



Monthly Bulletin

January 2008

Dr. Patrick Michel
Superintendent of Schools

www.monticelloschools.net

From the desk of the Superintendent

Yes it is cold outside and we are very concerned about our fuel costs and the impact the higher rates are having on our budget. To that end, we have had a series of meetings to discuss what we are going to do to conserve energy and keep costs down. So far, we have directed our Buildings and Grounds Department to set the thermostats in every building at 68 degrees. We have also asked staff members who are traveling for training or conferences to carpool. Just last week several school board members and administrators carpooled to a conference in Albany. They did the same when they had to go to a New York State training seminar in Orange County.

We are also working very hard to make sure that all doors and windows are kept shut. You may remember that last May our community was kind enough to approve an Energy Performance Contract (EPC). The EPC is a way to upgrade our facilities to be much more energy efficient. Under that plan, we will be replacing the boilers in many of our school buildings. We will also be upgrading some windows, doors and lighting fixtures. One of the most exciting new projects will be the installation of a windmill that will produce electricity for our high school. Not only will our students have the opportunity to study the windmill and learn about renewable energy, we as a district will be taking our first step towards energy independence.

Another environmentally friendly change we are planning is instituting a comprehensive recycling program in all of our schools. Presently, we are recycling cardboard; beginning in September 2008 we will be enacting the new program that should reduce our waste stream considerably. We have been doing considerable research in this area and believe we can not only create a robust system of recycling, but also reduce our costs. We are all responsible for our environment and it is our belief that we must model responsible stewardship concerning the world we live in.

We invite our entire community to share with us any ideas you might have to help make us more energy efficient and environmentally friendly. It is our goal to teach our students to be good stewards and to save money.

Please e-mail me with your ideas and comments at pmichel@k12mcsd.net.

Testing Schedule for January 2008:

Monday, Jan. 7 through Friday, Jan. 11: New York State English Language Arts (ELA) Testing for Grades 3, 4, and 5

Monday, Jan. 14 through Friday, Jan. 18: New York State English Language Arts (ELA) Testing for Grades 6, 7, and 8

Tuesday, Jan. 22: NYS ELA Test make-up date for Grades 6, 7, and 8

Tuesday, Jan. 22 through Friday, Jan. 25: New York State Regents Exams

Saturday, Jan. 26: SAT's at Monticello High School

Take advantage of our snowy winter and come to the **Winter Carnival and X Games** for kids of all ages! **Saturday, January 12, noon – 6 p.m.** at Holiday Mountain Ski and Fun Park. There will be ski and snowboard obstacle courses, racing, jump and snowman making competitions, tug-o-war contests, earth ball games and much more. \$25 entry fee includes: competition, ski-lift ticket or two hours of tubing or ice skating. There will be a torch light parade at dusk, a fireworks display and a full pasta and meatball dinner. Rentals and group lessons are available for \$13. Children age 5 and younger are free. *This event is sponsored by Community Unity.*

Quick CLiPS

Monticello Little League 2008 Registration Reminder

For more information, please visit
www.monticellolittleleague.org or call
Olga @ 583-5431 or Marta @ 796-3628.

Bop for the Boys & Girls Club of Sullivan County Friday, Jan. 25, 7-11 p.m. at Monticello Raceway

This fundraising event will include a buffet with live music by the Skydyne Jazz Project. Cost is \$45 per person or \$80 per couple. For more information or tickets, call Elizabeth Rowley at 361-2222.

Important Dates

MONDAY, JANUARY 7:

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9:

- RJK EPIC Open Forum, 7 p.m.
- Chase PTO meeting, 7 p.m.
- KLR/Cooke PTA meeting, 7 p.m. at KLR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17:

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 21:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25:

- End of Second Marking Period

MONDAY, JANUARY 28:

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

Update & reminder about school closings & delays

Inclement weather and dangerous roads can affect the school day. The decision to delay the opening of school, dismiss early or close school for the day due to weather conditions is never an easy one. Our priority is always the safety of the children. Any decisions must begin early. Our transportation supervisors arrive at the bus garage by 3:30 a.m. After consulting weather reports and checking road conditions, the transportation director consults with the highway departments for additional road information. The Superintendent is consulted and any decision to delay or close must be made no later than 5:45 a.m. If there is a delayed opening but weather conditions continue to be a problem, the district must determine whether to close by 7:45 a.m. Decisions to delay opening by one or two hours, dismiss early or close are not taken lightly. We want the children of the district to have uninterrupted and continuous instruction.

We are sensitive to the inconvenience to parents who must make arrangements for their children if school is delayed, dismissed early or closed but safety must take precedence over all other considerations. Parents can get information by listening to the radio and television stations which broadcast delayed openings, early dismissals, and closing announcements (*the following radio and TV stations carry our announcements: WALL, WVOS, WJFF, WRRN-TV, WSUL, WELV, WDNH, WNNY, WGYN, WPDH, WHUD, and FOX 5*). Parents can also access school closing information on the homepage of the district website at www.monticelloschools.net, or by calling the **New School Closing Hotline** at **796-5006** for a current recorded message. Parents who have signed-up for the School News Notifier service, will get closing and delay information e-mailed to them directly (*to register, just click on the SNN link on the district homepage and follow the instructions*).

Delayed openings mean all schedules will be delayed either one or two hours. Bus pickups will be approximately one or two hours later than the scheduled time. If parents are concerned with the conditions of the roads in their neighborhood, they are advised to use their own judgment in making the decision about sending their children to school on that day.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the school closing procedures outlined above, please call Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patrick Michel at 794-7700.

Please know that we sincerely appreciate your cooperation and support in our efforts to guard the safety of all our students.