



Montville Township  
Public Schools  
Newsletter  
December 2015

**Montville Township High School's**  
*Newly Renovated*  
**Media Center**

*Experience the new MTHS Media Center*

*Ribbon Cutting and tours to be held*

*January 19, 2016*

Come celebrate the renovated MTHS Media Center which will be dedicated Tuesday, January 19, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

This invitation is extended to all Montville Township residents, as well as local, county, and state legislative representatives. Please attend the reception to celebrate the dedication of the newly renovated Montville Township High School Media Center. This event will take place on Tuesday, January 19, 2016. Ribbon cutting will be held at 5:00 p.m. and tours and entertainment will run from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Light fare will be provided by area eateries.

This is the first significant upgrade to the library facility since the MTHS building was originally

constructed in 1972. The MTHS Media Center Action Committee began work on the renovation project more than two years ago. The structural and interior designs were implemented by SSP Architectural Firm, located in Somerville, NJ, and SSDS Soyka Smith Design Studios of Upper Montclair, NJ.

In keeping with 21st Century library science standards, the MTHS Media Center is equipped with a variety of opportunities for students to access information and resource material using digital devices. In addition, a comfortable seating area, as well as an inspirational outdoor space, provide opportunities for students to work both individually as well as cooperatively. Flexible glass classrooms can be incorporated or separated from the main library area to provide small group study areas as well as traditional classroom experiences. There is also an art gallery and performance area.

Work on the new media center was started during the summer of 2015. Bids were awarded and construction began in July.

The Board of Education and the District Administrative Team are looking forward to having all members of the public, both young and old, visit this exciting new instruction space.

The official MTHS Media Center Ribbon Cutting will take place at 5:00 p.m., with tours and entertainment continuing until 7:00 p.m. on January 19. Refreshments will be provided by local restaurants. Donors include: Twisted Sisters S'mores, Red Barn, and Baked Squares. Anyone interesting in donating food for this exciting event should contact [Andrea Orris@optonline.net](mailto:Andrea.Orris@optonline.net).

An RSVP to the January 19 MTHS Media Center event is not required, but knowing that you intend to join us will help us to let our donors know how much food to provide. For more Media Center info please [click here](#).

## *#OneMontville Monte*

### The bear looking to learn about acceptance and respect



This month, several #OneMontville Montes, bears that will travel through the district from Pre-K to grade eight, began their journeys through the classrooms of Montville Township Public Schools. Their goal is to help students share thoughts on kindness and respect.

The #OneMontville initiative was developed this year to identify activities, programs, campaigns, and opportunities for the Montville Community to come together in support of kindness and respect for all individuals. The committee is made up of educators, administrators, parents clergy, politicians and others.

The hashtag #OneMontville is incorporated in the movement's name to encourage students and adults to post photos of kindness in action to the movement's [Facebook page](#). Businesses, students, families and organizations are asked to share messages of #OneMontville respect and kindness. #OneMontville Monte is one of many activities being planned.

Monte will provide students with an opportunity to discuss the climate and culture of the entire Montville Township community; both in and out of school. Students and teachers can write, share pictures, and communicate through Monte in terms of respect. Over the next seven months, students will have an opportunity to contribute to the collection of thoughts of respect and acceptance throughout the township.

This fall the Montville Township Public Schools also launched the United Way's Youth Empowerment Alliance (YEA) School Culture and Climate Initiative. Over the past several weeks, all students and staff took school specific surveys to assess the climate and culture within their buildings. Parents also had an opportunity to participate in surveys about the climate and culture.

The #OneMontville action team has met twice since the start of the academic year. At the December meeting, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Andrea Woodring, and Leslee Scheckman, the district's Director of School Counseling, also provided an overview of the instruction and activities within Montville Township Public Schools which address character education and cultural awareness.

Currently Montville Township Public Schools teach over fifty curriculum units regarding acceptance and the celebration of all individuals regardless of religion, race, sex, culture, heritage, socio-economic or academic standing, sexual orientation, special needs, or any characteristic that could be perceived as different by anyone. These topics are explored through the lens of history, literature, world languages, physical education, and other subject areas.

Another eighty-five extracurricular activities focus students, and often the extended community, on acceptance, kindness and respect. A few of the activities include: Veteran's Day and other remembrance events, friendship chains, a senior citizen prom, Buddy Benches, food and clothing drives, Earth Day initiatives, educational support for students and others in need, girl empowerment clubs, health care assemblies, R.E.A.C.H. and peer mediation programs, Drug Awareness activities, anti-violence assemblies and workshops, and Red Ribbon Week observances.

All seven district schools highlight the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Throughout Montville Township Public Schools, each of the district's 4,000 Pre-K to twelfth grade students participate in extensive and award-winning character education programs.

Of note, however, is that during an October meeting with a group of MTHS students, Superintendent Dr. Rene' Rovtar learned that many students feel they have witnessed prejudice in adults. Most of the students she met with shared concerns that parents often have attitudes that reflect prejudice or discrimination.

"The students indicated that they feel absolutely powerless to challenge these thoughts that adults have," Rovtar told the #OneMontville Committee.

She said the students also indicated that they feel that observing these attitudes does have an impact on the attitudes that students develop and exhibit.

The goal of #OneMontville Committee and #OneMontville Monte is to help enhance the culture of respect and acceptance within the Montville Township Community.

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## Bits and Pieces.....

In Jason Jones's media classes at Hilldale Elementary School, students created decorations for a literacy tree that will be on display in the Morris Museum's Literacy Storybook Forest from December 12th through January 12th.



The Wellness Committee at Robert R. Lazar Middle School recently received a \$300 grant from the Atlantic Health System. The funds will be used to purchase various teaching materials that will encourage students, staff, and families to adopt a healthy lifestyle as part of Lazar's "Wellness Wednesdays" Program.

A Cablevision film crew from visited Robert R. Lazar Middle School on December 22nd to present Christine Sun, an eighth grade student, her prize for taking second place honors in the Optimum Community Annual Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest. The contest asked students to write an essay about a Latino with whom they would like to spend a day. Christine selected Ellen Ochoa, the first female Latina astronaut, as the subject of her essay.

On December 10th, the Woodmont Elementary School students celebrated "Giving Day." This program offered students the opportunity to share their cultures and beliefs with their classmates. The students performed a variety of musical selections, both vocal and instrumental. They also learned about charity by collecting donations to assist needy families within the community.

The 5th grade team at Cedar Hill Elementary School collected a whopping 190 pounds of Halloween candy which was then donated to an area Girl Scout troop to support the Operation Gratitude initiative which sends candy to U.S. troops stationed abroad.

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## Contact

Dr. René Rovtar  
Superintendent  
Montville Township Public Schools  
86 River Road  
Montville, NJ 07045

*"The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives."  
~Robert Maynard Hutchins*

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## Stay Connected



