



Monthly Bulletin

October 2008

Dr. Patrick Michel
Superintendent of Schools

www.monticelloschools.net

From the desk of the Superintendent

I would like to wish all our families a hearty welcome back for the 2008-09 school year. We are off to a great start. Our academic programs are challenging our students and we are pleased with the professionalism and dedication of our staff. Our schools are safe and our bond with the community has never been stronger.

The new football program is succeeding beyond our expectations with more than 60 players and 40 cheerleaders. We are also very happy to report that the number of students participating in our soccer program has not diminished. I mention this because there was a concern by some community members that football would distract from other sports. Instead, the new program has encouraged at least 100 more students to participate in after-school athletics. It has been documented that students who participate in positive after-school programs tend to do better in their school studies.

Once again, we will be hosting our Firehouse Chat series in an on-going effort to keep the lines of communication open between the district and the community. The first two Chats have been scheduled as follows: Monticello Fire Department, Tuesday, October 28, at 7 p.m. and Chase Elementary School Library, Thursday, February 12, at 7 p.m. (due to the lack of meeting space at the Wurtsboro Firehouse). We are planning three more Chats in other parts of the school district as well. As soon as we confirm the details, we will share them with you.

During these Chats, we try to keep our topics open. This allows people to express their own concerns and leaves time to discuss a variety of issues. This year, we will discuss some of the fiscal problems facing New York State and how they may impact our district and our budget. We will also talk about the financial and energy saving programs we have started in the district. I encourage you to attend and participate in these discussions.

I look forward to speaking with you. Please call and keep in touch.

My door is always open.

Monticello YMCA gearing up for busy year

Students at Monticello High School are eligible to receive a free membership to the YMCA Wellness Center. The YMCA also offers many other programs as well. These fee-based programs include mat pilates, teen/adult yoga, teen/adult basketball, teen volleyball and soccer, family yoga, strength and stretch, line dancing, ballroom dance and more. For younger children, the YMCA offers preschool/youth dance, Pee Wee sports, youth basketball, floor hockey, volleyball, soccer, children's yoga and karate.

If payment is a hardship, families can apply for financial assistance through the YMCA ACCESS Program. For information or registration, call Ross Miceli at 794-7700, ext. 10975 or 344-9622, ext. 241.

QuickCLIPS

Register for the Dream Tank and change your life

The Dream tank is a free program designed to help youths ages 13-24 direct their creative energies onto a positive life path. Organized by Monticello Judge Josephine Finn, the Dream Tank utilizes various artistic approaches to teaching important life lessons and skills. **Registration for the fall 2008 session will be held on Saturdays, Oct. 4 and 11, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** The program runs for 10 weeks and is located at the Monticello Center, 396 Broadway. For more info, call Monticello High School Principal Arlene Siegel at 794-8840, ext. 10915.

Monticello Parks & Rec Fall 2008 Classes & Programs

Teen Link Community After-school Program - call Jasmin at 791-7429

Weight Lifting, Kick-boxing, Baseball, Self-defense Awareness, Folk Guitar Lessons, Tennis, Basketball, Boxing and Senior Exercise - call 794-2351

Gymnastics - call 794-2835

Sullivan County Boys & Girls Club's Open Gym at the St. John Street Center in Monticello will run from 7-9 p.m. beginning Wednesday, Oct. 8. For more info, call 794-3080.

Important Dates

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8:
• RJK Middle School Health Screenings

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7:
• Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m., Chase Elementary School (*Please note this is a date change*)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9:
• Yom Kippur - NO SCHOOL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10:
• Evacuation Drill - 15 MINUTE EARLY DISMISSAL

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13:
• Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17:
• Monticello High School Health Screenings

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21 - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23:
• Rutherford Elementary School Health Screenings

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23:
• Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m., RJK Middle School Library (*Please note this is a date change*)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28 - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30:
• Cooke Elementary School Health Screenings

Brother 2 Brother is a new program aimed at supplying boys ages 14-19 with the skills they need to be successful, productive citizens. Through a variety of workshops and field trips, mentors empower participants to foster healthy relationships, build leadership qualities, nurture their talents and pursue academic achievement. The program is aimed at "high-risk" youths of all races who may lack a positive male role model in their personal lives, may be thinking about dropping out of school and/or are involved with gangs or drug use. It is also for boys who feel they have been left out or are misunderstood. The group meets weekly and is free. For more information or to register, contact Mitchell Williams at 845-283-4417 or via e-mail at: lynnr718@yahoo.com.