

Check out the February Newsletter for important information!



## News & Updates - February 2017

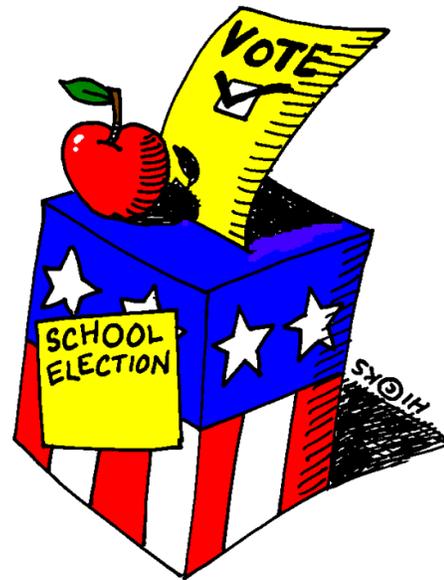
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### Board Receives Overview of September 26th Referendum at Special Meeting on January 24th

At their Special Meeting on January 24, 2017, the Board heard a presentation from James Tevis, School Business Administrator, explaining the need for a referendum and detailing the projects included. Although the district has a history of spending approximately \$1 million annually to maintain and improve district facilities, the funding falls short and does not enable the district to fully address all of the projects identified in the 2015 Facilities Needs Assessment. The 2% Tax Levy Cap further restricts the amount that can be included in the annual district budget for facility projects.

In preparing the referendum at this time, the district is looking to take advantage of Debt Service Aid which is available through the New Jersey Department of Education and could be used to offset up to 40% of the project costs. The district is also hoping to take advantage of the current lower interest rates on the bonds that would be sold, thereby reducing the overall cost of the project to the taxpayers.

[Click here to review details of the proposed referendum.](#)



#### **Proposed Projects to Be Included**

The proposed projects to be included in the referendum would be broken down into three separate questions. *(Please note: Voters will have to pass Question #1 in order for #2 and/or #3 to also pass):*

Referendum Question #1:

- Roof Replacements (MTHS, Lazar, William Mason)
- HVAC Controls (districtwide)
- Restroom renovations
- Media Center Renovations (Lazar and all elementary schools)

Referendum Question #2:

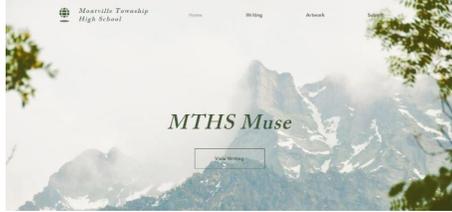
- Gymnasium Renovations

Referendum Question #3:

- Air conditioning (in those instructional spaces in all buildings currently without air conditioning)

#### **Referendum Timeline**

The Board is expected to approve the submission of applications and preliminary drawings for all of these projects in February. The NJ Department of Education will then review the projects and make a preliminary determination as to the amount of Debt Service Aid that each project merits and approve the project applications. 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 would take place on Tuesday, September 26, 2017. If approved, construction on all projects would take place during the summer of 2018.



## Montville Township High School Literary Magazine - MUSE Available Online

The [MTHS Muse](#) an online creative writing magazine that features stories, poems and artwork by MTHS students, is founded by students and run by students. [A new edition is currently on-line.](#) Please take a moment to enjoy the work of these young writers and artists. **All MTHS students are encouraged to submit creative stories, essays and artwork.** The *MTHS Muse* creative team is: Chief Editor, Jessily Crispyn; Fiction Editor, Audrey Roclore; Non-Fiction Editor, Jennette Roulier; Poetry Editor, Mia Teresa; Art & Photography Editors, Alex Tullo and Emily Carver.

## "Register Ready" Special Needs Registry for Disasters

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is partnering with the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) to improve the state's ability to respond to residents with disabilities or those with functional needs when a disaster such as Hurricane Sandy occurs. The **"Register Ready" Special Needs Registry for Disasters** is an online registry in which citizens can provide emergency response agencies with important information (e.g., if a resident is wheelchair bound or requires medical apparatus) so that emergency responders can be better prepared to serve those individuals during a natural disaster or other emergency.



Register Ready is a confidential database that can only be accessed by designated local, county and state emergency managers. In support of NJOEM's efforts toward disaster preparedness, the NJDOE is encouraging schools to circulate information about the registry to parents and guardians of students. The NJOEM [Register Ready webpage](#) contains links to brochures about the registry program in English and Spanish, which schools can download to

share with students and their families. Citizens should go to the [Register Ready registration webpage](#) to sign up for the program. The NJOEM encourages New Jersey residents with disabilities or access and functional needs to sign up with Register Ready well before disaster strikes.

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### ***Bits and Pieces....***

"No Name Calling Week" was observed in a number of the schools. Students developed a listing of the positive "put-ups" they were prefer over "put-downs."

Over the holiday season students at Hilldale School donated more than 170 toys to the Toys for Tots program.

Mrs. Stella's class at William Mason School had a great time creating valentine cards for children who are hospitalized and unable to celebrate the holiday at home or at school.

The MTHS Class of 2017 is preparing to hold a Color Run on April 1st. This colorful event will feature a 5K fun run and a mile walk. Sign up using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/montville-township-high-school-class-of-2017s-my-school-color-run-registration-31463992649>

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