

SLC Newsletter

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"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm"

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

MHS Hosts 'Education Week'

During the week of Oct. 22-26, several events took place to mark the high school's first annual "Education Week."

The week started off with a breakfast to thank our faculty and staff for their efforts in and out of the classroom.

The breakfast was followed up by two days of Panther Tours, and we rounded out the week with several parent meetings.

Throughout the school day on Tuesday and Wednesday, small groups of parents were taken on a tour of the high school. The tours were led by a faculty member as well as one or two students from

the National Honor Society. "Parents were able to see our building in action," commented Arleene Siegel, MHS Principal. "We wanted to give community members a chance to see for themselves the everyday teaching and learning that goes on in our school."

The tour groups made several stops throughout their tours to see students and teachers in action. School Board member Liza Glick added, "It was great to see how the school works from the inside. To see it, instead of just hearing about it."

MHS concluded the week with conferences between parents and teachers. These meetings were designed to reach the parents of students who are currently struggling in the high school. We were able to show parents that there are groups of teachers concerned about the progress of our students. There will be another opportunity for parents to meet with teachers near the end of November. One evening and a full school day have been dedicated for these meetings and for parents to pick up report cards. More information will be forwarded to you soon.

Ancient History - Not Just in Textbooks

Mayan temples, the Great Pyramids, Summerian ziggurats, hieroglyphics and so much more! This could be a sales pitch for a history museum, or an invitation to Mrs. Catherine Madnick's Global Studies class.

Students were given a research assignment, which allowed them to choose between six different projects. The projects focused on ancient civilizations and cultures. Mrs. Mary Scott,

who co-teaches with Mrs. Madnick, commented on how great it was to see the finished projects, "The creativity shown in these projects was amazing. The kids did a great job."

Many students created culture posters, comparing and contrasting an ancient cultures with their own culture. Some students designed and built models of pyramids, temples, and ziggurats, while others created PowerPoint presenta-

tions. Each project has a written component and projects could be submitted in class or by e-mail. "I wanted the students to use the available technology for educational purposes. Some students did e-mail their written assignments" added Mrs. Madnick.

The projects are being showcased in room 227.



Classroom Projects Unite Students & Administrators

Members of the Humanities strand in the Liberal Arts & Sciences Academy were asked to design their own school. Working in small groups, students developed a plan for a new school — everything from its layout and structure to its curricular programs and extra-curricular activities.

On October 31, several MSCD administrators came into the classroom to help the student groups develop and fine tune their schools. MHS Principal Arlene Siegel, along with Superintendent of Schools,

Dr. Pat Michel, joined Ted Kusulas, Gary Furman, Shelly Rossito, Kathleen Pagano-Fuller, and Gladys Baxter to work with students. Jason Rossito, architect and son of Shelly Rossito, offered a unique perspective since he has worked on school design and redesign projects. “It was great to have a chance to get out of the office and work with some of our students,” said Shelley Rossito.

The student groups talked to our guests and listened to their feedback. Open to those suggestions, many groups began

dramatic changes to the design and plan for their school. The final pieces of the project include a group presentation, and a written summary. The summary required each student to write a School Report, Personal Accountability, and decide which school they would attend. The summary gives students the opportunity to reflect on the design process and his or her role within the group. It also allows them to analyze what they have created and compare it to their own high school experience.



Humanities Students designing their own school.



The Nutcracker Returns to Sullivan County



Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker has been revamped by students from Tri-Valley, Liberty, Livingston Manor, Monticello schools, as well as The Trombly Music Studio to bring life to an old favorite. The Nutcracker combines dance, chamber music, drama, costumes, lighting and staging, which have all been designed by the devoted students. Nancy Wegrzyn, Monticello’s Orchestra Director, has rewritten the music for chamber ensembles as well as modern audiences and instruments. Wegrzyn said, “Tchaikovsky’s timeless mas-

terpiece is the perfect conveyance to deliver an illuminating and unforgettable experience.”

The dual purpose of the event will be to entertain an audience and educate the music students (who are creating the show) about the magic of theatre. In addition to the artistic aspects of the production, students will learn about marketing, advertising and producing, some of the cornerstones of a production. There will be a special free performance for all 3rd graders in Sullivan County.

Professionals from the community are assisting the students in

this collaborative effort, including: Norman Duttweiler and Ron Nash from the Forestburgh Playhouse; Judith Pearce from the Weekend of Chamber Music; Seth Sternberg, retired from the Metropolitan Opera House; Bill James from WSUL; Megan Arnott from Bethel Woods Performing Arts Center; as well as Kennet’s Dance Studio.

The Monticello faculty members involved in this program are Ann Trombly, Nancy Wegrzyn, and Linda VanNorman. The Monticello students creating this production are from the Performing Arts Academy and the Chamber Music Program.

3rd Annual Nutcracker Festival

Dec. 7, 2007

Tri-Valley HS

7:00pm

Cost:

Adults—\$5.00

Students—\$3.00

Senior Citizens—

Free

Moving SLCs Wall-to-Wall in the High School

As work continues to improve our Freshman Academy; our upper school academies are looking to the future. Each of our three academies are preparing pathways for their students to follow as they enter the 11th grade and continue on into their senior year. Exciting things are happening!

Last week, head teachers from each department, as well as our district directors and principal met with Mr. Mike Neubig from AAIS. Mike worked with us on our schedule and helped us develop templates to design pathways for our students. “I love coming back to Monticello. There are some really

great things going on here with your SLC development,” commented Mr. Neubig.

Teams of teachers will be meeting with faculty members from Sullivan County Community College to look at ways to bring more college courses to our high school.

