



Montville Township Public
Schools Newsletter
March 2016



Public Hearing on the 2016-2017 Annual School Budget Scheduled for April 26

The public hearing on the 2016-2017 budget will take place on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 in connection with the Board's regular meeting which will be held at the Montville Township Municipal Building. The public portion of the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The total increase in the general fund budget is 1.39% with a tax levy increase of 2.00% The annual tax increase for average Montville home assessed at \$528,093 is \$137.00

PowerPoint Presentations on the proposed budget are available on the district's website - www.montville.net.

World Language Program Revisions Adopted

Committee Review and Discussion Following February 16th presentation results in a Revised Program Proposal

At their March 8, 2016 meeting, the Montville Township Board of Education approved revisions to the Lazar Middle School World Language Program which will be implemented beginning in September 2016. The original recommendations had been made by the Lazar Middle School World Language and Scheduling Committee. For the 2016-2017 school year, the structure of the program in 8th grade will remain the same as in 2015-2016.

In 2016-2017, students in 7th grade will take a full year of World Language. This course (Level 1A of a two year sequence) will help provide a more thorough preparation for the students to complete the required two years of study in a World Language as part of the Montville Township High School graduation requirements. When the 7th grade students continue onto 8th grade in 2017-2018, they will take Level 1B of their World Language. Successful completion of 1A and 1B will prepare the students to take a Level II language class in ninth grade.

The sixth grade schedule will also remain basically the same as it is now. The exception will be in the "required" enrichment cycle. Currently students take a marking period of two of the world languages in 6th grade and the remaining two languages in 7th grade. This will change to accommodate the new 7th grade structure. Sixth grade students will experience 4 mini-cycles of the world languages that will span two marking periods. The students will experience each language for 5 weeks. The students will then have one marking period of art and one marking period of computers.

In modifying the program revisions that will allow for the continuation of "language sampling" in sixth grade, the selection of a World Language by students for their middle school program will now not take place until the spring of the sixth grade year.

This revised proposal eliminates the need for 6th grade students to have to make a choice between music and electives. It will allow them to experience both. This schedule structure will allow a substantial number of students to become engaged in the middle school music program in 6th grade. Our hope is that they will elect to continue in music when they need to make a decision between music and electives as they prepare to enter 7th grade.

This revised proposal offers a good compromise that accomplishes one of the primary recommendations made by the World Language Task Force in June 2015: to provide better preparation for high school world language study to our middle school students. They will have two full years of a world language which is a significant improvement over the current single year they receive in 8th grade.



New Jersey Child Assault Prevention Program (CAP)

Parent Information Meeting

April 5, 2016 at 6:00 PM

Valley View School



The Montville Township Public Schools' elementary schools (Cedar Hill, Hilldale, Valley View, William Mason, and Woodmont) are offering students, parents/guardians and teachers/staff safety training from the NJ Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program. This is in line with the district's commitment to safety for all students.

CAP is a statewide primary prevention project with a mission to reduce bullying, stranger abduction and known adult assault. The CAP project aims to prevent child assault by teaching children to recognize and deal with potentially dangerous situations, and by training teachers and parents to help prevent the victimization of children. The program has three components: a parent/guardian program, a teacher/staff in-service, and individual classroom workshops for children in kindergarten through 5th grade.

The classroom workshop consists of guided group discussion of children's rights and role plays designed to help children recognize and cope with potentially dangerous or uncomfortable situations including child against child (bullying), adult stranger against child, and assault involving a known adult. The parent workshop will provide an overview of the workshop components for the various grade levels. Discussions accompanying the classroom workshops help children to identify what options they have to protect themselves. The ultimate objective of the program is the NJCAP slogan - "Empowering Children to be Safe, Strong and Free!"

To learn more about CAP and what they will be teaching your children, we invite you to join us at the CAP parent/guardian workshop on:

Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Valley View Elementary School

Please visit this link to the [CAP Community Affairs video](#) on their website if you would like to learn more about CAP.

<http://njcap.org/cap-new-community-affairs-video/>

OneMontville Green In Day

Join in the Celebration of Diversity and Acceptance on Friday, May 20, 2016

Over the past year there have been a number of incidents of bias and Anti-Semitism that have occurred within the Montville Township Community. As a result, the OneMontville organization was created. Our mission statement is:

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.

As recently as this past weekend, a swastika was found painted onto a tree along a walking path in the Towaco section of the Township, so the need for an active campaign to support OneMontville's mission is certainly important.

OneMontville will be sponsoring a "Green In Day" on Friday, May 20th. We are asking EVERYONE - residents, students, teachers, business owners and their employees - to wear GREEN on May 20th as a very visual representation of the unity and acceptance we want to emphasize and acknowledge within Montville Township.

Bits and Pieces.....

The Montville DAC, along with the Montville Police and the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, will be presenting "The Opiate Epidemic in Morris County," a discussion about heroin, prescription opiates, and their devastating impact on our community. Chief Assistant Prosecutor Seabury will lead the event. Admission to this program is free and open to all. The program will be held on Tuesday, April 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Montville Township High School Auditorium.



Congratulations to the MTHS Key Club for raising \$7,000 through its annual Volleyball Marathon on Friday, March 11th to contribute to the Kiwanis International's Eliminate Project. The Eliminate Project is focused on eradicating maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) - a deadly disease that steals the lives of nearly 49,000 innocent babies and a significant number of women each year.

Valley View School students recently received a thank you from Tyrone Steed, Voluntary Service Program Coordinator of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, for the valentines the students sent to veterans.

"Project Graduation Friends for Life" is sponsored by the Montville Township Drug Awareness Council. The Township's post graduation celebration is the oldest alcohol and drug-free event in New Jersey. Started in 1984, the 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. party is traditionally attended by over 90% of the district's graduating class. Project Graduation relies on private donations and volunteers to make this an affordable event for all seniors. The participation of everyone in the Montville community helps to ensure the safety of Montville seniors on graduation night. In the coming weeks we will be letting district families know the many ways each can help the Township support this safe and exciting Montville tradition.

Sam Mendelson, a 2008 graduate of MTHS, recently launched an educational app designed to use texting as a means to teach students new vocabulary words. The "Wonder Keyboard" app is billed as a means to "help you sound smart and funny." As users type, the app suggests alternate words or expressions to convey the same thoughts. The suggestions feature other dialects and SAT-level vocabulary. The app went live on March 3, 2016 and was almost immediately chosen by Apple to be featured as one of the "Best New Apps" in the U.S. and 88 other countries.

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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