

THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL and HOW IT GREW

(History of the Wanamassa School)



**Principals included:
Victoria Green, Edward German, J. Anthony Covino,
Joseph Palaia, Douglas Deicke, Camille Tighe,
Margaret Grilli, Justine Salvo and currently Victor
Milano**

History of Wanamassa School
As reported by,
Ann Butler, Transitional First Grade Teacher
May 27, 1982

The Little Red School and How It Grew

“The classes are too large.”

“My child is suffering because of the overcrowding.”

“We need better facilities for our children.”

These complaints were voiced at a special meeting of the Board of Education held in the Wanamassa Firehouse on September 14, 1928. At the time, children in the Wanamassa section of the township walked to the Bradley School in Asbury Park. Because of overcrowded conditions in Asbury Park, concerned parents from the southern part of Ocean Township were united in expressing a desire for some kind of school building as soon as possible. Excitement ran so high at one time during the meeting at the firehouse, that it was suggested the Wanamassa Firehouse be used as a school as an immediate relief.

A petition for a new school was signed by 135 residents and property owners and presented to the then members of the Board of Education: President-William B. Jeffrey, Vice-President-George B. Price, Clerk-Fred R. Taylor, Charles Woolley, Harry G. VanNote, Grover Dangler, Hamilton Truax, Ward Hampton and Enoch Davison. The Board then began to explore the possibility of building a new school in the Wanamassa section. After touring other schools in Monmouth and Middlesex Counties on Saturday, December 29, 1928 and Sunday, January 12, 1929, the Board called a meeting at the Wanamassa Firehouse on January 30, 1929, and John N. Pierson, an architect, presented plans for a school. Wickapecko Drive was suggested as the location for the future school.

Five regular and special meetings followed until on July 10, 1929 the Haven's property on Wickapecko Drive and Bendermere Avenue was selected as the school site to be purchased for the sum of \$27,500. Architects were notified to present plans and a special “meeting election” of the legal voters of the Township of Ocean was held at the Oakhurst Schoolhouse on September 29, 1929 between the hours of 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. to vote on the following proposals:

- A. To purchase for a schoolhouse, the plot of land described as follows: northwest corner of Wickapecko Drive and Bendermere Avenue in the southern part of Ocean Township, known as the front part of Pitney Havens Interlaken Estates consisting of five acres more or less, and to expand therefore, a sum including incidental expenses, not exceeding \$27,500.

- B. To construct on said plot of land a new schoolhouse, to purchase school furniture and other necessary equipment therefore, to improve the said plot of land and to expand therefore a sum not exceeding \$132,500.

- C. To issue bonds of the district for the said purposes in the principle amount of \$160,000.

At the election 197 votes were cast: 309 favored a new school and 88 opposed. Plans proceeded for the school, beginning with the employment of William A. Pieper of Summit, NJ as architect for the new school.

As a result of a survey of a cross-section of the site on Wickapecko Drive and Bendermere Avenue, it was learned that the sum of \$10,000 would be needed to put the property in shape for building (probably because of the stream that runs through that property) so the Board decided that the site should be moved to Bendermere Avenue and Chestnut Street at a cost of \$20,000. Another special election was held on November 1, 1929 to approve this change. At that election, 94 votes were cast, 88 in favor of changing the site, 5 opposed and 1 blank ballot.

On November 13, 1929, the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund agreed to purchase \$160,000 in bonds of the district at 5 ¾% and on December 11, 1929, plans for the new school were accepted with advertisements placed in the Long Branch Record and Asbury Park Press for bids.

On January 13, 1930 the following bids were accepted by the Board of Education:

General Contract-Ehret Day Co.....	\$98,553
Heating-George Steward	\$14,964
Plumbing-Andrew Van Cleve.....	\$ 5,248
Electric-Inter-State Electrical Co.....	\$ 3,500

A committee was then formed to decide on a name for the new building and on April 9, 1930, they suggested that the building be called "Wanamassa School". The proposed name was accepted by the Board of Education.

The next step was to select a principal and faculty for the new school. The Board selected Mrs. Victoria Green as first Principal of Wanamassa School. Harry E. Patterson was to be Supervising Principal of both the Wanamassa School and the Oakhurst School. The Board then approved the following faculty and salaries:

Grade 1	Mrs. Alice B. Smith.....	\$1600
Grade 2	Anna Jackson	\$1200
Grade 3	Grace Reeves	\$1200
Grade 4	Alice Neuman	\$1200
Grade 5	Harriet Houlshart	\$1250
Grade 6	Rebecca Allen	\$1350
Grade 7	Ruth White	\$1200
Grade 8	Victoria Green	\$1800

Work proceeded on the new building and on September 8, 1930, the Asbury Park Press reported that the ringing of school bells in Ocean Township had summoned 240 pupils to the new \$160,000 Wanamassa School.

The new school was completed with the exception of grading and landscaping and a small amount of decorating on the inside.

The Asbury Park Press reported that a delegation of parents representing West Allenhurst, attended the Board of Education meeting, held on September 10, 1930 and made “vigorous demands that transportation be furnished for the West Allenhurst children attending the new Wanamassa School.”

Aside from the “long walk to school” objection, members of the West Allenhurst delegation were also quoted as fearing the “poison ivy” along the road, and that because of this children were forced to walk in the road taking the chance of being killed.

The Board of Education called a special meeting on September 17, 1930 to consider the busing problem. Again the Press reported on the meeting, which was described as “stormy”, when the Board informed the parents that they would not furnish transportation for West Allenhurst children attending the new Wanamassa School. This ruling was met with noisy protests which might have continued indefinitely had not the president of the board adjourned the meeting.

The then County Superintendent of Schools, William M. Smith, agreed with the board’s ruling and explained that one of the reasons for constructing the new school was to eliminate to some extent the problem of transportation. Thus education commenced at the red brick building on Bendermere Avenue, and has continued to this day.

As the years passed and the population of Ocean Township grew, it became necessary to make changes in the original building. In September, 1950, a classroom was constructed in the basement on the east side of the building. A young sixth grade teacher, Joe Palaia occupied this room with his class. The class was housed here until two new wings were completed in December of 1950 and all classes were again located upstairs. The basement then housed only the cafeteria.

Even with the two new wings, the rapidly increasing population necessitated a return to the use of basement rooms and in September 1951, two classes taught by Mr. Palaia and Mr. McKee were again moved to the lower level.

As the years went on and enrollment continued to rise, additional classrooms were added in the basement until the cafeteria eventually had to be eliminated. Thus for thirty years Wanamassa children were housed in what the state considered “substandard” rooms.

Although the state may have labeled the rooms substandard, in no way was the education given in those rooms of our red brick school building ever substandard, as the test scores over the years will attest to. The Administration and faculty made every effort to assure a superior education for all the children of Wanamassa, despite the facilities. Needless to say, the Board of Education, the Administration and Faculty were neither pleased nor content with the physical conditions of the Wanamassa School. Accordingly, major renovations were effected in 1981 that were to please and benefit all. The aesthetics of the building were improved upon; a new roof was added; and the basement area was transformed into a bright, cheerful educational facility which included, along with the new classrooms, an art room and library.

THE DECADE OF THE 1930's, 1930 – 1939

Supervising Principal – Harry Patterson

Principal/Teacher - Mrs. Victoria Green

STAFF

First Grade – Mrs. Alice B. Smith, Miss Wood (later Nielson)

Second Grade – Mrs. Anna (Jackson) King

Third Grade – Miss Grace Reeves

Fourth Grade – Miss Reba Summers (Eickhorn)

Fifth Grade – Miss Harriet Hulshart, Miss Rebecca White

Sixth Grade – Miss Rebecca Allen

Seventh Grade – Miss Ruth White

Eighth Grade – Mrs. Victoria Green

Music – Mrs. Anna (Jackson) King

Girls Gym Teacher – Miss Jeannette Cohen

Art – Mr. John Cooper

Custodian – John “Pop” Garrity

Crossing Guard – Mrs. Jim Parker

WHAT WAS THE BUILDING LIKE IN THE 1930's?

There were eight classrooms in the Wanamassa School when it opened in 1930. There was one classroom for each grade. There was no kindergarten until 1937. In that year a pre-primary class was added and the classroom was located in the basement. Miss Margaret Remburg was hired as the teacher.

The gym/auditorium was used for physical education and assemblies, as well as public meetings and community events. A show was put on in the new auditorium in the mid-30's by the Lincoln Community Club of Oakhurst. Two of the performers were Horace McCotter and Joseph Grippaldi.

At first, all students walked home for lunch. Later a room in the basement was used for a kitchen and cafeteria. Mrs. Plate was in charge of the volunteer mothers who fixed homemade soup and sandwiches for lunch.

Offices for the Superintendent and the Board of Education were in the Wanamassa School.

WHAT WAS SCHOOL LIKE IN THE 1930's?

Every morning the whole school marched into the auditorium. Morning exercises were being held there. Everyone saluted the flag and sang a patriotic song. The principal read a few verses from the Bible and everyone said the Lord's Prayer.

Mr. Patterson, the superintendent, often lectured the whole school on character-building, self-control, patriotism, and personal goals. He also retold his experiences from World War I and brought back souvenirs from trips to show the students.

Assemblies were held for all special holidays. Each class put on a program each year.

Mrs. Anna (Jackson) King went to each class to teach music once a week. That teacher would then take over Mrs. King's class for that period.

Students came to Wanamassa School from Deal, Allenhurst and Interlaken, as well as Wanamassa, West Allenhurst and Colonial Terrace. By 1937, the classes were too large. There were about 40 students in most classes. There was little money to hire extra teachers or build additions, so students from Deal, Allenhurst and Interlaken were no longer accepted and they had to go to Asbury Park schools.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE A STUDENT IN THE 1930's?

During the 1930's, Bendermere Avenue was not developed. There were several houses across from the school, but the land west and north of the school was still wooded. The students came from the area along Sunset Avenue, Colonial Terrace, and the West Allenhurst sections of Ocean Township, and from Deal, Allenhurst and Interlaken, until 1937. Most students walked.

Boys in the 1930's wore knickers, high wool socks, and laced high oxford shoes and boots. Girls wore skirts, high wool stockings or socks and laced oxford shoes. In cold weather, girls wore leggings or slacks under their skirts, which they took off and hung up with their coats and hats.

Girls in the 30's brought jacks to play at recess and boys brought marbles. Baseball was a popular sport for boys and girls. A rivalry developed between the Wanamassa and Oakhurst Schools.

Students had nature clubs and music clubs. Girl Scouts was an important activity for Wanamassa girls. Active Boy Scout troops were located in Wanamassa and in the Oakhurst sections of Ocean Township.

THE DECADE OF THE 1940's, 1940-1949

Superintendent – Mr. Harry Patterson

Principals

Dr. Greg Hibbs, 1940 – 1942

Mrs. Victoria Green, 1942 – 1949

Mr. Edward B. German, 1949

STAFF

Kindergarten – Miss Margaret Remsburg (Ryder)

First Grade – Miss Anthony (Pacelli)

Second Grade – Mrs. Martin

Third Grade – Miss Reeves

Fourth Grade – Mrs. Eickhorn, Miss Tietje (Kingston)

Fifth Grade – Mrs. Slater

Sixth Grade – Mr. German, Mr. Palaia

Seventh Grade – Mrs. Tilton, Miss Blanchfield (Kwartek)

Eight Grade – Mrs. Stumpf

Gym – Mr. Cittadino

Music – Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Shatzow

Penmanship – Mr. Patterson

Custodian – John “Pop” Garrity

WHAT WAS THE BUILDING LIKE IN THE 1940's?

There were nine classrooms– one classroom for each grade. The gym/auditorium was used for physical education and assemblies, as well as public meetings and community events. One event of the time was a community Christmas Party that was held in the school auditorium one evening in December. Santa came and gave out candy canes and everyone sang carols.

The kindergarten class was still in the basement during the 1940's. A sixth grade was moved to the basement in the late 1940's when Mr. Joseph Palaia was hired as a new teacher.

A cafeteria and kitchen in the basement were used for school lunches. After a heavy rain, the basement of the Wanamassa School flooded.

The Superintendent's and Board of Education Offices were in the Wanamassa School.

A post-war building boom took place west of Wickapecko Drive, along Sunset Avenue and north to Bendermere Avenue. These new Cape Cod style homes were built for the returning GIs and their new families. The houses were known as the "Brower Homes." The new building meant more students for the Wanamassa School. By the end of the 1940's, classes were large and a new addition to Wanamassa School was planned to relieve the overcrowding.

WHAT WAS SCHOOL LIKE IN THE 1940's?

Dr. Greg Hibbs was the new principal at the Wanamassa School when Mr. Patterson was named Superintendent in 1940. Dr. Hibbs stayed until 1942 when he was drafted into the U.S. Army to serve in World War II. Mrs. Green became principal from 1942 until her retirement in 1949. In 1949, Mr. German was appointed principal of the Wanamassa School.

There were some changes at the Wanamassa School in the early 40's because of the gas rationing of World War II. Kindergarten students had to attend school all day because it took too much gas for the buses to make the extra trips for half day sessions. Teachers could not get extra gas rations and had to form car pools to get to school.

Students did their part for the "war effort" by buying U.S. Defense Savings Stamps and collecting money for the Red Cross.

The PTA mothers canned fresh vegetables from their "victory gardens" during the summer to help provide enough food for the cafeteria lunches. Volunteer mothers made homemade soup, baked cookies, and served lunch under the direction of Mrs. Plate.

PTA meetings were held in the afternoons in the 1940's.

Mr. Patterson taught formal handwriting classes to the upper grades. During this decade, the 7th and 8th grade teachers began teaching their specialty subjects to the students. The teachers moved. The students did not.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE A STUDENT AT THE WANAMASSA SCHOOL IN THE 1940's?

The Wanamassa School had grades from kindergarten to eighth during the 1940's. There was an eighth grade graduation every year. Following World War II, the eighth graders went to Washington D.C. overnight for a class trip. A class picnic and softball game were also held for the graduating students.

Graduates went to Asbury Park High School.

It was during the 1940's that the 7th and 8th grade basketball and baseball teams were formed. Mr. Cittadino was the first coach and then Mr. Palaia took his place. Many Wanamassa boys played varsity teams at Asbury Park High School.

A cheerleading team was formed for girls in the late 40's with Miss Blanchfield (Kwartek) as the coach.

Girls, as well as boys, played softball/baseball. A favorite rivalry were the games with the Oakhurst school.

For the younger students, hopscotch was the big playground game, and everyone carried around their own special pebble. Jump rope was another popular playground game.

A rifle range was located in the basement of the Wanamassa School. Boy Scouts, under the direction of leaders like Oliver Wendell Holmes VII, learned marksmanship and gun safety. Many older boys hunted in the fall. The Township was mostly wooded or farmland in this decade. There were many nearby areas for hunting.

Boys in the 1940's wore corduroy or wool pants, sweaters and cotton shirts. Girls wore skirts, bobby socks, saddle shoes, and blouses. Wearing cardigan sweaters backwards with the buttons in the back was the style.

THE DECADE OF THE 1950's, 1950 – 1959

Superintendents

1950-1951, Mr. Harry Patterson
1952-1959, Mr. Edward B. German

Principals

1950-51, Mr. Edward B. German
1952-1956, Mr. Anthony Covino
1956-1959, Mr. Joseph Palaia

Supervisor of Curriculum

Mr. Charles Grippaldi

STAFF*

Kindergarten

Mrs. Ryder, Mrs. Rutan, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Stanford, Mrs. Soicher, Mrs. Karasic

First Grade

Mrs. Pacelli, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Whiting, Mrs. Matthews, Miss Vogel

Second Grade

Mrs. Slater, Mrs. Beardsley, Miss O'Brien, Miss Miller, Miss Siciliano, Miss Sammarco

Third Grade

Miss Reeves, Miss Fishman, Mrs. Spiegel, Mrs. Berkenmeir

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Eickhorn, Mrs. McConville, Mrs. Digney

Fifth Grade

Miss Rachinelli, Miss Hall, Miss Rogers, Mrs. Doyle, Miss Van Cleaf

Sixth Grade

Mrs. (Tietje) Kingston, Mr. Palaia, Mr. Vineburg, Mr. McKee, Mrs. Newman,
Mrs. Friedman

Seventh Grade

Mrs. Tilton, Mrs. Kwartek

Eighth Grade

Mrs. Stumpf, Mr. Beuhler

Physical Education

Mr. Cittadino, Mr. Dahrouge, Miss McLoin, Miss Carton, Miss Thompson,
Miss Turner, Mr. Fraterrigo

Music
Miss Schatzow, Mr. Peluso, Mrs. Lefkowitz

Industrial Arts
Mr. Bill Wright

Reading
Mrs. Martin, Miss Perrella

Nurse
Mrs. Leibhardt, Mrs. Young

School Psychologist
Mr. Robert McKee

Custodians
Joe Hundertpfund, John "Pop" Garrity, George Templeton

*The teachers listed may have taught other grades during this decade. The names are put under the grades remembered by our interviewees.

WHAT WAS THE BUILDING LIKE IN THE 1950's?

A building boom in Ocean Township during the 1940's and early 1950's made all classes overcrowded. Two new wings were built and opened in 1950. Eleven more rooms were added to the Wanamassa School and a new wing was added to the Oakhurst School. More basement classes were being used, but it was clear that another school would be needed. By the mid-50's, classes were on split sessions and kindergarten classes were being held in the newly built Town Hall building on Deal Road until parents complained about the conditions. The kindergarten was moved to the basement of the church on Wickapecko Drive.

The overcrowding was relieved with the opening of the Ocean Township School on Dow Avenue in 1958. It was the first time that the rival Oakhurst and Wanamassa students had been in the same school.

During the times when the school was overcrowded, the auditorium was used for classes and the gym classes were held outdoors or in the basement.

Wanamassa School had grades from kindergarten through eighth grade until Ocean Township School opened. In 1958, the Wanamassa School became a K to 4 school.

A kitchen and cafeteria were still being used in the basement in the 50's. Mrs. Plate ran the cafeteria, assisted by Mrs. Robbins. A school library was started in the basement.

A large baseball field in the northeast corner of the playground was used by school teams and summer leagues. Bleachers and a press box were also part of the facilities.

WHAT WAS SCHOOL LIKE IN THE 1950's?

A music teacher, shared with Oakhurst, went from class to class to teach music.

A reading teacher was added to the staff in the mid-50's. Mrs. Martin changed the teaching of reading by insisting on reading groups in all classes. Miss Perrella taught reading in the 7th and 8th grades.

Industrial Arts was held in the basement for girls and boys. Mr. Bill Wright was the teacher.

Air raid drills were held to prepare students in case of nuclear attack. Students huddled in the basement and the halls away from windows.

During the 1950's, PTA meetings were changed from afternoons to evenings so that fathers could come.

The Wanamassa PTA held the first School Fair in Ocean Township. Card Parties were held to raise funds to buy things for the school like a hall clock.

Overcrowding and split sessions did not change the "neighborhood spirit" of the school. Faculty volleyball games were a regular event; and a surprise party was given for Mr. Vineburg when he was drafted into the U.S. Army and left for basic training at Fort Dix.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE A STUDENT IN THE 1950's?

Students who went to Wanamassa School looked forward to their eighth grade graduation, an overnight trip to Washington D.C., a class picnic and swim party, and then going to Asbury Park High School.

While the eighth grade was still at Wanamassa, there were athletic teams in track, baseball and basketball for boys. Girls played basketball, softball and field hockey. There was a cheerleading squad and a glee club.

The 1952 Wanamassa Indians basketball teams, coached by Joe Palaia, won all league and county championships that year. Some of the players on those teams were: Sam Patterson, Lee Owens, Tom Steckback, Dave Gibson, Frank Roberts, Howard Kuskin, Cliff Miller, Frank Wojciechowicz, Ted Johnson, Bob Pines, Frank White, Alan Johnston, Harry Britton, George Ruding, Gerrie "Hoppie" Harsin, Phillip Silvers.

The Wanamassa athletes in the 50's were coached by "Boots" Cittadino, Joe Palaia and Dave Dahrouge. Some of those players were: Tom Furlong, Jack Bisbee, Walter Gibson, Butchie Britton, Fred Hoffman, Jimmy Garrity, Gordon Dunlop, Ted Taggart, Rich Kuchen, Garrett Giberson, Leon Britton, James Daley, Michael Van Glish, Robert Schulman, Steve Scharf, Barry Duane, and Pil Peterson. Many Wanamassa athletes went on to star on the varsity teams at Asbury Park High School.

Dance classes were held after school and students often stayed to practice their dancing (jitterbug).

There were class plays and exchange assemblies with Oakhurst School.

During the 1950's there was a Safety Patrol for the older students who helped younger kids cross the streets before and after school.

Class rings were available for graduating eighth graders. They were silver with an onyx stone.

Students in the 1950's did not wear sneakers to school. They brought their sneakers to wear for gym or team sports. Loafers, saddle shoes, ballerinas, t-strap flats, and later white bucks were worn by the students.

Girls wore circle skirts, not slacks to school. Crinolines made full skirts fuller. Knee socks or leggings were worn in winter to keep legs warm. Angora sweaters, collars, silk scarves, and sweater guards to hold cardigan sweaters on the shoulders, were the styles of the 1950's. Jeans were never worn to school by boys or girls.

Many Wanamassa boys trapped muskrats along the banks of Deal Lake. Boating along the lakefront was a popular activity. Although the lake was brown with cedar water, it was safe to swim in and was not polluted.

On Arbor Day 1952, a tree was planted on the front lawn of the school with a marker in memory of Michael Wojciechowicz, a kindergarten student who drowned in Deal Lake that year.

THE DECADE OF THE 1960's, 1960-1969

Superintendents

1960-1966, Mr. Edward B. German

1966-1969, Mr. Charles Scott

Principal

Mr. Joseph Palaia

STAFF*

Kindergarten

Mrs. Ryder, Miss Plastaras

First Grade

Mrs. Pacelli, Mrs. Cahill, Mrs. Grant, Miss Brown, Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. Jelley,
Mrs. Schmiedle, Mrs. Butler

Second Grade

Mrs. Beardsley, Mrs. Sevcovic, Mrs. O'Connell, Mrs. Pearl, Mrs. Flynn,
Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Mesnikoff

Third Grade

Mrs. Dowell, Mrs. Pappas, Mrs. Kocen, Mrs. Frencher, Miss Reeves

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Wishart, Mrs. Albano, Mrs. (Meloffchik) Dillon, Mrs. Connell,
Miss DeLieto, Mrs. Eickhorn, Mr. Deicke

Fifth Grade

Mrs. LaBove, Mrs. Breslin, Mrs. West, Mrs. Slater

Special Education

Mrs. Pare

Reading

Mrs. Stanford, Mrs. Whiting, Mrs. Martin

Music

Mrs. Lefkowitz, Mrs. Dessalet, Mrs. Watson

Art

Mrs. (Johnson) Beebe, Miss Rush, Mrs. Lewis

Health

Mrs. Evelyn Severs

Nurse

Mrs. Young

Library
Mrs. Dorothy King

Speech
Mrs. Lorber, Mrs. Fineburg

Physical Education
Mrs. Macaluso, Mr. Hauselt, Mr. Fraterrigo, Mr. Turchyn, Mr. Enderly,
Mr. Matthews

Custodian
Mr. George Templeton

*The teachers listed may have taught in other grades. They are put under the grades remembered by our interviewees.

WHAT WAS THE BUILDING LIKE IN THE 1960's?

During the early '60's, Wanamassa was a K-4 school and then the 5th and 6th grades came back until the new Ocean Township High School opened in 1965.

The Township continued to grow and more classrooms were needed. Basement classrooms were used in Wanamassa. A new basement floor, a basement art room, and an enclosed basement area for a library were added during the 1960's.

WHAT WAS SCHOOL LIKE IN THE 1960's?

Wanamassa students finished elementary school and graduated from the Ocean Township School. Until 1965, they went on to Asbury Park High School. After that, they went to the new Ocean Township High School.

Art, music, health, and library skills were taught by special teachers in the '60's. School lunches were made and brought over from the new kitchen at the Ocean Township School and later from the new high school. Students ate their lunches in the classrooms.

On rainy days or in very cold weather, movies were shown in the auditorium.

Women teachers were now allowed to wear slacks while teaching, but only "pant suits."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE A STUDENT IN THE 1960's?

Students came to Wanamassa School from Loch Arbour, from West Allenhurst, and from the section of the Township from Deal Rd. south to Colonial Terrace.

In the beginning of the 60's, girls wore dresses, skirts and sweaters to school. Shoes were still worn to school and sneakers were carried to school on gym day.

By the end of the 60's, girls were wearing slacks to school. Knits, polyester, and no-iron clothes were worn by boys and girls.

THE DECADE OF THE 1970's, 1970 – 1979

Superintendents

1970-1973, Mr. Charles Scott

1973-1979, Mr. Robert Mahon

Principal

Mr. Joseph Palaia

STAFF*

Kindergarten

Mrs. Ryder, Mrs. Hoehn, Mrs. Jacobsen

First Grade

Mrs. Mc Cahill, Mrs. Jelley, Miss Schedel, Mrs. Chidoni, Mrs. Pizzulli, Mrs. Butler, and Mrs. Rosenthal

Second Grade

Mrs. Breslin, Mrs. LaBove, Mrs. Beardsley, Mrs. O'Connell, Mrs. Mesnikoff, and Miss Egyud

Third Grade

Mrs. Dowell, Mrs. Pappas, Miss Soriano, Mrs. Dillon

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Eickhorn, Mrs. Kocen, Mrs. Wishart, Miss DeLieto, Mrs. Albano, and Mrs. Tighe

Fifth Grade

Mr. Deicke, Miss Urban, Mrs. West, Miss Welch, Mrs. Fucuciello

Sixth Grade

Mrs. Hempstead, Mr. Shields, Mrs. Hough

Nurse

Mrs. Wanda Young, Mrs. Joanne Ridley

Health

Mrs. Terhune, Mr. Nicarlo

Music

Dr. Doris Watson and Mr. Safron

Library

Mrs. King, Mrs. Wengler

Art

Mrs. Beebe, Mrs. Lewis

Physical Education
Miss Glass, Miss Morse, Mr. Hauselt, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Turchyn

Reading
Mr. Deicke, Mrs. West, Miss Brown, Mrs. Aridas

Special Education
Mrs. Dorothy Pare

Resource Room
Mrs. Gleason

Speech
Miss Byrd

Enrichment
Mrs. Fox

Basic Skills
Mrs. Feindt, Mrs. Gitten, Mrs. DeSarno

Custodial
Mr. Duncan, Mr. Setrin

*The teachers listed by have taught more than one grade. They were put under the grade remembered by all.

WHAT WAS THE BUILDING LIKE IN THE 1970's?

The Wanamassa School had grades K-5 in the early 70's, and some grades were on split sessions until the junior high opened in 1975. Kindergarten classes were held at St. Mary's School when the school was overcrowded.

It was a K-4 school when all fifth and sixth grades were sent to the Ocean Township School. When the Oakhurst School was closed in 1978, Wanamassa became a K-5 school for the rest of the 70's.

Basement classes were still being used.

WHAT WAS SCHOOL LIKE IN THE 1970's?

Classes had a "special" every day. Fourth and fifth grades changed classes for math.

Enrichment students went to Wayside School for classes. Basic Skills and a resource room helped students catch up in reading and math.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE A STUDENT IN THE 1970's?

In the 1970's, jeans were worn by boys and girls. Sneakers were worn instead of shoes. Female teachers were wearing slacks to school.

Dr. Watson started a bell ringing student group and at Christmas time, a group of teachers did bell ringing, too.

Instrumental music was taught in the elementary schools.

Intra-mural sports were held after school.

THE DECADE OF THE 1980's, 1980-1990

Superintendent

1980 – 1990, Mr. Robert Mahon

Principals

1980-1981, Mr. Joseph Palaia

1982-1988, Mr. Douglas Deicke

1988 – 1994 Mrs. Camille Tighe

STAFF*

Kindergarten

Mrs. Hoehn, Mrs. Jacobsen

First Grade

Mrs. Pizzulli, Mrs. Buck, Mrs. Jelley, Mrs. Butler, Ms. Mazza, and Ms. Ennis

Second Grade

Mrs. Beardsley, Mrs. O'Connell, Mrs. Sevcovic,

Mrs. (Cox) Gilmore, and Mrs. Mesnikoff

Third Grade

Mrs. Kocen, Mrs. Pappas, Mrs. Flott, Mrs. Dillon, and Mrs. Sevcovic

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Wishart, Mrs. (Rosa) Keane, Mrs. Albano, Mrs. Feindt

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Breslin, Mrs. LaBove, Mrs. West

Health

Mrs. (Ridley) Dennison, Mrs. Terhune

Mr. Nacarolo, and Mrs. Softcheck

Art

Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Mull, Mrs. Calvo

Music

Dr. Watson

Speech

Mrs. (Lagrotteria) Cieri

Enrichment

Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Edelson

Reading

Mrs. Aridas, Miss Ursino, Ms. Gleason

Learning Consultant
Miss Brown

ESL
Mrs. Uhl

Physical Education
Mr. Thompson, Miss Gamble, Mrs. Softcheck, Mr. Reilly,
Miss Prentiss, Mr. West, and Miss Morse

Computer
Mr. Thompson

Resource Room
Mrs. Gleason, Mrs. Circle

Custodial
Mr. Setrin, Mr. Hempstead, Mrs. Chidnese, Mr. Walker

Support Staff
Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Marcinkiewicz, Mrs. Fiorentino

Cafeteria
Mrs. Spiros

Librarian
Mrs. Jean Wengler

WHAT WAS THE BUILDING LIKE IN THE 1980's?

A major renovation took place in the Wanamassa School in the early 1980's. The flat roof was replaced with a pointed roof so the water would run off and not leak through into the classrooms. The basement classes were made into permanent classes with new ceilings, closets, floors, lighting, and an exit door in each class. Sidewalks were added across the front of the building for the new exits. New Thermopane windows and screens were put in all classrooms.

In the early 1980's a fitness trail was purchased by the PTA and added to the playground area. In 1987, a new blacktop playground and parking lot was put on the west side of the building. The principal's office was enlarged.

A resource room, a room for reading instruction and a room shared by speech and enrichment were in the Wanamassa School.

In September 1987, in conjunction with the annual school fair, Mr. Palaia, Mr. Garrity, and Mr. Jacobson, along with the PTA, held the dedication of the new school sign. The sign was constructed of red brick to match the school. It was used to announce all school functions. A time capsule was buried with different memorabilia and letters from the last fourth and fifth grade students that attended the school. Due to an overload of the elementary schools in the district, all 5th graders attended TOIS, and all three grammar schools became K-4.

The PTA mothers volunteered in the library and on the playground. They ran the School Fair and Book Fair to raise money for special assembly programs and equipment for the school. Besides buying games for the classrooms for indoor recess, risers were purchased to add a more professional look to Dr. Watson's musical programs. Above and beyond the audio visual equipment which is donated every year to the school, a 52 inch wide screen TV, VCR, and a collection of Disney Video cassettes were on hand. A new 25 inch laminating machine was purchased for the PTA and faculty of the school. The PTA changed over the course of the last 60 years and had many new functions. The PTA instituted many community related programs for the parents to help them cope with the growing needs of our children. The PTA also introduced new and fun programs for the children, such as an annual Lip Sync and Variety Show, and also for the moms and dads such as the school theme dance which was held every year. For the 1990's, the PTA pledged itself to restoring and refurbishing the playground area.

Two chorus programs, under the direction of Dr. Watson, were held each year. With the help of the PTA moms, backdrops and sets were made to coincide with the program's theme. A music enrichment program was also added so that musical instruments could be played at the programs. Also, an Art Show was held the night of the chorus program to display the work of the students and the art enrichment students.

A computer lab with 12 computers for classes to use was added in the early '80's. The basic skills and ESL room had computers for those students to use. In 1989, 12 new IBM computers were purchased and the lab was brought to the highest level through a PTA purchase of new software. This lab was used often by the third and fourth grade enrichment classes under the direction of Mrs. Edelson. Also, a computer club was started under the direction of Mr. Blundell, an interested parent.

In the spring of 1989, two teachers, Mrs. Cindy Buck and Mrs. Peggy Keane, were awarded a "Partners in Learning" grant. From this stemmed a new messaging system which provided a link for better communication between teachers and parents. A year later this program was updated and a "max receptionist" was purchased. This computer was a voice messaging system which functions under the concept of voice mailboxes.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE STUDENT IN THE 1980's?

Styles for students in the 1980's were designer jeans, warm-ups, sweatshirts, baggy sweaters, sneakers, fluorescent colors, tee-shirts with logo's of the times and leggings.

There was a before and after school program for the student's parents who work called Project Extend. Intramurals and chorus were extra activities. There was also enrichment, art enrichment and music enrichment for the students.

In the early 1980's there were the Wanamassa Fifth Grade OM (Olympics of the Mind) teams who won trophies for first place regional championships in the mid 1980's.

Incentive reading and math programs were run during the school year to get the students interested in recreational reading and math. There was a Science Fair for third and fourth graders which was run annually.
