly.

Book now through Monday, Sept. 30 and you’ll receive a Special Back to School offer. Buy three months of lessons, get one month free! Prepay $294 for four months of lessons (receive $98 in free swim lessons) plus a Goldfish swag bag with a Goldfish T-shirt, two free family swim passes and more, plus no registration fee (a $25 value). Months must be booked consecutively and start within 14 days of booking.

Join us on October 6, 2019 for the 26th Annual Little Silver 5K!

Red Bank Regional High School - 101 Ridge Road, Little Silver

Presented by Promenade Beach Club

Post race party at the Little Silver Firehouse following the event with music, food, drink and fun activities for kids.

For more information and to register, visit www.LittleSilver5k.com.

Goldfish Swim School Middletown
582 Route 35 in Middletown
732-865-9800
SwimMiddletown@goldfishss.com
Open Monday 9 am to 8 pm; Tuesday 10 am to 8;
Wednesday 10 am to 5 pm Thursday 9 am to 7 pm;
Friday 10 am to 8 pm; Saturday 9 am to 3 pm, Sunday 10 am to 2 pm.

Goldfish Swim School provides swim instruction to children ages 4 months to 12 years old in a unique setting with highly trained instructors, small class sizes (maximum 4:1 student to teacher ratio), shiver-free 90-degree pools, and a state-of-the-art water purification system. The colorful tropical-themed facility includes an air-conditioned viewing gallery where parents can watch lessons, a spacious family dressing area with private changing rooms, snack bar and retail shop. Families with kids of different ages and skill levels can conveniently have all of their swimmers in the pool during the same half hour time slot. And you can schedule makeup classes when necessary. Goldfish offers perpetual lessons and families can enroll at any time.

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For more information and to register, visit www.LittleSilver5k.com.
As approved private schools for students with disabilities, Alpha, Gateway and Harbor Schools have 50 years of experience as leaders in providing the needs of individuals with disabling conditions. Families enjoy an inviting atmosphere through a non-judgmental and supportive environment that maintains transparency, confidentiality and a genuine respect for all students.

Their network of special education schools are focused on providing a safe and nurturing environment for students with a variety of disabilities, from ages 3 through 21. Their mission is to empower each student with the skills for life, work and recreation. They believe every individual possesses the dignity and potential to contribute to a better world.

They care and understand that every child has a different way of learning. Their highly qualified, certified and licensed professionals go to extraordinary lengths to create an individualized program that can accommodate a wide range of disabilities and learning styles. Their small class sizes and low student/staff ratio allows for individualized attention as they deliver instruction in a collaborative and meaningful way.

In addition to functional, core academics, Alpha, Gateway and Harbor Schools also offers support services in areas such as behavior management, social skills, independent living and life skills, career education and job sampling, transition, community-based instruction, and therapy services, such as counseling, speech, physical therapy and occupational therapy. Students may participate in activities through adaptive physical education, art, music, dance and theatre, along with specialty programming and services, such as STEM Lab and school-based child psychiatric services.

To learn more visit the websites or contact their administrative offices. Alpha, Gateway and Harbor Schools will be offering Open Houses and individual tours starting in September. Call today to make an appointment.

HEARTHLY ORGANIC

Hearthly Organic
520 Broad St. in Shrewsbury
HearthlyOrganic.com or email cache@hearthlyorganic.com
Open daily from 11 am to 10 pm

Hearthly Organic is reclaiming America’s favorite food while providing the best quality organic ingredients to vegans and non-vegans alike. The restaurant serves delicious burgers, chicken sandwiches, fries, shakes and sodas, all 100 percent organic. At Hearthly, the mission is to provide the best quality organic ingredients to create and produce America’s favorite cuisine in a more healthy and sustainable way. The restaurant thrives on sourcing ingredients from local and sustainable organic farms — from the pepper on the table to the grass-fed beef patties and everything in between.

There are plenty of gluten-free and vegan options for all palates to enjoy. Hearthly Organic aspires to be the “hearth” or gathering place for friends and family to come together for a happy and healthy sense of community. Come this fall, the restaurant will air Football Sunday games on two large televisions in the dining room. Throughout the summer, it will serve as the warm and welcoming setting of your next girls’ night out, family gathering, date night or other special event. Come in and try all the sustainably sourced and deliciously prepared meals!

FEEL BETTER KNOWING WE'RE HERE

- Urgent care service including sutures, minor injuries, colds, sore throats, ear aches and much more.
- Board-certified emergency and family medicine physicians.
- State-of-the-art center featuring digital x-ray, in-house lab testing for strep, flu, and UTI’s.
- Physicals including DOT/CDL, Sports, Pre-employment.

OPEN ALL HOLIDAYS
Mon-Sun: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Open 365 Days a Year, No Appointment Needed

369 Springfield Ave · Berkeley Heights 908-464-6700
2 Kings Highway · Middletown 732-957-0707
eMedicalUrgentCare.com
Holmdel Preschool, the proud recipient of the Gold Award from New Jersey Department of Health 2018, has been providing high-quality care and education for the past four decades. They believe “every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.” They are committed to establishing long-term relationships by providing families with a continuum of predictable care from infancy through school age.

As a center for quality child care and education, Holmdel Preschool offers high-quality cognitive curriculum in a loving, nurturing environment for children aged 6 weeks through 10 years. Licensed by the Division of Youth and Family Services, they provide safe, child-centered services in small class ratios and follow state standards of excellence. They are an active participant in the state’s education initiative “Grow NJ Kids.” All teachers are certified and licensed and trained to deliver an outstanding early childhood education program to your child.

The secured building features colorful, happy classrooms where students enjoy full- and part-time developmentally appropriate curriculums as well as a Mommy and Me program. The fenced-in 2 acre play area, separated into play areas by ages, provides plenty of fresh air fun. There are special events and guests speakers, trips and extracurricular activities. Parents also appreciate special discount programs, busing for Holmdel Village School students and the peace of mind of a pediatric first aid and CPR-certified staff.

Get free registration for the Mommy and Me program when you mention this listing.

Holmdel Preschool
732-888-1919
HolmdelPreschool.com
holmdelpc@gmail.com
Open weekdays 7 am to 7 pm

Holy Cross Academy
40 Rumson Rd. in Rumson
732-842-0348
HolyCrossAcademyRumson.org,
schooloffice@holycrossrumson.org
Open Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4 pm

Since its inception in 1941, Holy Cross School has evolved to meet the needs of the Catholic community of Rumson and well beyond. Education has seen a lot of change, and Catholic education has seen even more. The Holy Cross families recognize the need and benefits of a faith-based education in their children’s lives. Principal Dr. Mark DeMareo explains, “It is so important for students to love learning in a caring and supportive environment. This is what differentiates Holy Cross Academy. A Catholic school advantage is one that will last a lifetime.”

To ensure that Holy Cross Academy continues to meet the needs of those who truly value faith-based education, the administration set
three goals of building a strong financial foundation, implementing the most up-to-date curriculum in all subjects, and renewing the Catholic faith in all aspects of school life.

After a full curriculum review at all grade levels, an entirely new math curriculum is now in place for kindergarten through eighth grade, and the Project Lead the Way S.T.E.M. curriculum is now in place in second through fifth grade, in addition to the Next Generation Science Standards in six through eighth grade already in place. As a Project Lead the Way school, in addition to daily science classes and weekly technology classes, students will also have weekly S.T.E.M. classes to put all they have learned into practice.

But as always, first and foremost, Holy Cross Academy is a Catholic institution, dedicated to passing on the Catholic faith through daily prayer, sacraments, scripture and service to others. Holy Cross students develop solid values, an understanding of right from wrong, a rich prayer life and the support of a loving community. Their new virtue-based Catholic approach to discipline and conflict-resolution further support students’ spiritual growth. Students identify mistakes, pray for guidance and forgiveness, and take steps to restore relationships that may have been hurt.

The parish, faculty, administration, families and students of Holy Cross Academy are filled with a renewed sense of determination to provide children with an academically challenging, spiritually fulfilling, and emotionally supportive environment, to confidently teach Catholic leaders of tomorrow.

Open House tours begin Friday, Oct. 11 at 9 am. RSVP by calling 732-842-0348, ext. 1115.
There will be a Post-Race Party at approximately 11 am at the Little Silver Firehouse on Prospect Avenue with food, live music and many fun activities like pumpkin decorating, face painting and more. Party is free for registered runners (must bring your bib), and a $10 bracelet purchase is required to enter into the Beer Garden. Tickets for non-runners are $30 and include all activities, food and a bracelet (21 years +) for the Beer Garden.

Christine Livingston, co-race director said, "Last year’s race was by far our most successful. It brought us all together in support of our children and schools. We are expecting an even bigger event this year and encourage everyone to join us."

This year, the race committee has added some exciting new business and family sponsorship opportunities with great perks and benefits. Visit LittleSilver5k.com to learn more, become a sponsor and to sign up for the race.

For more than 50 years, the Mastro Montessori Academy has been committed to providing an education that fosters independence, initiative and a lifelong love of learning. As the first Montessori school in Monmouth County, Mastro’s mission is to create a community for children that cultivates courtesy, acceptance, caring and compassion.

Mastro is pleased to announce the opening of a new facility on the White Road campus. The new building will house their Lower and Upper Elementary classrooms as well as Music Room. Additionally, their well-established Primary program will expand with a third Primary classroom and a new library. The Organic Garden established in 2018 continues to flourish.

At each level of development (Toddler Community 15 months to 3 years; Primary 3 to 6 years; Elementary 6 to 12 years), the Mastro Montessori Academy maintains an authentic Montessori experience for children to become lifelong learners. The classroom’s prepared environments are calm, well-ordered, and age-appropriate, allowing for movement and activity that facilitates independent learning and exploration.

Children learn best by observing each other. In a Montessori model, children are placed with their peers in a multi-age environment that allows the younger children to observe the work of the older children. Additionally, each time the older children help the younger ones, their understanding is reinforced. Multi-age classrooms encourage the development of self-esteem, motivation, self-confidence, as well as compassion and courtesy.

To learn more about Montessori education or to visit the Mastro Montessori Academy, email Kristin DeRose at info@mastromontessori.org or visit MastroMontessori.org.

Mater Dei Prep (MDP) is a private, Catholic high school located on an expansive 32-acre campus in Middletown. For more than 50 years, Mater Dei Prep has attracted talented students who recognize the unique learning opportunities the school provides. The board, working with a dedicated faculty and staff, continues the Mater Dei Prep traditions of academic excellence, social consciousness and faith. MDP’s relatively small size (350 to 400 students) and myriad of varied academic, physical and spiritual growth opportunities means all students can pursue their interests and dreams. Individuality is encouraged and supported by an engaged and interested staff.

MDP continues its expansion of four Academic Institute of Global
Leaders, Information Technology, Performing Arts, and Emergency Medical Services and Nursing providing students the skills needed to excel in today's diverse, technology-based fields. All programs feature hands-on learning in labs and lab-like working environments. Some of the institutes even offer professional certifications. MDP and Dr. Jean Nichols-Kovacs have partnered with Rutgers University for their Emergency Medical services and Nursing Institute so students can take college-level courses as well as perform 10 hours of clinical shadowing in sophomore, junior and senior year. MDP is thrilled to welcome new faculty member Naima Mendjel who will be teaching Advanced Placement computer science courses in the Information Technology Institute.

MDP recognizes the learning needs of all students including those with unique learning abilities. The Center for Achievement provides in-house instructional accommodations and strategies to ensure each student's academic success is nurtured and met. This program comprises a variety of educational support programs including a writing, math, and study skills center, and peer tutoring for underclassmen.

You'll discover numerous college-level courses through the MDP's College Advantage Program. These students can earn college credit through the Seton Hall University Project Acceleration and Brookdale Community College Dual Enrollment program.

Plan on attending MDP's Open House on Sunday, Oct. 6 from 1 to 4 pm and Wednesday, Oct. 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Learn more and register at MaterDeiPrep.org or contact Associate Director of Admissions Christine O'Connor at 732-671-9100, ext. 117 or coconnor@materdeiprep.org or contact Director of Admissions and Marketing Jillian Chandler at 732-671-9100, ext. 114 or jchandler@materdeiprep.org.

917-715-1601 · SocialSmarts.org
nicole.monat@socialsmarts.org

Program highlights:
· Low child to instructor ratio, plus additional volunteers onsite
· Programming developed by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Child Psychologist, special education teachers and parents
· Sessions focus on acquiring social skills through cooperative building, popular sports, community-based activities and typical playdate activities
· Utilization of peer models

The Social Smarts Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization, runs a weekly social skills program for children in grades K-4.
Monmouth University's Center for the Arts 2019-20 season will immerse patrons in a world of rich ideas, songs and images. Hosted inside the Pollak Theatre, with choice events taking place in the Lauren K. Woods Theatre and Wilson Auditorium, the center has something for everyone: incredible art exhibits, exciting visiting writers, children's theater, student productions, High Definition theatrical broadcasts, and music from legendary artists.

On Saturday, Sept. 28, the electrifying Jimi Bleu performs “Kiss the Sky,” a jaw-dropping recreation of Jimi Hendrix's most iconic performances. On Friday, Oct. 4, folk legend Melanie performs mesmerizing hits like “Brand New Key” (Roller Skate Song) and “Peace Will Come.”

On Friday, Oct. 11, Steve Dorff, the songwriter behind timeless classics like Kenny Rogers's “Through the Years” and Anne Murray’s “I Just Fall in Love Again” (Roller Skate Song), performs live at the Pollak Theatre.

On Friday, Oct. 18, The 5th Dimension perform groovy hits like “Wedding Bell Blues,” “Stoned Soul Picnic” and the iconic “Aquarius/Let the Sun Shine In.” On Saturday, Nov. 2, Earth Harp returns to enchant audiences with its rich, otherworldly sound. Dance, film, and virtual reality collide when Bridgman|Packer Dance presents Voyeur on Friday, Nov. 15, which features choreographers/performers Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer’s innovative work in integrating live performance and video technology.

These are just a few of the more than 100 events taking place at the Center this year. Please visit Monmouth.edu/mca for more information.

Ranney School
732-542-4777
235 Hope Rd. in Tinton Falls
RanneySchool.org or email admission@ranneyschool.org
Open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

At Ranney School, staff members know and value every child while inspiring and challenging their students to reach their highest personal potential at every stage of their educational journey. Ranney is unique in our area. They are the only age 3 through grade 12 independent, co-ed, secular college preparatory school in Monmouth County. From the youngest learners to those looking ahead to college, Ranney students are prepared, supported, challenged and encouraged as individuals. Ranney offers an innovative, flexible curriculum that balances excellence in traditional subjects while fostering creative, out-of-the-box thinking. Their robust student life program encourages students to pursue not just one, but many interests while at Ranney School. Relationships are the hallmark of a Ranney education. In every division, students are supported by a team of educators who collaborate to nurture academic and extracurricular success as well as personal growth.

The Social Smarts Foundation, Inc.
917-715-1601
SocialSmarts.org or email nicole.monat@socialsmarts.org

The Social Smarts Foundation, Inc. runs social skills groups for children in kindergarten through fourth grade who need support in their social development. Children with mild to moderate special needs, as well as those who are typically developing and need to address social weaknesses, are welcome to participate in the program.
Session programming is developed collectively by a BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst), child psychologists, parents and teachers, and is facilitated in low student-to-teacher ratios by behavioral specialists (special education teachers, graduate level doctoral candidates in school psychology, BCBA, etc.). The program aims to simulate environments that children encounter in their everyday lives. Instructors coach the children through social interaction during different activities that include, but are not limited to, cooperative building, sports, recess games, typical playdate activities and community-based activities like art classes, Lego workshops, trips to the park, eating at a restaurant and more.

Each session is customized to meet each participant’s needs. Some of the skills students develop include expanding repertoire of play, conversation skills, conflict resolution, frustration management strategies, increased flexibility, turn taking and sharing.

Additionally, groups include peer models and high school mentors, where students learn from socially proficient children and teenagers who provide strong examples of appropriate play, expected behavior and communication. Session recaps and mini progress reports are sent to families each week.

Nicole Monat, president and founder, says, “My vision for The Social Smarts Foundation, Inc. comes from the social progress that my oldest son, Sam, who is on the autism spectrum, attained during play dates, facilitated by his behavioral therapist. I want to extend this kind of support to other children so they will be able to interact with their peers in typical child scenarios and capture the joy of childhood while building strong social skills.”

Journal readers, be sure to ask for a free class (value: $30).

Trinity Hall is an innovative, independent, all-girls college preparatory school, educating and empowering young women in the Catholic tradition. It is also the only all-girls high school in Monmouth and Ocean counties.

In this technology-rich learning environment, a superior faculty and a challenging interdisciplinary curricular program foster the school’s core values of leadership, respect, perseverance and faith while providing the highest quality education. Exceptional arts and athletics programs offer additional opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. Trinity Hall students are empowered to take risks, pursue personal passions, network globally and grow as learners – and as valued individuals.

This year, the school completed a building addition that added 12 classrooms, two large studios, administrative offices, a student changing room, a chapel and a faculty kitchen to the school building, which already holds four science laboratories, two laboratory prep rooms, seven classrooms, a large multipurpose room, two health services rooms and administrative and conference spaces. The space is ideal for the school community and accommodates the growing student body.

Get more at Trinity Hall. Attend an Open House event held on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 9 to 11 am, and Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 6 to 8 pm. Upcoming entrance exam dates are Saturday, Oct. 26, Saturday, Nov. 16, and Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 to 11:15 am on all dates. Registration is required; see website for details.
As summer starts to wind down and school supplies fill the shelves of stores, children may display a range of emotions about the upcoming school year. While many children are excited to find out who their teacher is and progress to the next grade level, most children feel some anxiety when it comes to starting a new grade. A new school year is a perfect time to alter some routines to create a more successful and less stressful experience for both parents and children.

**Prepare:** Involve your children in "Back to School" preparations. Print out the supply list and attach to a clipboard. As you search for supplies in your favorite store, have your child check off each school necessity. Let your child count the folders, choose their notebooks and pick out a new lunchbox for the year. At home, let them label each item and organize what supplies they will bring on the first day.

**Set Goals:** Several weeks before school starts, discuss the new school year with your children. Review expectations for both behaviors and school work and set some new academic goals with your child. Jot down the goals and store in a file so you can revisit them at the end of the year. Take a peek at the state learning objectives for each grade level or visit GreatSchools.org for an easy-to-read list of what students will learn in each grade level. Help build excitement about the upcoming school year by focusing on how much your children will learn that year.

**Create routines:** The start of the school year requires some routine and structure to ensure children are prepared and ready to conquer each school day. Create a visual schedule for younger children or a timeline for older children so they stay on track each morning. Include daily routines such as breakfast and brushing teeth along with what time they need to leave the house each day. If your child benefits from some down time before the school day, include time to watch a show or play with toys after breakfast. Some children simply need more time in the mornings, so set the alarm 15 minutes early to reduce the rush and have a more relaxing morning. When possible, pack all lunches and backpacks the night before so everything is ready to go each school day.

Afternoons present different challenges as your kids may play sports or participate in various after-school activities. Each Sunday, plan the week on a white board calendar. Your children need to know what activities they have that week so together you can plan a time for homework, reading and studying each afternoon. Include homework time on the weekly calendar so there is no argument about when school tasks must be completed each week. Equally important, create a quiet homework zone, free from distractions such as TV or younger children playing loudly. The homework zone should be an organized, clutter-free space where children can focus on their work without frequent interruptions.

**Network:** Once you find out your child’s teacher, network with other parents whose children are in the same class. Plan a few play dates or an entire class event at a local park! Call an ice cream truck to swing by, and you have a perfect meet and greet for your child and his or her new school friends. When children enter school knowing a few friends in their class, they are far less worried about making friends the first day and can anticipate some friendly faces as they walk into their new classrooms.

**First Day:** The first day of school is the start of something great! Chat with your child’s teacher, network with other parents whose children are in the same class. Plan a few play dates or an entire class event at a local park! Call an ice cream truck to swing by, and you have a perfect meet and greet for your child and his or her new school friends. When children enter school knowing a few friends in their class, they are far less worried about making friends the first day and can anticipate some friendly faces as they walk into their new classrooms.

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August: the Sunday of summer. Sadly, that means school is right around the corner. Can you believe it’s almost time to go back already? But instead of getting bogged down by the heat and the dread of the incoming year, focus on keeping your brain active and involved. Remember that mental exercise is just as important as physical! Make the most of your last month of summer with a few helpful tips to get you ready for school while maximizing your free time.

Start your summer reading
If you haven’t already, grab those books and get to work. There’s nothing worse than procrastinating and then scrambling at the last minute to squeeze all your assignments in. Who would want to spend their last week of summer cramming for homework when they could be soaking up the last rays by the shore? But getting a head start does not mean you should coop yourself up in the house. Work in a local coffee shop, by the pool, at the beach, etc. In fact, studies have proven that people focus better when immersed in nature and public environments.

Clean up
A messy house makes a messy mind. If there’s one thing you need going into the new school year, it’s a fresh and focused mind. A cluttered environment is proven to create additional stress, limiting one’s productivity and ability to focus. So take the time to clean out your closet of old clothes, your desks littered with scrap paper, and your shelves filled with old junk.

Develop a consistent sleep schedule
We’ve all heard it a million times: get enough sleep! It’s true, sleep has myriad physical and mental health benefits. However, while summer is undoubtedly the time to relax and catch up on sleep, excessive amounts can be detrimental. Don’t waste your day sleeping past lunchtime! Sticking to a consistent sleep schedule every night with seven to nine hours will allow your internal clock to find its natural rhythm. A good idea would be to wake up at the same time you would on a school day. Once school begins, your body will already be used to the early mornings and will be able to stay refreshed throughout the day.

Get off your phone
In the technological world we currently live in, it’s hard to pull our eyes away from the tempting lure of our digital screens. As we are so busy sending texts and updating social media, we often forget to actually live our lives. Remember that the things we see online are only what others want us to see. Instead of agonizing over what other people are doing, expend your energy enjoying the nice weather and spending quality face-to-face time with friends and family. Putting your phone down will allow you to connect with others and focus better on whatever task is at hand.

While the month of August unfortunately reminds us of the approaching school year, it is also the time to savor the last precious moments of summer. Finding a healthy balance between work and play will create good habits and satisfy your sense of pleasure and accomplishment.

Happy summer and good luck at all the students this year!
It’s back-to-school time, so let’s have a class in some of New Jersey’s historic schools. While New Jersey has a lot of them, many of the original, one-room schoolhouses have been lost to time and demolition. Still, there are some exquisite reminders of time when students of all ages studied together in the ultimate small-class setting. New Jersey is also home to many extraordinary universities including Monmouth County’s gem, Monmouth University, and its central jewel, Wilson Hall. There is the spiritually inspiring Seton Hall University, named after Elizabeth Ann Seton, America’s first saint; the beautiful Georgian Court College, in nearby Lakewood; and the renowned Princeton University, consistently ranked in the top 20 most beautiful American campuses.

This class begins with a lesson on the Union Schoolhouse in Middletown, located on the Middletown Lincroft Road. The land was purchased back in 1842 for the unimaginable sum of $7 as the site for the Union Schoolhouse. The compact school housed 49 students from first grade through high school. Special credit goes to the crafty teacher (there was only one) who received the staggering salary of $30 to $40 per quarter to teach the students. The school operated until 1909, when it became part of a farming complex. In 1954, the Garden Club RFD took over the property. Members performed the necessary repairs, painting and restorations, and it now serves as the home for their meetings. In 1976, the schoolhouse was officially designated as a National Historic Site. It is also a previous recipient of the Monmouth County Historical Commission’s Preservation Award.

Next, we go a little further west to Robbinsville to the home of the closely named Union School. While records are sketchy, the construction style of a simple rectangle with a few windows and a steeply-pitched roof is seen in buildings built just before the Civil War. The schoolhouse does have an amazingly complete collection of the items used by the students including pencils and writing slates, copies of readers, photos of teachers and antique desks. The details even include a stool and dunce’s cap. The original school burned and was rebuilt in 1873, where it remained the center of education for kindergarten through eighth grade students until June 1916.

The Robbinsville Historical Society also has detailed records of some of the student’s daily lives in the classroom. Student Alfred Preston wrote that he could not recall any vacation between Christmas and New Year’s Day and that school was never called on account of weather. The school buses were actually horse-drawn wagons. It was required that the horses be “friendly and gentle.” The driver agreed to “refrain from using tobacco or liquor” while driving his charges. Robes and blankets were to be provided to students to keep them warm. All were to be treated “kindly and impartially.” The driver was paid $749 for 10 months of work.

The Little Red Schoolhouse was originally located on West Manor Way. It was moved once to be more centrally located to the core students. It was moved again by farmer Russell Hulse to avoid its demolition when Highway 95 was being built. Hulse’s sweet reason was that he wanted to save the schoolhouse in memory of his wife, Maud Scudder, whom he met on the front steps of the school. You can now find the school at the Robbinsville Municipal Complex.

The influence of early Quaker settlers can be felt all over New Jersey. Though most have vanished, the Quakers did influence the shape of the schoolhouse by introducing the octagon schoolhouse. Octagon schoolhouses were better lit because they had no dark corners and the windows were closer to the student’s desks. They were warmer, too, thanks to a central heating stove. At least 25 octagon schools were built in New Jersey before 1850, but only one survives: the Fairplay School (1835) in Knowlton Township, Warren County.

Now if you’re up for going away to school, the one-room Schoolhouse Museum in Ridgewood was built in 1872 and was an operational school until 1905. It houses a wealth of artifacts, donated over the years by area families that really show what life was like in the historic Saddle River Valley area in the 18th and 19th centuries.

You’ll see wool and flax wheels, colorful quilts, handcrafted toys, household articles, tools and pre-machine age farm equipment, toilet articles, a home medicine chest, Civil War items, and many other old and interesting objects tell a story of the past. Some of the artifacts date back to the Revolutionary War period. At nearly 2,000 square feet, it was one of the largest, and it has been restored to be essentially as it was more than a century ago. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To learn more, visit RidgewoodHistoricalSociety.org.
Clean Ocean Action’s Ways to Make Your Back-to-School Routine More Green

By Lori Draz

A new school year is a great time to set goals. Thinking green is a great family activity, and Clean Ocean Action has some terrific suggestions for a more responsible back-to-school season.

Clean Ocean Action educates people of all ages to be stewards of the environment in their daily lives. Here are some of their suggestions to minimize your environmental impact this upcoming school year and beyond:

- Check your home for leftover school supplies to prevent over-purchasing more "stuff." When purchasing items, choose eco-friendly options such as items not packaged in plastic and items made from recycled materials.
- Use sustainable food and beverage supplies like cloth lunch/snack bags (instead of plastic lunch boxes), refillable water or beverage bottles (instead of juice boxes/pouches), glass containers or silicone bags (avoid plastic items), cloth napkins, and reusable utensils.
- Buy 100 percent recycled paper and notebooks and recycle used paper.

- Instead of plastic book covers, wrap textbooks in paper shopping bags, then showcase your personality by decorating with markers, stickers and remnant fabric.
- Donate old and unwanted clothes.
- Walk, bike or carpool to school as often as possible.
- Don’t idle your vehicle at school or the bus stop, or while waiting anywhere.
- Choose EnergyStar computers, tablets and printers and unplug devices while not in use.
- Make a Difference: Attend COA’s “Pointless People Pollution” (adult and kids presentation) on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Monmouth County Library Eastern Branch from 2 to 3 pm. Invite COA to lecture at your school. Start an environmental club and organize a group to volunteer at Clean Ocean Action’s Fall Beach Sweeps on Saturday, Oct. 26; visit CleanOceanAction.org for information and registration for this statewide beach cleanup.
The public university for Monmouth County residents, Brookdale Community College, celebrates 50 years of service, opportunity and accomplishments, since graduating its first class 50 years ago.

Rather than spending a sentimental summer, Brookdale is poised for the future, with an expanding list of programs, classes and enrichment opportunities.

The Journal discussed some highlights with Dr. David Stout, president of Brookdale Community College. Stout’s warm, down-to-earth personality and passion for education are a driving force in the college’s renaissance. He humbly and correctly credits the highly credentialed staff for Brookdale’s successes. In addition to some major facilities upgrades, there’s a lot more taking place — with more to come.

Perhaps most significantly, Brookdale was reaccredited this summer by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, meeting the organization’s rigorous standards and criteria. Stout said the intensive self-study process and commitment to continually improve teaching and learning have strengthened and reinforced Brookdale’s mission of providing a high-quality education that is affordable and accessible.

Conducted at all higher learning institutions every eight years, accreditation is essential for financial aid and transferring credits. More importantly, it reaffirms the college’s commitment to high standards of excellence. Additionally, Gov. Phil Murphy recently signed the expanded community college opportunity grant program. It raises the income eligibility standards for thousands to attend community colleges free of charge. Individuals who satisfy various enrollment criteria may participate.

Though Brookdale is well-known for programs such as nursing and health and criminal justice, there are many other options, including 3D animation and game design, cyber security and architecture. Indeed, there is much about Brookdale you may not know.

Bet you didn’t know that Brookdale has a robust honors program, study abroad options, or that students transfer annually to leading national and regional institutions, including Ivy League schools. Brookdale’s athletics and arts departments have earned top regional and national recognition. The women’s softball team was recently ranked third in the nation. The women’s soccer team competed in the national tournament. Men’s lacrosse and baseball just missed the national competition. The men’s basketball team won the national tournament with an undefeated 2018 season.

The performing arts division includes theater and production, music, including big band, creative writing and music technology. The Brookdale Chorale recently traveled to China and has appeared at Carnegie Hall. The video production division has graduated dozens of professionals now working in high profile places like NBC and News Channel 12.

The academics division offers classes for students looking to transfer to four-year institutions as well as two-year programs in automotive, culinary and hospitality. Many chefs at leading restaurants earned their degrees at Brookdale. Numerous technicians and mechanics at dealerships and repair shops statewide gained hands-on experience at Brookdale.

For adult students, Brookdale’s accelerated associates degree program in business administration runs in manageable seven-week sessions. The Division of Professional Studies offers non-credit programs in technologies that allow students to concentrate on specific career courses.

Stout added, “Access is an enormous part of our mission. Students have access to Rutgers, right here in Lincroft. Our online education program is in the top 13 nationally, attracting students globally.”

Community events include numerous lectures and programs. Recent speakers included the astronaut Leland Melvin and filmmaker Ken Burns. A visiting author series brings award-winning authors to campus each year.

There are also tour and talk events, very popular with seniors. Groups travel with experts to museums, galleries and landmarks. Numerous opportunities abound for individuals to learn more about topics that interest them or to pursue hobbies and crafts.

One of the most important programs for parents of college bound high schoolers is the dual enrollment program which allows high school students to take college courses, saving on college tuition.

And that’s still not the whole story. As the college steps into its next 50 years, its diversity represents opportunities for the entire community of Monmouth County residents.

There is still time to enroll for fall courses. To learn more, visit BrookdaleCC.edu.

“We remain a gateway for thousands of Monmouth County residents to obtain a degree, advance in their careers through training and certificate programs and to engage in lifelong learning opportunities,” Stout said. “Explore what’s available at Brookdale. There’s a match waiting, whatever your goals or aspirations.”
Money-Saving Tips for Back-to-School Shopping

It’s still August, I know, but let’s talk back-to-school shopping. Whether you love it or hate it, back-to-school shopping must happen.

To retailers and shoppers alike, the back-to-school season is has turned into more of a holiday in terms of spending, deals and the bottom line. In fact, the National Retail Federation announced that spending of students from kindergarten to college spent a combined $82.8 billion in 2018, making it the second largest spending holiday of the year (aside from the winter holidays, of course).

On average, this breaks down to about $684 per family in grades kindergarten through 12 and as much as $942 for parents with children going to college. That is why making it through back-to-school shopping season frugally and sane is as much an art as a science. So whether you are sending your first child off to kindergarten, your last child off to college, or any of the many milestones in between, keeping a rein on back-to-school spending is a challenge worth accepting, and we have some unique tips to help you do just that.

1. Timing Is Everything

Think you save more by shopping early? Not necessarily, but it does help.

It’s a common battle cry, especially among savers: if you want to get the best deals on back-to-school, start early. And while that may be true on an item-by-item basis, its ultimate effects are a bit less clear. There will always be obvious exceptions, but according to a survey of back-to-school shoppers conducted by Deloitte.com, shoppers who start getting those back-to-school deals starting at about 12 weeks prior to school will spend about 46 percent more than those who wait a little longer. However, with that said, those who wait until two weeks or less before school starts will spend about 100 percent more, making the best time to really focus on your shopping is about four to six weeks prior to school starts.

2. Don’t Shop in Only One Store

When you’re pressed for time, it’s tempting to choose one big box store, take your list and check off every item. And while you will certainly save some money by shopping this way, especially on common items like notebooks or pencils, there will also be a number of items that are conspicuously marked up in order to snag those rushed parents like you (another reason you spend more when you shop last minute). It is far wiser and more frugal to shop on an item-by-item basis.

Now, of course, this isn’t always easy or possible since some parents only get supply lists at the last minute, but for those with a list or even once you receive yours, the best and actually the easiest way to save is by shopping at home before you show up in the store. In other words, monitor sales fliers, look for the best (or even just really great) prices, and then go into that store and purchase that item. As an added bonus, the one-at-a-time method is usually less stressful and allows you to use those hand express checkout lanes.

3. Maximize Mobile and Online Deals

An interesting phenomenon regarding the back-to-school season is that, despite the exponential rise of online shopping in general, consumers are still flocking to brick-and-mortar retailers when it comes to back-to-school. Perhaps some of this is practical, especially when it comes to trying on clothing, and perhaps some is nostalgic. Either way, shopping in physical stores in the 21st century gives consumers a chance to use both old-fashion savings strategies (sales, coupons, etc.) as well as modern, technological ones. During this back-to-school season especially, pay attention to that latter category.

This includes monitoring social media accounts such as Facebook and Twitter for major brands such as Staples, Office Max, Marshall’s and Best Buy. You also want to sign up for email newsletters from your favorite brands as well, since sales and coupons are commonly offered to subscribers first. Finally, utilize apps and text messaging to add in even more deals.

4. Don’t Bring the Kids

The focus of back-to-school shopping is, obviously, your student. However, this is also the person who is least likely to understand the financial implications of this increasingly more expensive shopping season. And while I am all for teaching kids about money, the simple fact is they usually want what they want, especially when they are bombarded by temptation and advertising and especially when they are very young kids.

It doesn’t take being a seasoned saver to know that character items and branded products cost more. But to kids who just want to be like everyone else or who obsess over a certain theme, the fact that a superhero pencil set costs up to five times the amount of a basic yellow one is lost. If your goal is to save as much money as possible with as little stress as possible when back-to-school shopping, leave the kids at home. Their life will go on if they need to use a plain blue folder. I promise.

5. Item Out of Stock? Don’t Give Up

When certain stores go for broke on deals (also known as loss leaders) – for example, offering crayon boxes for $0.25 – clearly, people respond. If you get to a store too late to cash in on a deal, don’t give up just yet. Because back-to-school shopping is the second-largest retail holiday of the year, competitors are hot on beating one another’s deals. Many will price match any item that is advertised, so learn who does what and get those ads ready. If you are smart, you can go next door or across the street and score the same deal on the same product where it is still in stock.

6. Wait for Back to School Clearance Sales

Finally, just as shopping early can end up biting you in the end, so, too can shopping late end up being your saving grace. Clearly, teachers want students prepared on the first day. Instead, prioritize and put off the items you can afford to put off. Usually, at about mid-September retailers will purge all their remaining school supplies in an effort to make room for the holiday rush (hello, Halloween). When this happens, markdowns from 50 percent to 75 percent or more are common. Therefore, by putting off the purchase of nonessential supplies – those your child doesn’t need in the first few weeks of school like calculators, science project supplies, even tissues – you can save more money later on and still make sure your student has everything he or she needs for a school year full of success.

Contributing columnist Cindy Livesey lends her two cents on ways to save money, aimed at the cost-conscious consumer and those looking to live a ‘richer’ life. Let the saving begin! Author/Frugal Living Expert: Living Rich With Coupons, Empowering Smart Shoppers to Live Rich Found Editor: LivingRichWithCoupons.com
Soon enough, students, teachers and families will be heading back for the first day of school. If you’re looking for a fun and fascinating day trip to wrap up the last of your summer vacation time – or for an outing at any other time of year – don’t overlook an educational excursion that many New York/New Jersey area residents often take for granted: the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island.

The iconic Lady Liberty, with her torch held high above New York Harbor, has been recognized around the world as a symbol of freedom since her dedication in 1886 as a gift from France. Nearby Ellis Island is celebrated as the historic gateway to America for more than 12 million immigrants, beginning in 1892. Together, the two sites, managed by the National Park System, attract more than 3 million visitors each year from throughout the country and the globe.

Situated in the middle of New York Harbor, Liberty Island and Ellis Island are familiar sights from the shores of both New York and New Jersey, although they actually lie closer to the Garden State. They are easily accessible by a quick ferry ride from either Battery Park in NYC or Liberty State Park in Jersey City.

For Jersey drivers, the New Jersey departure point is decidedly more convenient, offering the advantage of having parking lots available for a nominal fee. The Jersey City location also boasts the picturesque Liberty State Park itself, with sweeping views of the Manhattan skyline, a 2-mile promenade, picnic area, outdoor performance area and the moving Empty Sky 9/11 Memorial, the official state memorial to honor the memory of all 749 people from New Jersey who lost their lives at the World Trade Center. Close by is the historic Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal, where immigrants who had been processed at Ellis Island boarded trains that took them to their new American homes. Check out the departure signs at the end of each track to see the destinations, many of them familiar towns along the Jersey Shore.

A number of tourism outfits promote ferry trips to the Statue of Liberty, but not all of them actually allow the chance to disembark, instead merely taking passengers around the islands to view them from the water. The officially sanctioned ferry service is operated by Statue Cruises (StatueCruises.com), with boats that run regularly throughout the day and allow passengers to visit each island, as well as refreshing stands onboard. All tickets include round trip ferry service from either New York or New Jersey, ferry service from island to island, entry to the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, free self-guided audio tours, and access to the Statue of Liberty grounds and interactive information center. Additional options are available that provide access to the Statue of Liberty Pedestal and Museum, to the crown of the statue, or to a Hard Hat Tour on Ellis Island that shows buildings such as the old hospital, morgue, contagious disease wards, offices, housing and more. Tickets can be purchased online, with reserved times often booked well in advance for those wishing to climb the steep stairs to the pedestal or crown or go on the Hard Hat Tour.

The museum inside the pedestal of the magnificent statue tells the story of its design and construction, as well as restoration projects that took place in later years. Proclaimed as the eighth wonder of the world at the time, the statue was inspired in 1865 by an era of nationalism, prosperity and new technology after the end of the Civil War, the abolishment of slavery, and the approaching centennial celebration of the United States. She was named “Liberty Enlightening the World” and became the face of America.

Perhaps more fascinating, particularly for the 100 million Americans who can trace their ancestry to the immigrants who passed through its doors, is the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. They came in waves by the shipload – some to escape religious persecution or political upheaval, others to seek employment or to reconnect with family members, and still others to pursue new adventures or forge new beginnings.

There are three floors of exhibits at the Immigration Museum. Guests have a choice of three self-guided tours of varying lengths and details that take them, step by step, through the immigrants’ experience as they were processed. Permanent and temporary exhibits display photos, artifacts and personal possessions brought from distant homelands. There is information about the overall history of immigration to the U.S., a restored dormitory room and the enormous Registry Room in the building’s Great Hall. Outside, in back of the main building and overlooking the harbor, is the American Immigrant Wall of Honor, which is inscribed with seemingly endless rows of names – representing just a fraction of the 12 million people who passed through Ellis Island.

A visit to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island is a stirring experience that brings history to life and draws cultures together. Often considered by some as “just” a classroom field trip or a tourist attraction, it can generate surprising reactions from adults who have lived in the figurative shadow of the statue all their lives but never took the opportunity to go. Before it’s time to head back to school, you may want to consider a day trip back to your family roots.

For more information, visit nps.gov/stli and nps.gov/elis.
Dear Cassie: I was divorced years ago, when our daughter was 10 years old. Now, she is starting her senior year in high school. What are my ex-husband’s responsibilities to contribute to the costs of college for her? — T.Q.

Dear T.Q.: First, you should look at the language included in your Matrimonial Settlement Agreement concerning college costs for your daughter. If this issue was addressed in your agreement, the terms of your agreement will in all likelihood control how these costs are paid.

If your agreement is silent on the issue or if your agreement does not specifically address who is paying what costs – which very well could be the case in light of the fact that your daughter was only 10 years old when you were divorced – then New Jersey law will control the issue of college contribution. A case called Newburgh v. Arrigo is currently the guiding law on the issue.

That case provides for an analysis of 12 factors in a case involving contribution by divorced or divorcing parties toward the college costs of their children. Those factors include: (1) whether the parent, if still living with the child, would have contributed toward the costs of the requested higher education; (2) the effect of the background, values and goals of the parent on the reasonableness of the expectation of the child for higher education; (3) the amount of the contribution sought by the child for the cost of higher education; (4) the ability of the parent to pay that cost; (5) the relationship of the requested contribution to the kind of school or course of study sought by the child; (6) the financial resources of both parents; (7) the commitment to and aptitude of the child for the requested education; (8) the financial resources of the child, including assets owned individually or held in custodianship or trust; (9) the ability of the child to earn income during the school year or on vacation; (10) the availability of financial aid in the form of college grants and loans; (11) the child’s relationship to the paying parent, including mutual affection and shared goals as well as responsiveness to parental advice and guidance; and (12) the relationship of the education requested to any prior training and to the overall long-range goals of the child.

As with nearly all family law issues, a resolution of this particular issue is fact-sensitive, meaning that it will depend on the specific facts and circumstances of your case.

If you are dealing with the issue of college contribution, you should seek the advice of matrimonial counsel.

Have a divorce and family law question for Cassie? Submit your question to admin@paonezaleski.com for consideration in the next edition of “Ask Cassie.”

Cassie Murphy is a divorce and family law partner with the law offices of Paone, Zaleski & Murphy, with offices in Red Bank and Woodbridge.

Ask Cassie