

Check out the June Newsletter for important information!
Last Day of school: Tues, June 20, 2017



News & Updates - June 2017

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www.montville.net

Board of Education Congratulates District Retirees

At their meeting on June 13, 2017, the Montville Township Board of Education will recognize those staff members retiring this year:

Montville Township High School

Anita Gerber
Fran Hersh
Connie LaMonica
Paula Musciotto
Paul Pignatello
Nancy Robinson

Lazar Middle School

Sharon Carr
Douglas Hackett
Irene Filosa
Debra Rosenblum
Denise Tarsitano
Mark Winters

Cedar Hill School

Joyce Janowicz

Hilldale School

Terri Racioppo
Maria Slota
Patricia Tabek

Valley View School

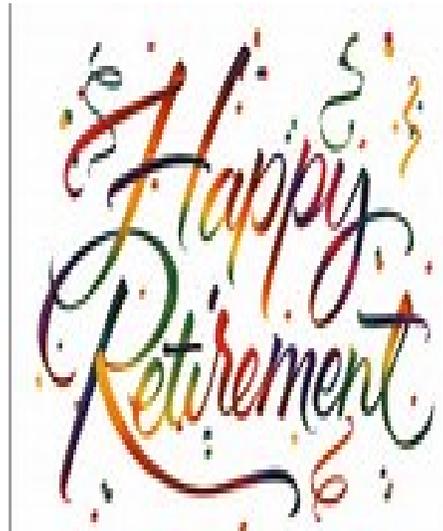
Patricia Gruszczynski
Elizabeth Jemas
JoAnn Rutherford

Woodmont School

Rosemary Bell

District

Cesar Flores
Robert Reinhardt



We thank each and every one of these dedicated employees for their years of service to the Montville Township Public Schools. We wish them a long, happy, and healthy retirement!



Character.org Recognizes Five District Programs with 2017 National Promising Practice Awards

The Montville Township Public Schools recently received notification that the following programs were selected for recognition by Character.org as National [Promising Practices](#) initiatives:

Embracing Diversity - A video program produced by Keith Spector, School Counselor, and Leonard Saunders, Health and Physical Education Teacher, at Valley View Elementary School. Students are featured in a series of videos which are posted on the Valley View [You Tube channel](#). These videos focus on a variety of topics including anti-bullying, holidays around the world and health and fitness.

Living Lessons - A long-standing program offered in alternating years at Robert R. Lazar Middle School. Organized by teachers Judy Gothelf and Derek Lee, Living Lessons provides students with an opportunity to hear presentations from among the 50 speakers that comprise the program. The speakers promote acceptance, compassion and kindness through their powerful stories.

OneMontville - This group was formed by Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Rene Rovtar, in August 2015. The organization is now a stand-alone 501(c)(3) non-profit group governed by its own Board of Directors. The mission of [OneMontville](#) is to create and promote a climate of acceptance, inclusion and kindness which teaches and celebrates respect for one another by embracing and being enriched by the diversity that comprises the Montville Township Community. The mission can only be fully accomplished through the involvement and commitment of community leaders, religious leaders, business leaders, and residents of all ages, races, religions, ethnicities, abilities, gender identity or sexual orientation.

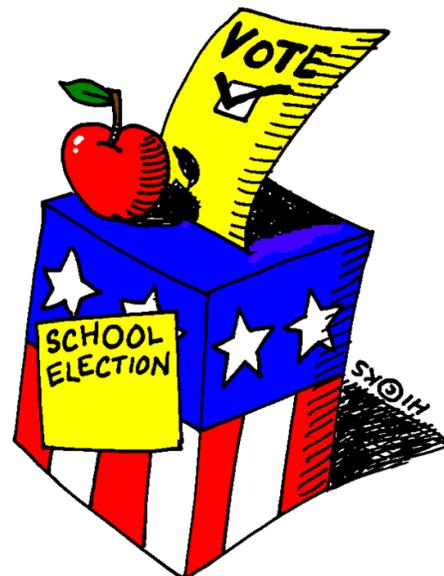
First Fun Friday - This program was developed by Kelly Sturdy-Lange, Jessica Holman and a group of student council representatives at Lazar Middle School as a means to enhance school spirit. The first Friday of every month has a theme (mindfulness, fitness, fandom) which is celebrated throughout the day with various activities in the classroom and at lunch. Teachers tie the themes into their lessons.

Tools for Schools Kids Environmental Committee - In this Cedar Hill School program, emphasis is placed on children and adults as caretakers of the Earth. Students identify areas of environmental care and initiatives they would like to embrace, develop and promote. The students have petitioned the New Jersey State Assembly regarding emissions laws, adopted elephants and other endangered animals, recycled water and trash in the lunchroom, planted trees and created gardens.

Referendum Update

At their meeting on February 7th, the Montville Township Board of Education authorized the District Architect to submit the necessary applications and documents to the New Jersey Department of Education with regard to the district's [proposed referendum](#) scheduled for **Tuesday, September 26, 2017**.

The NJDOE is in the process of calculating the Preliminary Eligible Costs for the referendum projects to determine the amount of Debt Service Aid that the District will be eligible to receive. Approximately 75% of the projects have been reviewed to date and have been determined to be fully eligible for debt service aid in the amount of 40% of the project costs. This will result in a substantial savings to the taxpayers of Montville Township. In addition, the Montville Township Board of Education has indicated that they plan to appropriate \$600,000 from their Capital Reserve Account to further reduce the impact on the local taxpayer.



Once the Preliminary Eligible Costs have all been received from the NJDOE, the district will provide more detailed information regarding the fiscal aspects of the referendum.

Ongoing reports about the Referendum are part of the regular agenda at each Board of Education meeting.

Referendum Timeline

During the Summer of 2017 the Board will take action to finalize the actual referendum questions to be included on the ballot. The referendum election will take place on Tuesday, September 26, 2017. If approved, construction on all projects would take place during the summer of 2018.

Register to Vote

There is a link on the district website to enable parents and residents to [register to vote in the Referendum election](#), if you are not already a registered voter.

[Click here for voter registration information](#)

Vote by Mail

If work, travel or family obligations might prevent you from getting to the polls to vote on September 26th, consider submitting an application to vote by mail. A link to the application for a mail-in ballot is available on the district website. Vote by mail applications must be received by the Morris County Clerk by **September 18, 2017**.

[Click here for Vote by Mail Application Information](#)



Personalized Official SAT Practice Linked to 115 Point Average Score Gains

The College Board recently announced findings that indicate that studying for the SAT for 20 hours on free Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy is associated with an average score gain of 115 points. This is double the average score gain of those students who do not use Khan Academy. Out of nearly 250,000 test takers studied, more than 16,000 gained 200 points or more between taking the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT.

Since its launch in June 2015, more than 3.7 million students have used Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy. Nearly 40 percent of all test takers reported using official SAT Practice, making it the number one tool for SAT preparation.

Each student accesses a preparation plan created just for them. If a student links their College Board and Khan Academy accounts, scores from the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT can be used to determine what areas to focus on. The Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy allows students to access video lessons, test-taking tips and strategies along with over 10,000 interactive practice questions. There are also eight full-length, free practice tests that have been written by the College Board test design team.

Students preparing for the SAT are encouraged to take advantage of this free resource. For further information visit [the College Board](#) and [Khan Academy](#).

Bits and Pieces....

On May 3rd, Valley View School students participated in the 29th annual ACES (All Children Exercise Simultaneously) event. On this day, millions of children around the world exercise together to promote a healthy lifestyle. This event was organized by Leonard Saunders, Valley View School's Health and Physical Education Teacher. The Emmy-winning *Classroom Close-up, NJ* also filmed the students participating in ACES. Mark your calendar! The ACES segment will air Sunday, October 22 and again on Sunday, November 26, 2017. The show will be broadcast at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on both dates. [For more info click here.](#)



School News

On Saturday April 30th, the MTHS International Concerns Club (ICC) participated in the March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon for the 23rd consecutive year.

Congratulations to Veda Bhattaram, 7th grade student at Lazar Middle School. Veda took third place in the National Geographic Geography Bee in Washington, D.C. in May and earned a \$10,000 scholarship.

Lazar Middle School student Chase Unice has been selected to participate in the Acadia Institute of Oceanography Marine Science Camp this summer. He will travel to Maine where he will engage in a unique hands-on curriculum that combines biological, physical, and chemical oceanography with field, classroom, offshore and laboratory work.

Mr. Crescente's and Mrs. Rudge's social studies classes created an amazing exhibit for Montville's 150th Anniversary celebration. Students did a fabulous job researching Montville's history, interviewing Montville residents, and creating various projects that were put on display in the Lazar Media Center

MTHS to Issue First Biliteracy Diplomas

The Class of 2017 is the first graduating class eligible for the Seal of Biliteracy on their diplomas as they graduate from high school. The New Jersey Department of Education State Seal of Biliteracy identifies graduating high school students who are able to demonstrate proficiency in English in addition to one or more world languages. The State Seal of Biliteracy certifies that a high school graduate has:

1. Demonstrated proficiency in English by meeting English language arts graduation requirements (PARCC Assessment) or attained the appropriate cut score on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment (for English Language Learners); and
2. Demonstrated a linguistic proficiency level of at least Intermediate Mid according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Proficiency Guidelines, or demonstrated a level deemed equivalent to Intermediate Mid for languages such as American Sign Language or Native American languages.

We are proud that in the first year of this program, eight members of the MTHS Class of 2017 have qualified for this distinction.



State of New Jersey
Department of Education

Parents Feedback Sought on New Jersey's School Performance Reports

Since the 2011-12 school year, New Jersey's School Performance Reports have provided communities with information on schoolwide academic achievement, demographics and school climate. The School Performance Reports were developed with, and are continually improved by, the feedback from stakeholders like you.

The New Jersey Department of Education is again encouraging your input on a statewide survey designed to improve the readability and usability of these reports. Please access the [brief online survey](#) to describe if and how you use the reports, what data is most important to you when looking at school performance, and how the data can be presented in a usable, understandable manner.

The survey should take less than 10 minutes, and responses will not be tracked or identified individually.

**School of Rock Summerfest
Concert - Saturday, June 10th**



The MTHS School of Rock will be joined by performers from other Montville Township Public Schools in their Summerfest concert to benefit the Drug Awareness Council. The concert will be held at the Montville Community Park Amphitheater at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 for students and \$10.00 for adults.

Montville Township Public Schools | (973) 331-7100 | www.montville.net

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