



Monthly Bulletin

December 2007

Dr. Patrick Michel
Superintendent of Schools

www.monticelloschools.net

From the desk of the Superintendent

On November 19, teachers from Monticello High School and professors from Sullivan County Community College met to begin the process of creating an articulation agreement between the college and our school district. The mutual goal of this agreement is to create the opportunity for Monticello High School students to graduate with either an Associates Degree or one year of college credit under their belts. This will allow students who may not be interested in attending a 4-year college to leave our high school with a professional certification.

Our plan is both simple and complex at the same time. We will be creating pathways in each Academy so that students can take course work that interests them and excites them about learning. These pathways will be intertwined with courses they are already taking such as American History and English 11. We are breaking new ground in this process and are working closely with the college to create something very special for students who are in our Academy programs.

To begin with, it is our goal that the students who are in our Accelerated, Enriched and Honors Program will have the opportunity when they are high school juniors to begin taking these courses. Our plan would be to allow students to take 30 credits of college course work in their junior year and another 30 credits in their senior year, resulting in an Associates Degree upon graduation.

In order to allow as many students as possible access to this opportunity, we have created an infrastructure at the elementary, middle school and high school levels that will support students who wish to take this course work. As students move through our system, it is our intention to nurture and challenge them to grow and succeed within this very rigorous program.

Why do this? As we have stated on many other occasions, the world has changed and academic demands have become more rigorous. When students graduate from high school in Europe, Canada, and Asia they already have the equivalent to an Associates Degree. Since our students are competing in the same global marketplace, we need to match what our competitors are doing. We need desperately to encourage our children to become scientists and engineers, and one of our goals is to strengthen our program to allow easier access for our students to enter these two fields. We will be sharing more details about those plans in the near future.

We will be using our district newsletters, superintendent bulletins, Board of Education meetings and Firehouse Chats to discuss these changes in further detail. We hope parents and community members will continue to take advantage of these opportunities and be a part of these important dialogues.

We wish you all a happy and prosperous holiday season! My door is always open.

FYI: The Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance recently awarded a \$2,500 grant to the Monticello School District. The money, which will be used for various student programs, was divvied-up between Chase, Rutherford, Duggan and Cooke Elementary Schools and the RJK Middle School, with each getting a check for \$500. Special thanks to Board of Education Vice President Alyce Van Etten and Van Etten Oil for their help in procuring the grant.

Holiday Concert Performance Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 11: **RJK Winter Concert**, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 12: **Duggan Winter Concert**, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 13: **Chase Winter Concert**, 10 a.m.

Friday & Saturday, Dec. 14 & 15: **Monticello High School Play, "You Can't Take It With You,"** 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 17: **Monticello High School Winter Concert**, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 19: **Rutherford Winter Concert**, 9:30 a.m.

Quick CLiPS

Monticello Little League 2008 Registration

FEES:

One child - \$50

Two children - \$75

Three or more children: \$95

WHO:

Open to all boys and girls ages 5-18 who live in the Monticello School District (except for the Town of Mamakating).

HOW:

Visit: www.monticellolittleleague.org

E-mail: info@monticellolittleleague.org

Call: Olga @ 583-5431 or Marta @ 796-3628

PLEASE NOTE:

Involvement in a fund-raiser is required.

Important Dates

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3:

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6:

- Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m., Monticello High School dance studio

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7:

- Half-Day Conference - EARLY DISMISSAL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17:

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20:

- Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m., RJK Middle School cafeteria

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 - TUESDAY, JANUARY 1:

- Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL

You are invited to **The Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Orange and Sullivan Counties' Annual Dinner Gala**

Thursday, Dec. 6, beginning at 6 p.m. at Kuhl's Highland House in Middletown

Tickets are \$60 each or \$110 per couple. Tables of 10 are available for \$550 and include a half-page journal advertisement. Sponsorship opportunities and journal advertisements are still available. For questions or reservations, please contact Elizabeth Rowley at 361-2222.

This year's Gala will highlight several outstanding contributors to the Boys & Girls Clubs and will also feature entertainment by several talented members of the Club, as well as featuring the first-ever 'Akidemy Awards.' Awards will be given in the following categories: Outstanding Community Partner, Selfless Leader/Volunteer, Breakthrough Talent, Best Supporting Staff Member, 'A Hand to Guide Me,' Youth Leadership, and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

This event would not be possible without support from our corporate sponsors: Orange Regional Medical Center, CAP Productions, Entergy, Frontier Communications, William A. Smith & Son Insurance, Johnston's Toyota and Walden Savings Bank.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs' after-school programs.