

Happy Holidays!



News & Updates - December 2016

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District Engaged in Strategic Planning Process

The Montville Township Public Schools are currently engaged in a process that will ultimately lead to the development of a Five Year Strategic Plan to guide the district in achieving the goals identified during the planning process. The five year plan will provide specific objectives in a number of areas, such as student achievement and district achievement, technology and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math), school climate and culture, community involvement and the cultivation and maintenance of faculty excellence.

A group comprised of teachers, parents, administrators and community members have engaged in two meetings to date. The focus of the first meeting was to identify the district's strengths and challenges.

The second meeting focused on creating a vision of where the district should be in five years. Participants brainstormed on the thought of Montville Township Public Schools being selected by TIME Magazine as a "School That Succeeds." Small groups identified the accomplishments, programs, and attributes that they felt would result in such a distinction.

The final meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Montville Township High School Media Center. During the January meeting, participants will work in groups to create a goal statement for the four identified goal areas and develop objectives and strategies for each goal area based on the information derived from the first two strategic planning sessions.

All are welcome to participate in the final session, even if you have not attended one of the previous meetings.

Kindergarten Registration to Open January 2017
Montville Township:
Kindergarten Registration open from
Monday, January 23 - February 28.

Students who turn five-years-old by October 1, 2017 are eligible.

Kindergarten Registration for Montville Township Public Schools' 2017-2018 school year will open on Monday, January 23, 2017. **Parents must complete both On-Line Registration and In-Person Registration for each child attending Kindergarten.**

At In-Person Registration **parents must also present four Proofs of Residency:** [the child's raised seal birth certificate, and several other documents.](#)



All residents of Montville, Pine Brook and Towaco, New Jersey, whose children have reached the age of five on or before October 1, 2017, are encouraged to **register students beginning Monday, January 23** for September enrollment. Parents are asked to complete Kindergarten registration **no later than February 28, 2017.**

Kindergarten Registration is a two-step process that includes [On-Line and In-Person Registration](#). **Both On-Line Registration and In-Person Registration must be completed before a student can be participate in Kindergarten Screening.** Information about Kindergarten registration and the forms and documentation required can be found at: <http://www.montville.net/domain/4>

Kindergarten Screening will be held for five days at each of the five Montville Township Public Elementary Schools. Montville elementary school Kindergarten Screenings are scheduled from mid-April to mid-May. Please see www.montville.net for each school's screening schedule.

Information regarding which school a child is eligible to attend [can be found on-line](#) during the application process.

All forms necessary for Kindergarten Registration in Montville Township Public Schools are located [on-line](#). **However, once forms are completed, parents must call the school and set up an appointment for In-Person Registration.** All forms, along with four Proofs of Residency, the child's raised seal birth certificate, and several other documents, must be brought to the appropriate elementary school in-person for registration. Copies will be made of all original documents. [A list of necessary documents and forms can be found on-line](#) during the registration process.

The purpose of the In-Person Registration appointment is to check documentation and confirm the child's registration information. Parents should not expect to meet teachers or receive a tour of the school at that time. Meeting teachers and touring the school will take place during the school's Kindergarten Screening appointment.

At Kindergarten Screening children will complete a series of activities to provide teachers with an indication of the developmental level of each child. The screening will last about one hour. Each child has his or her picture taken, meets each of the kindergarten teachers, speaks with the teachers, and does a few simple tasks. No preparation is necessary. Kindergarten Screening is not a test.



Importance of Reading... Be a "Reading Role Model"

A recent article in TIME Magazine by James Patterson, author of more than 147 novels, shared some alarming statistics regarding the state of reading in our country. The article did not focus on test scores or lexile levels in books being used in school curricula. Instead, the article focused on the fact that survey data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that young adults between the ages of 18-22 are in the habit of reading only an average of 10 minutes per day for personal interest. This is in sharp contrast to people who are 75 years of age and older. In this age group, people are pleasure reading for about an hour a day. It is this age group that represents our most prolific readers. Below 75-years-old, the number of minutes of pleasure reading declines through each ten year age bracket.

Patterson acknowledges that the skills required for reading, decoding or words, is perhaps the most challenging behavior that we teach our children. The author raises concerns about the nature of a large percentage of the reading that is done today: captions, Facebook posts, tweets, and screen-size articles. He emphasized the importance of reading long-form articles, books and other substantial works of literature. "(If) you're a reader," Patterson writes, "You know what reading does for your ability to think things through. Get out there and make this your No. 1 priority."

Please read to your children or read with your children on a daily basis. Be a "Reading Role Model" for your children and encourage them to read widely on a variety of topics. Reading with your child will help develop a stronger relationship and will help build a higher aptitude for learning in general. Reading reinforces language acquisition and helps develop logical thinking skills. Most importantly, however, reading is FUN!

Bits and Pieces....

Congratulations to John Larkin and Sandra Faranda for their exciting 26.2 Miles for 26 Days of Giving Challenge coinciding with their participation in the NYC Marathon. This challenge garnered 667 pounds of food donated by the Valley View School Community for the Morris County Interfaith Food Pantry.

The Montville Township High School Earth Club was honored with the 2016 Award of Excellence by the Association of Environmental Commissions of New Jersey for their program working on environmental awareness with elementary students.

Hilldale School participates in Eli Manning's Challenge to tackle pediatric cancer. The school raised over \$1,000 which will be matched by the Giants quarterback.



School News

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