

SLC Newsletter

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"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm"

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Don't Be Greedy - Feed The Needy

The Liberal Arts and Science Academy is participating in a service learning project to support the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless. Due to increasing demands and the number of clients who need support, the Federation must rely on private donations. A campaign has begun to raise awareness in our community as well as collect food and donations to support the Federation.

Esther Tyler, Federation Program Coordinator, visited the school and made a brief presentation to our students. This presentation was combined with a slide show and music,

which made our students aware of the problem. Esther told the students, "Most of our clients are people who have jobs, but don't earn enough money to provide for all their needs. That is where we come in."

The "Don't Be Greedy; Feed the Needy" campaign has already donated \$104.60 to the Federation and isn't stopping there. Plans are being made for a district-wide awareness campaign, food drive, and a wristband sale. "The goal is not only to support the Federation, but to teach our students that they can make a difference in

their community and to break the stereotype that is associated with persons living in poverty," commented Sabrina Graham, LASA team leader.

Important Dates

April 21 - 25:
Awareness Week

April 28 - May 2:
Food Drive

May 12 - May 15:
Wristband Sale

May 27 - May 30
Food Drive

Freshman Give More Than a Pint of Blood

Three Monticello High School freshmen deserve special recognition for their time, effort, and assistance to the American Red Cross with their recent blood drive.

Briana Reese, Doviana Sabatino and Meghan Yearwood worked with their guidance counselor, Scott Edwards, and met with local Red Cross representatives to set up a blood drive at the school. Though the girls are too young to donate blood

themselves, they helped out by signing people in and escorting them to the bus.

The goal of the drive was 30 donations. In all, 35 people

attempted to give blood, 26 pints were collected and 78 people benefitted from the donations.



Pictured in the photo are: Monticello High School students Meghan Yearwood, Briana Reese, Doviana Sabatino and American Red Cross Volunteer Helen Babicz.

Monticello SLC Presenting at National Conference

The Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL) is sponsoring a national conference for teachers, administrators and district staff to provide them with tools and strategies to strengthen their SLC practice. For over 40 years, NWREL has worked to improve educational results. They provide research-based products, technical assistance, and training to improve educational systems and learning. They work directly with educators in the field to develop and test research-based publications and strategies that improve learners' results. The

conference is being held at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on June 23-25.

MHS has been recognized for not only creating and sustaining our Freshman Academy, but also building capacity to support the growth of SLCs, as well as building relationships between teachers and students in the high school. "It is an opportunity for us to see other schools from around the country, who are going through the same things we are, as well as share our success and what we have learned from our struggles," commented Arlene Siegel.

Monticello HS has been invited to attend this conference and share our experience as it relates to building SLCs. High School Principal Arlene Siegel, SLC Project Director Chris Russo, Freshman Academy Coordinator Ann Hazelnis, and Head Guidance Counselor Mary Truesdell, will be attending and presenting at one of the small group sessions during the conference.

Robin Shrode, founding partner of The American Alliance of Innovative Schools (AAIS), and her partners, have been working with

Monticello for several professional development sessions. AAIS is working with NWREL to develop the small group sessions for the national conference. Robin commented, "As a member of the Presenting Sessions Committee, I was anxious to extend an invitation to those schools we have been working with around the country. We chose schools who are doing really good things in working collaboratively to attend to students' needs... High School re-design is challenging, and Monticello has done a really good job in their initial stages of redesign."

Freshman Academy Portfolios

Does this conversation sound sound familiar?

You ask, "What did you do in school today?"

Your child responds, "Nothin' much. Went to class; ate lunch; came home. Nothin' special"

"Did you learn anything new or interesting?" you ask again.

"Nope," replies your child.

One of our Freshman Academy initiatives will help you find the answers you seek. On May 15 and 16, you will have the opportunity to hear your child talk

about the work they have completed this year.

Throughout the year, our Freshmen have been working on skill portfolios, which will demonstrate their growth in various skills across the curriculum.

Each of the common academic areas in the Freshman Academy decided on skills, which are essential to success in that subject. These skills are developed over time by students as they participate in a variety of activities designed by their teachers. "We chose skills or concepts that will

help our students this year and serve as a foundation to build other skills in years to come" added Nicole Myron, Math teacher and team leader. Samples of student work, as well as the student's reflection on that work, will be placed in the portfolio and shared with their parents on the presentation days.

Please reserve the dates (May 15 & 16) and join us for these meaningful presentations. More information is on its way.

Portfolio Presentations

**May 15
6:00-8:00pm**

**May 16
12:00-2:30pm**

The Living Timeline

The Monticello CSD Chamber Music Program has teamed-up with the Fine Arts Academy to create an exciting cross-curricular project titled "Between the Wars: A Living Timeline."

This "Prism" performance features music, dance, and dramatic pieces from the period 1919-

1946. Original student works of art and written composition will be presented as well. The entire performance is presented chronologically and divided into countries whose cultures will be represented.

Several groups have worked together to create this living timeline. The MCSD Chamber

Program, The Weekend Chamber Music, and the Fine Arts Academy have all done their part to support our students. The performance is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Westchester Arts Council through the Arts Partners Challenge Grant.

