

Happy Valentine's Day!
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**Montville Township
Public Schools™**
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News & Updates - February 2019

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District to Feature Angst Movie for Middle and High School Students as Part of Stigma Free Initiative



During the week of March 11th, the Montville Township Public Schools will focus on the movie "Angst." The film is a 55-minute documentary that explores anxiety, its causes, effects and what people can do about it. The goal of the film is to generate conversation and to raise awareness about anxiety and encourage students to reach out for help. The film features candid interviews with children and young adults (including Olympic Champion Michael Phelps) who suffer or have suffered from anxiety and what they've learned about it. It includes discussions with mental health experts about the causes of anxiety and its sociological effects as well as help, resources and tools.

The district will have an early dismissal on March 12

to enable all of our staff to view the film and receive professional development on this topic. The movie Angst will be shown to all of our middle and high school students. We have entered into an agreement with the Minding Your Mind Group to assist with the professional development and in facilitating student discussion after viewing the movie. **We will also have a screening of the movie and a parent training on the evening of March 12th.** This movie was recommended to us through the Montville DAC (Drug Awareness Council). DAC is also providing some financial support for this initiative.

Over the past 18 months, the district has seen a marked increase in the number of students expressing anxiety, depression, and indicating their intent to harm themselves. We want to do everything we can to make students feel comfortable in seeking help when they find themselves in this situation.

William Mason School Named 2019 New Jersey State School of Character

Character.org, a national advocate and leader

for character in communities including schools, districts, families, workplaces and sports, has designated 87 schools and 3 districts in 18 states as State Schools of Character for 2019.

Each year, Character.org certifies schools and districts at the state level that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development, which has a positive effect on academic achievement, student behavior and school climate. **William Mason Elementary School has received the honor of being named a 2019 New Jersey School of Character.**



"We are pleased to announce the 2019 State Schools and Districts of Character," said Doug Karr, Character.org's President & CEO. "These schools' representatives, including educators, parents and students, are working together to create stronger communities focused on character. We are honored to validate their efforts and continue coaching them along their journeys. "

Criteria for selection are based on Character.org's 11 Principles of Character, which include providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership and engaging families and communities as partners in the character-building effort.

William Mason School joins Cedar Hill Elementary School, Woodmont Elementary School and Lazar Middle School in having earned the distinction as a New Jersey State School of Character. Congratulations to Mr. Melucci, the faculty, staff and students of William Mason on attaining this honor.

The 2019 National Schools of Character will be announced in May 2019. Character.org will honor these schools and districts at the 2019 National Forum to be held Oct 24-27, 2019 in Washington, DC.



MTHS Students Win Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for Northern New Jersey

Six MTHS students have been recognized by the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for Northern New Jersey

Gold Key Winners: (Students receive a certificate of recognition a "Gold Key" pin and their work on display at the Montclair Museum from February 17-March 17th. Gold Key winners will have their work judged with other Gold Key winners on the state level. At the state level, students could win scholarships of \$1,000.00. If they win on the state level, they continue on to the national level where scholarships of \$10,000.00 are possible.)

Marissa DiFulco (grade 12) - for her Photography Portfolio "Circles in Different Perspectives" (Teacher Paul Moench)

Kaleigh Culmone (grade 12)- for her Ceramics piece "Empty Cave" (Teacher Sharon Pflug-Moench)

Kaleigh Culmone - for her Ceramics piece "Unleashed" (Teacher Sharon Pflug-Moench)

Silver Key Winners: (Students receive a certificate of recognition and a "Silver Key" pin)

Max Baresich (grade 12) - for his Ceramics piece "Rough on the Outside" (Teacher Sharon Pflug-Moench)

Nick Heaney (grade 12) - for his Ceramics piece "The Reef" (Teacher Sharon Pflug-Moench)

Domenic Trifari (grade 12) - for his Ceramics piece "Crater" (Teacher Sharon Pflug-Moench)

Lexie Burns (grade 11) - for her Photograph "Handiwork" (Teacher Paul Moench)

Honorable Mention: (Students receive a certificate of recognition)

Max Baresich - for his Ceramics piece "Lizard Skin" (Teacher Sharon Pflug-Moench)

Max Baresich - for his Ceramics piece "Tropical" (Teacher Sharon Pflug-Moench)
Max Baresich - for his Ceramics piece "Albany Slip Vase" (Teacher Sharon Pflug-Moench)
Max Baresich for his Ceramics Portfolio "Wheel Throwing" (Teacher Sharon Pflug-Moench)
Kaleigh Culmone - for her Ceramics piece "Organic Vessel" (Teacher Sharon Pflug-Moench)

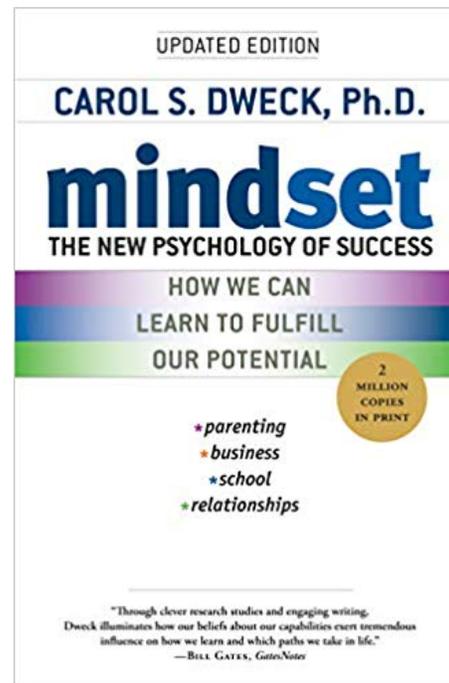
Congratulations to not only the students, but to our outstanding art faculty members Ms. Sharon Pflug-Moench and Mr. Paul Moench as well.

The Montville Township Public Schools present a Parent Book Club Discussion Mindset - The New Psychology of Success

"After decades of research, Stanford University psychologist Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D. discovered a simple but groundbreaking idea: the power of mindset. In this brilliant book she shows how success in school, work, sports, the arts, and almost every area of human endeavor can be dramatically influenced by how we think about our talents and abilities. With the right mindset, you can motivate those you lead, teach and love - to transform their lives and your own".

Join Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Rene Rovtar, for this Parent Book Club Discussion to be held on Monday, April 8, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Montville Township High School Media Center.

Contact Rene Rovtar at Rene.Rovtar@montville.net to register to participate in this Book Club discussion.



Bits and Pieces....

In January, Valley View students kicked off their annual Math-athon to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

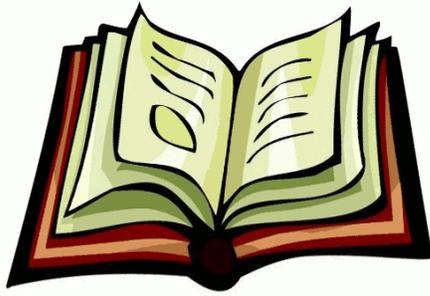
On Thursday, January 10th Cedar Hill School hosted our first T.E.A.M. Day. The acronym stands for "Tolerance, Empathy & Acceptance Matter." Our guest speaker, Scott Chesney, inspired the students and teachers. This program was brought to Cedar Hill by our School Climate Transformation Project (a partnership with Rutgers University).

During the holiday season, William Mason's Student Council teamed up with One Simple Wish to collect toys for children of all ages in the New Jersey foster care system. These gifts were given to the children at a special holiday party on December 14th. The Lazar Student Council also participated in this fund-raising event when resulted in the purchase of over 500 gifts to help their children celebrate the holidays.

Woodmont Kindergarten teacher Jennifer Kelly created a 5th Grade/Kindergarten club. Ms. Kelly matches fifth graders with a kindergarten buddy in her class and they meet twice a month during lunch. "They are exciting to watch," Ms. Kelly said. The older children help reinforce kindergarten skills with struggling students.

Congratulations to MTHS wrestler Joe Daddario for reaching the milestone of 100 wins in January!





Students Asked to Contribute Their Writing to Book

During the course of the 2018-2019 school year, Dr. Rene Rovtar, District Superintendent, is serving as the editor of a book that is being written collaboratively with district students in grades Kindergarten through twelve.

The book will contain the students' perspective and advice on a number of topics such as respect, kindness, gratitude, grit, courage and resilience. These are areas which form the

core of the district's character education program. The superintendent will gather input from students by visiting certain classes and by engaging in electronic dialogue with other students. The final work will be self-published and made available for purchase with proceeds going to the Montville Township Public Schools.

Students are asked to share their wisdom on questions such as:

Why is it important to be grateful and how can we express our gratitude? What are some things you are grateful for?

Why is it important for us to show respect to others?

When you have a bad experience or a bad day, how do you cope? How do you manage to get yourself through it? Why is a mistake not the end of the world for you?

When you are doing something really difficult, how do you convince yourself to continue when giving up would be so much easier?

Why would someone want to be kind?

What gives you courage to do something that you might be afraid to do?

Students wishing to contribute to the book should email their writing to:

Rene.Rovtar@montville.net

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MARCH 15, 2019

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