



Monthly Bulletin

October 2009

Dr. Patrick Michel
Superintendent of Schools

www.monticelloschools.net

From the desk of the Superintendent: Important H1N1 Flu Information

A partnership of school and home is essential for our children's well-being. This is especially true as we face the possibility that H1N1/Swine Flu may make our regular flu season more difficult than usual.

At this time, state and local health officials tell us that H1N1 is no more dangerous than most other strains of flu. Nevertheless, we need to do all we can – at school and at home – to decrease the chances of our children contracting it. Throughout the district, we are implementing a new, more rigorous daily cleaning regimen. Staff, faculty and students are being reminded of personal hygiene practices and trained in new sanitation procedures. School nurses are preparing for the possibility of a rough flu season.

These and other school-based defenses will not be effective without your help at home. H1N1 spreads easily. If your child shows any of the H1N1 symptoms, it is important that he/she **not** attend school or go anywhere else where others can be exposed to germs.

The key H1N1 Flu symptoms to watch for are as follows:

- Fever: 100 degrees F. or higher
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Muscle pain, fatigue, vomiting or diarrhea may also accompany H1N1.

If your child has these symptoms, please keep him or her at home until the fever has dropped to normal (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours. As much as possible, keep sick children away from healthy family members.

In preparing for the onset of flu season, we recommend the following practices:

- Be sure to have alternate plans for child care in the event that your child is sent home sick from school.
- Be alert to H1N1 symptoms and closely monitor your child's health.
- Be sure that all emergency health information is up-to-date in the school nurse's office. The nurse must be able to contact you quickly during the school day.
- Follow rigorous sanitation and hygiene practices. Be sure that all family members wash their hands with soap and water often. Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues if possible, or cough into your elbow or shoulder – not into your hands.

It is vitally important that you call your child's school and report that you are keeping your child home because he or she is exhibiting H1N1 symptoms. This will help us greatly as we assess the spread of the flu and severity of the situation.

In my 23 years working in public schools, I cannot remember a single time when schools closed because of flu season. At this time, I do not foresee having to close our schools due to H1N1, but if things change, I will let you know. Nothing is more important to us than the safety and health of your children.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at 794-7700, ext. 70910.

5K Run/Walk to benefit Breast Cancer: Monticello High School's Class of 2011 is hosting a 5K walk/run to benefit the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, Saturday, Oct. 3, noon-5 p.m. at Monticello High School. To register or get more info, please contact Dennis Browne at 774-9436 or Bill Zwart at wzwart@k12mcsd.net.

Important Dates

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8:

- Board of Education meeting

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9:

- Half-Day Conference - EARLY DISMISSAL

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12:

- Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13:

- Chase Picture Day (*this is changed from the date that was listed on the printed calendar*)

MONDAY-FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19-23:

- KLR Health Screenings
- RJK PTA Scholastic Book Fair
- Duggan Fall Book Fair

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22:

- Board of Education meeting

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23:

- RJK Dance, Grade 6, 7-8:30 p.m.
- RJK PTA Shopping Night, 7 p.m., gym

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27:

- Cooke Health Screening (*also on Oct. 28 & 29*)
- MHS National Honor Society Fall Induction Ceremony

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30:

- Half-Day Conference - EARLY DISMISSAL
- Cooke Fall Festival, 9:30 a.m.
- KLR Fun Friday

Support sought for a worthy cause

Gift basket raffle tickets to benefit the American Cancer Society's Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk are available for \$1. The *Basket of Hope* includes a water bottle, travel mug, socks and a variety of gift certificates donated by area businesses. The raffle will be drawn on Friday, October 2. For more information, to buy a ticket or to make a donation, please call Kim Rock at the RJK Middle School at 796-3058, ext. 20966.

New Parent Portal Online

The new Parent Portal gives parents of middle school and high school students access to certain information in the SchoolTool student management system. Parents/guardians can access information about their children's grades and attendance. Parents may request to register for this service via e-mail as follows:

Middle School: msparentportal@k12mcsd.net

High School: hsparentportal@K12mcsd.net

NOTE: If you have a child in both schools, you will need to register with both schools.

Please follow these instructions to ensure a smooth registration:

- Send an e-mail from the e-mail address you want to use for registration (*this must be the e-mail address of the primary contact listed in the student's record*).
- In the e-mail you send, put "Parent Portal Access" in the subject line.
- In the body of the e-mail, include your name, your child's name as indicated on his/her student record and the school he/she attends.
- The information you send will be checked by the school and a confirmation e-mail will be sent to the registration address.
- Once you have received a confirmation e-mail, go to the Parent Corner section of the district web site for the rest of the login instructions.

If you have questions, please contact the Parent Portal Help Desk at 845-796-5033 or via e-mail at pantherparent@k12mcsd.net.

FYI: H1N1 Flu information on the web

With the continued attention in the news of escalating cases of the H1N1/Swine Flu pandemic, the Monticello School District has dedicated a section of its web site at www.monticelloschools.net to provide up-to-date information and resources for parents, staff and community members seeking facts and information about this strain of the flu virus.

District officials continue to work with local and state health agencies, as well as monitor information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the state and federal governments to ensure the well-being of our school community.

Please understand that this is an evolving situation and the district will provide updated information as it becomes available.