



Montville Township Public
Schools Newsletter
May 2016



Be Part of OneMontville's First "Green In Day" on Friday, May 20th

GREEN IN DAY

Friday, May 20, 2016

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.

Show your support for the OneMontville mission of supporting acceptance, unity and kindness
BY WEARING GREEN
on May 20, 2016

Please help us to create a very visible representation of the fact that we are all ONEMONTVILLE no matter who we are.

Residents of all ages, business owners and their employees, EVERYONE!!

New Jersey School Performance Reports

New Jersey Department of Education Releases 2014-2015 Data

On May 9, 2016, the New Jersey Department of Education released the School Performance Reports for all schools for the 2014-2015 school year. The format of the reports has been revised this year and additional data is included. The reports contain a peer school comparison for each school in the state. Schools are compared to a grouping of 29 other schools with similar grade configurations and students with similar demographic characteristics such as free/reduced lunch eligibility, limited English proficiency, or special education program participation. This data provides information about how similar schools are performing on a similar performance indicator to help identify strengths and areas for improvement. It should be noted that some of the academic achievement data at the middle and high school level reflects a high level of test refusal during the 2015 administration of the PARCC assessment. The reports also are somewhat different this year in recognition of the shift in the state assessment from NJASK to PARCC. Future years will allow for a better year to year comparison with more than one year of PARCC data to review.

The NJDOE warns that while some viewers of these reports may try to use the information to formulate a "Best New Jersey Schools" listing, the use of the data in that manner is discouraged. While the School Performance Data does present a wealth of information, the reports do not reflect data representing other essential elements of a school, such as the provision of opportunities to participate and excel in extracurricular activities; the development of other essential life skills, such as time management and tenacity; or the pervasiveness of a positive school culture and climate.

The School Performance Reports can be accessed on the district website at the following link:

<http://www.montville.net/domain/7>

Cedar Hill and Woodmont Schools Named National Schools of Character

*Award Announcement Made on May
10th*

On May 10, 2016, the faculty and students at Cedar Hill and Woodmont Elementary Schools were excited to learn that they had both been named 2016 National Schools of Character. The announcement, made by the organization Character.org, came after a review of documentation submitted by the schools and an onsite visit by national representatives.

According to Character.org, "In schools of character, adults embrace their critical role as models. Teachers work together as professionals-and with parents and community members as partners-to positively shape the social, emotional, and character development of the young people entrusted to them each day. Students in these schools feel safe, respected, and connected to those around them, allowing them to thrive academically and socially and be motivated to give back to their communities."

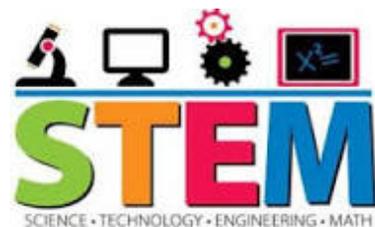
The 11 Principles of Effective Character Education form the heart of the evaluation process when considering schools for selection as a National School of Character.

1. The school community promotes core ethical and performance values as the foundation of good character.
2. The school defines "character" comprehensively to include thinking, feeling, and doing.
3. The school uses a comprehensive, intentional, and proactive approach to character development.
4. The school creates a caring community.
5. The school provides students with opportunities for moral action.
6. The school offers a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum that respects all learners, develops their character, and helps them to succeed.
7. The school fosters students' self-motivation.
8. The school staff is an ethical learning community that shares responsibility for character education and adheres to the same core values that guide the students.
9. The school fosters shared leadership and long-range support of the character education initiative.
10. The school engages families and community members as partners in the character-building effort.
11. The school regularly assesses its culture and climate, the functioning of its staff as character educators, and the extent to which its students manifest good character.



Lazar Teacher Awarded \$10,000 in Grant Funding

*STEM PALS Program provides an opportunity to
work with students in Riverdale*



Foundation Grant to Marisa Castronova, a 7th grade science teacher at the Lazar Middle School for the STEM PALS program she developed in cooperation with Jessica Palombi, a third grade teacher in the Riverdale School District. STEM PALS is a cross-graded and cross-district project designed to increase student access and exposure to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related curricula. The teachers themselves are also considered STEM PALS by engaging in the process of mentorship and communication with each other.

A pilot of the project occurred over the course of the 2015-2016 school year in which 20 seventh grade students from Lazar were paired with 20 third grade students from Riverdale Public School. Referring to each other as STEM PALS, each group generated questions that warranted further exploration and formed the basis of different STEM PAL challenges. This year's challenges included engineering parts of a mechanical hand and building an insulation device to keep water frozen. The two classrooms communicated and shared their work via email, letters, cards, and digital videos. A culminating field trip to Riverdale Public School is set to take place June 10 so that Lazar students can work alongside their STEM PALS on a final challenge.

Funds awarded through the NJEA HIPP grant will be used to purchase technology and other relevant STEM materials in order to continue the program in the 2016-2017 school year. The hope is that this new technology will facilitate students' ability to identify problems and engineer solutions as part of their own self-generated capstone projects. A 3-D printer, iPads, chrome books, and webcams are just some of the technology items slated for purchase. Grant money will also be used to purchase materials for STEM challenges, host guest speakers, run community outreach events, and fund a culminating field trip between classrooms. At Lazar, STEM PALS will run as leadership advisory class so that students can cross collaborate with their Riverdale STEM PALS in real time. The hope is that this model will be embraced by other educators as a fun, engaging way to bring STEM alive. Thus, some monies will also be allocated to host and attend professional development events related to STEM.

Bits and Pieces.....

Montville Township High School has qualified students for National History Day for the 7th year in a row. Congratulations to the following students:

- Douglas Gologorsky (9th grade), Individual Performance, "Galileo."
- Zara Aamer, Nithya Reddy, Athena Nomula & Anjali Shah (all 11th grade), Group Website, "Antonio Meucci and the Teletrofono."

The following group is an alternate in the Group Website category:

- Cynthia Zhu, Vivian Xu, Hannah Park & Kelly Chan (all 9th graders), "The 1918 Spanish Influenza: An Exchange of Disease & Scientific Ideas."

We congratulate these students and thank their teachers, Mr. Trzepinska, Mr. Vallery and Ms. Sanfilippo, for their work with the students.



Contact

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*"The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives."
~Robert Maynard Hutchins*

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Stay Connected

