



Monthly Bulletin

December 2009

Dr. Patrick Michel
Superintendent of Schools

www.monticelloschools.net

From the desk of the Superintendent: Getting through the tough times

December is a time when many religions reflect on the blessings of family, community, state and country. It is hard to think of our accomplishments and the great strides we have made during the past four years when on a daily basis we are surrounded by bad economic news. We should be proud of what we have achieved so far and we need to look to the future with hope.

We have been hearing some dire news from the state concerning our fiscal situation. Just like so many other government agencies, we will have to make significant changes to deal with the challenges ahead. It is important that we begin to think about how we can do things differently and yet still create a school system that prepares our children for the world outside of our community. The world our children will enter after graduation is very different from the world our schools prepared us for.

According to the federal labor department, children will change careers at least four to six times during their lifetime. To achieve success, they need to be comfortable with change and know how to quickly adapt to the hyper innovative environment of the modern workplace. Assembly lines are obsolete. The norm in the private sector has changed. No longer is one individual in charge of a project - now teams create new products and collaborate to perfect the outcome. These teams can even consist of individuals from several countries working on the same project. Understanding cultural differences and working within the value system of a completely different culture is a required skill that our children must have to be successful in the global economy.

Communication and the tools we use to communicate are changing and innovating at an astounding pace. Who would have thought that one day the power of a mainframe computer could fit in the palm of your hand? We have no choice but to restructure our schools for this new world. To help prepare our students, we have introduced the International Baccalaureate in our elementary schools. Teachers are working in teams and collaboration is our expectation. The most challenging course work is now accessible to many more students. With the level of competition and the skills needed to succeed in the global economy, this new standard dictates that all students be taught in the same manner in which we traditionally teach only our honors students. These changes are necessary if we are to prepare our children for the world they will enter - not the world we remember.

The fiscal crisis we are facing can be looked upon in two ways - as a threat or as an opportunity. To emerge triumphant, we must use this situation as an opportunity to evaluate our methods and reaffirm our core mission - the academic success of all our students. Having worked with our outstanding administrative team, faculty, support staff and Board of Education, it is unquestionable that there is hope for a bright future of the Monticello Central School District. Although there is still much work to be done, together we can attain the greatness we desire, overcome this crisis and be better for it.

As always, my door is open. Have a happy and healthy holiday season.

The Chase Elementary School PTO has opened its "New To You" Bookstore located in the school's cafeteria. The store is open on Wednesday and Friday mornings 8:15-9:15 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 888-2471.

Historic photos sought by historian Tom Rue for a book about Sullivan County, call 791-1432.

School News Notifier (SNN)

Monticello Central School District uses the School News Notifier (SNN) electronic messaging system to help keep parents, staff members and the community more in touch with district news, closings & delays and school happenings. By signing up for this opt-in service, you will receive the latest updates via e-mail and, if you choose, emergency alerts via text message.

Users can choose to receive any or all of the alerts available and can change their choices or unsubscribe at any time. Your e-mail address and cell phone number will be kept confidential.

To sign up for SNN, go to the SNN homepage linked from Monticello's web site at www.monticelloschools.net and create a profile. You will need to fill in your name, e-mail address, cell phone number, cell service carrier and select a password. Once you create your profile, you will be able to select which alerts you would like to receive. Please note, text messages are sent for emergencies only, all other correspondence is sent via e-mail.

Quiet, PLEASE

Thank you!

There are a variety of programs presented by the Monticello Music Department throughout the year. Both performers and listeners benefit from a quiet atmosphere during a concert or theatrical performance. Any conversation or movement can distract the performers and diminish the overall experience for all involved.

Hints for being a respectful audience member:

- Refrain from talking.
- Refrain from unwrapping noisy candy wrappers during the performance.
- Turn off pagers, cell phones and watch alarms.
- Do not wave to your child during the performance.
- Do not take flash photography.
- Please do not walk down the center aisle to take videos.
- Applaud only at appropriate times.
- Do not leave the auditorium during the music.
- Do not leave as soon as your child's portion of the concert is over.
- Attend the performance expecting the best - you just might be surprised!

Important Dates

DECEMBER 1-18: Red Cross Club Coat Drive

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1:

- Rock Hill Firehouse Chat, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2:

- KLR/Cooke PTA meeting, 7 p.m. at Cooke

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3:

- Board of Education meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11:

- Half-Day Conference - EARLY DISMISSAL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16:

- Duggan PTO meeting
- Chase PTO meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17:

- Board of Education meeting

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 - FRIDAY, JANUARY 1:

- Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

CLASSES RESUME MONDAY, JANUARY 4

Quick CLIPS

Music & Performance Schedule for December

- Thurs.-Sun. 12/3-6: All-State Music Festival, Rochester
- Fri.-Sat. 12/4 & 5: MHS Drama, "Dracula," 7:30 p.m.
- Tues. 12/8: MHS/RJK Winter Vocal Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 12/9: RJK Winter Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- Thurs. 12/10: Chase Winter Concert, 10 a.m.
- Thurs. 12/10: RJK Winter Concert, 7:30 p.m. (snow date)
- Tues. 12/15: Duggan Winter Concert, 1:30 p.m.
- Wed. 12/16: Cooke Winter Celebration, 9:30 a.m. & 2 p.m.
- Wed. 12/16: Songs for our Troops Concert, MHS, 11 a.m.
- Wed. 12/16: MHS Winter Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- Thurs. 12/17: Cooke Winter Celebration, 9:30 a.m. & 2 p.m.
- Thurs. 12/17: MHS Winter Concert, 7:30 p.m. (snow date)
- Fri. 12/18: Cooke Winter Celebration, 9:30 a.m. & 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, 12/22: KLR Winter Concert, 9:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Monticello's Director of Music, Dr. Kevin Dirth, at 794-8840, ext. 10993.