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# Montville Township Public Schools™

**EDUCATE. INSPIRE. EMPOWER.**

## News & Updates - October 2018

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### Standards-Based Report Card Presentation

At the September 25th Board of Education meeting, Mrs. Andrea Woodring, Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, gave a presentation on changes to the elementary report cards that will be implemented this year. The district will continue with its implementation of standards-based report cards for grades K-

5 which began during the 2013-2014 school year. This year, students in grades 3 will not receive letter grades. Letter grades will be phased out in Grade 4 in 2019-2020 and in Grade 5 in 2020-2021. In addition, the reporting periods will be changed from quarters to trimesters, meaning that report cards for students in grades K-5 will now be issued three times per year.

A Standards-Based Report Card (SBRC) is designed to inform parents about their child's progress toward achieving specific learning standards and skills. On a traditional report card, students receive one grade for reading, one for math, one for science, etc. On a SBRC, each subject area is further expanded by a list of skills and knowledge students are responsible for learning. The teacher provides a separate progress indicator for each standard. The purpose is to provide meaningful, detailed feedback to parents regarding the progress their children are making towards mastery of the standards.

The Progress Indicators are:

- ES - Exceeds Standard
- MS - Meets Standard
- AS - Approaching Standard
- PS - Progressing toward Standard
- BS - Beginning Standard
- BG - Below Grade Level Standard
- N/A - Not Assessed at this time

The use of a trimester report card schedule will provide more time for students to learn and demonstrate proficiency/mastery. It provides a longer period at the start of the school year to enable students to become acclimated before baseline testing and grading for the first report card occurs. It also provides more flexibility for teachers in pacing to help ensure student mastery of the curriculum.

The report card periods for the 2018-2019 school year will be:

Trimester	Start Date	End Date
1	September 4, 2018	December 7, 2018
2	December 10, 2018	March 18, 2019
3	March 19, 2019	June 20, 2019

## Hilldale, Valley View and Woodmont Schools Attain Bronze Level Certification



Three Montville Township Public Schools have met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification. These schools form part of a group of 111 schools that achieved the Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification in 2018. A total of 779 schools and 303 school districts are participating in the program overall.

The three schools that have achieved certification are: **Hilldale Elementary School, Valley View Elementary School and Woodmont Elementary School**. These schools join 2017 Bronze award-winner, Robert R. Lazar Middle School, with their Sustainable Jersey certifications.

"We applaud the schools that have achieved certification this year. Their leadership and hard work will help New Jersey continue to evolve through their advancement of equitable, sustainable and innovative practices," said Randall Solomon, executive director of Sustainable Jersey. "Becoming certified with Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a significant achievement for schools and their school district."

Sustainable Jersey for Schools, a program for pre-kindergarten through twelfth-grade public schools in New Jersey, is voluntary, but achieving certification is not easy. Each school that is certified must submit documentation to show it has completed a balanced portfolio of the program's sustainability actions. With most actions worth ten points each, bronze-level certification requires a minimum of 150 points and silver-level certification requires a minimum of 350 points. Over 3,048 sustainability actions were completed by schools and districts participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program—from performing energy audits and boosting recycling efforts to integrating sustainability into student learning and promoting student and staff wellness.

"Sustainable schools provide a healthy environment, conserve resources and continually improve the well-being of the community. We are proud of the leadership of the boards of education and their superintendents, as well as the contributions of principals, teachers, education support professionals and parents in this effort," said Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, New Jersey School Boards Association executive director. "Congratulations to the 111 schools that achieved Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification in 2018." On October 23, 2018, the certified schools and their districts will be celebrated at a reception held during NJSBA Workshop 2018 in Atlantic City. Workshop 2018 will feature Sustainable Jersey for Schools sessions along with NJSBA sustainability support programs for schools.

## Board of Education and District Goals Adopted for 2018-2019

In August the Montville Township Board of Education approved the following District Goals for the 2018-2019 school year:



**Goal 1:**

Development of a new district website to provide greater access to information and ease of use.

**Goal 2:**

Completion of a study of the middle school schedule and formulation of recommendations for potential changes to the middle school schedule for the 2019-2020 school year and beyond.

**Goal 3:**

Implementation of staff development to support the incorporation of Mindfulness at all grade levels to help students develop strategies to reduce anxiety and stress.

**Goal 4:**

Facilitate collaborative discussions at the grade, school, and department levels to review curriculum and instructional practices and encourage the development of innovative proposals and strategies that will support student learning and increase achievement.

In addition, the Montville Township Board of Education has adopted the following Board goals:

**Goal 1:**

The Board will support the administrative team as they manage the referendum construction to occur during the 2018-2019 school year and the preparation of the projects for construction during the summer of 2019.

**Goal 2:**

Curriculum revision, as needed to ensure compliance with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, will be led by the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and the Supervisors, in preparation for QSAC monitoring during the 2018-2019 school year. Staff development in 2018-2019 will be focused on those areas identified through the ESSA Grant Application Needs Assessment.

**Goal 3:**

The Board will expand its celebration of student achievement and accomplishments through presentations at Board meetings and via the dissemination of information through the district website and social media.

**Goal 4:**

The Board will work diligently to successfully negotiate contracts with the MTEA, MTAA and MTSIA for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021.

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***ESL Family Night  
will be Held  
Thursday, October 4  
at 7 p.m.***

An ESL Family night will be held on Thursday October 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the English as a Second Language (ESL) department of Montville Township Public Schools and will be held in room 103 of the Montville Township High School (MTHS).

Throughout the academic year, the Montville Township ESL department holds workshops and other events for Adult ESL students and families. The workshops are open to any Adult Montville, Towaco or Pine Brook, New Jersey, resident who would like to work with ESL teachers and peers to practice English conversation skills and expand knowledge of United States culture. These opportunities and others will be discussed at the ESL Family Night.

ESL workshops held during the school year will focus on various topics ranging from those pre-selected by the instructor to the interests of the group. Participants may drop in at any or all sessions within the workshop series. ESL adults may attend as many of the workshops as they choose.

Children will be welcome at the ESL Family Night with their families, and are encouraged to attend. ESL Family



Parents of Montville Township ESL Students are invited  
to attend

**ESL FAMILY  
NIGHT**

Thursday, October 4, 2018

7:00pm

Montville Township High School

100 Horseneck Rd, Montville, NJ

Room 103

Children may attend.

*Please email Dr. Clarke or your child's teacher if  
you plan on attending  
[jessica.clarke@montville.net](mailto:jessica.clarke@montville.net)*



Night will be held on Thursday October 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. It is a free event that will be held in Room 103 at MTHS, 100 Horseneck Road, Montville, NJ, 07045.

To attend, individuals and families are asked to e-mail Dr. Jessica Clarke at [jessica.clarke@montville.net](mailto:jessica.clarke@montville.net). Families with children in the Montville Township Public Schools can also e-mail their child's teacher to let them know they will be attending the ESL Family Night.

Registration is not required but appreciated. All ESL adults and families are welcome.

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## Bits and Pieces....

Congratulations to Sang Hyun Lee (Class of '19), Hannah Park (Class of '19), and Cynthia Zhu (Class of '19) on being named semifinalists in the 64th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These three students will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for one of 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth a total of approximately \$31 million this spring. 1.6 million Juniors in over 22,000 high schools entered the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, and the highest-scoring entrants in each state were selected as semifinalists. The MTHS Community is very proud of Sang, Hannah, and Cynthia for this wonderful academic achievement and we wish them luck as the finals approach!



This year, Lazar Middle School is starting a new program called Stomp Out Bullying, in coordination with the New York Jets. We are looking for upstanders to help in the fight against bullying. Lazar staff will be nominating students, and each week of the NFL season, we will be choosing one "Upstander of the Week" from that pool of nominations. Each winner will receive three tickets to an upcoming NY Jets game, a parking pass, and a tee-shirt. Those students will also be featured on Mr. Pasciuto's Lazar Twitter account. We believe that being an upstander is contagious, and our hope is that these students continue to provide a model that can be followed by the rest of the Lazar student body.

Week 1: 8th grader Emmett Glennon

Week 2: 7th grader Sofia Matari

Week 3: 8th grader Zack Friedman

Week 4: 7th grader Lindsay Probst

The second graders at William Mason have been practicing mindfulness after recess every day. The children practice breathing in calm and exhaling worries/anxiety. They put one hand on their belly and one hand on their heart. The repeat positive affirmations that their teachers say during the mediation. These affirmations include: "I am smart. I am brave. I am important." The teachers hope that by setting aside some quiet time for mindfulness the students will feel less stressed. We hope that they will use positive self-talk in their daily lives.

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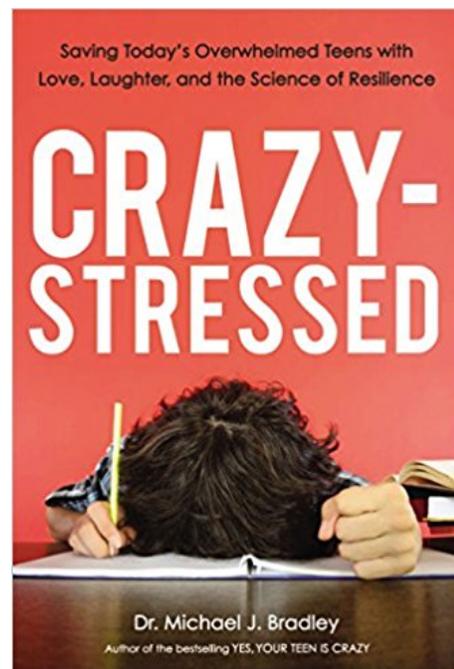
## Superintendent's Book Club

Superintendent of Schools Rene Rovtar will host two Parent Book Club Discussions during the 2018-2019 school year. The first will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2018 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Montville Township High School Media Center.

The Fall Book Selection is *Crazy Stressed* by Dr. Michael J. Bradley.

In the words of Michele Borba, author of *UNSELFIE - Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World*, "Dr. Mike Bradley takes the complex science of adolescence and brilliantly boils it down to concise, simple parenting concepts in the 'do-this, don't-do-that" language for parents of real-world teenagers. Along the way, he makes you laugh, cry and end up closer with your teen!"

[Email Dr. Rene Rovtar](#) to register for the November 1



discussion.

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