



Monthly Bulletin

April 2008

Dr. Patrick Michel
Superintendent of Schools

www.monticelloschools.net

From the desk of the Superintendent: The Budget Process

Last year, we instituted the Citizens' Advisory Budget Committee (CABC) to help us create our school district budget. We had a good turnout of concerned citizens who gave us excellent advice and guidance. I am happy to report that many members of our community attended this year's CABC meetings as well, and were actively involved in helping us develop our 2008-09 budget. One main focus of our discussions was the poor state of our economy and how it is affecting people and forcing many to adjust their lifestyles to address the new economic realities.

Our school district is no different. We must also adjust our perspective so we can address the many areas that are being affected by this economic downturn. On April 3 at 7 p.m. in the Rutherford Elementary School multipurpose room, we will be presenting our proposed budget for the next school year. In the budget, there are only a few new programs that are being proposed – and those are restricted to funding under current budget levels. We are also looking at various ways to save money and lower costs. During the next school year, a comprehensive review and redesign of our food service and cafeteria systems will take place, in hopes of cutting costs.

Due to the present transitions of leadership and the instability in Albany, we have had to be very conservative with our State Aid projections (as there is still much uncertainty if there will be an on-time State budget). It is our hope that we will be able to have firm numbers for the Board of Education and the community by the April 3 meeting. It is our goal and commitment during these hard times to keep the property tax increase as low as possible.

We will keep you informed as things develop. I want to thank all the people who took the time to be part of our budget discussions and as always, please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Monticello High School presents their spring musical performance of **The Sound of Music, Friday & Saturday, April 11 & 12, 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.** Starring Dan Cunningham as Captain Von Trapp and Juliana D'Abbraccio as Maria. Tickets: \$5 adults; \$3 students; senior citizens free. For more information, call Music Director Dr. Kevin Dirth at 794-8840, ext. 10993.

REMINDER: April 8-9: New York State Science Performance Test, Grade 8;
April 14-25: Terra Nova Basic Multiple Assessment - ELA & Math, Grade 2;
April 29: New York State Science Written Test, Grade 4;
April 30: New York State Science Written Test, Grade 8, and New York State Science Performance Test, Grade 4, Chase and Duggan only;
May 1: New York State Science Performance Test, Grade 4, Rutherford only.

QuickCLIPS

FYI: Petitions are now available for persons interested in running for the Monticello Board of Education. Three of the nine seats are up for election on the May 20 ballot. Board members are elected for a three year term and serve without pay. All candidates must file a petition and meet the following criteria:

1. Must be able to read and write;
2. Must be a qualified voter of the district, that is, he/she must be a citizen of the United States;
3. At least 18 years or older;
4. Not be a convicted felon or have been adjudged incompetent;
5. Must be and have been a resident of the district for at least one year prior to the election but need not be a taxpayer;
6. May be the only member of his/her family (defined as those within the same household) on the school board;
7. May not simultaneously hold another incompatible public office;
8. Must not have been removed from a school district office within one year of the election.

More information and petitions are available from District Clerk Mary Ryan Buchholz. Please call her for an appointment at 794-7700, ext. 70501, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Monticello Administrative Offices, 237 Forestburgh Road in Monticello. Please note that completed petitions must be returned to the district clerk by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2008.

Important Dates

MONDAY, APRIL 7:

- Monticello School Community Advocates meeting, 7:30 p.m., RJK Middle School cafeteria

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9:

- MHS Musical Matinee, 8 a.m.
- Cooke Kindergarten Registration (evening)
- EPIC Open Forum, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11:

- Half Day Conference - EARLY DISMISSAL
- MHS Musical Performance, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 14 - FRIDAY, APRIL 18:

- Monticello High School Spirit Week

THURSDAY, APRIL 17:

- Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, April 21:

- Cooke Orientation/Screening
- Monticello Schools' Parent Advisory Group meeting, 7 p.m., RJK Middle School cafeteria

THURSDAY, APRIL 24:

- EPIC Workshop, 5:30 p.m.
- Cooke Spring Open House, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26:

- Monticello Games

Area youth to participate in Jr. Olympic Skills

The Village of Monticello in conjunction with Teens Making a Difference will host the **Jr. Olympic Skills Competition on Sunday, April 6, 1 p.m. at the Somerville Field in Monticello.** This grassroots program allows boys and girls ages 8-13 the opportunity to showcase their athletic abilities in basketball, soccer, tennis and track & field. Winners from the local event will advance to the regional competition. Participants may compete in multiple events.

For more information, please contact Betsy at 794-2351.

NOTE: in case of inclement weather, the event will be held at the Cooke School.

FYI: The Sullivan County School Boards Association (SCSBA) is offering a free workshop for prospective board of ed members, Wednesday, April 9, 7-9 p.m. at Sullivan County BOCES, 6 Wierk Avenue, Liberty. This class is for anyone interested in serving on a school board. The workshop will explain the responsibilities, time commitments and qualifications necessary. To register or for more info, call Monticello Schools' District Clerk at 794-7700, ext. 70501.