



SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF MONTICELLO
March 2010

Monticello's values build world ready citizens

The No Spin Zone Regarding School District Consolidation
By Dr. Karen Ballin, District Administrator

Over the past few months, the talk about possible consolidation between Monticello, New Glarus and Belleville has been all over the map. As with any controversy, the story takes on a different spin based on a number of different factors, such as who is telling it and who makes up the intended audience. There's nothing underhanded about the misinformation that starts making its way through the rumor mill, it's just the result of the story being told and retold in different contexts. That's why I thought it was important to set out the plain, unvarnished and "unspun" facts for Monticello School District residents.

The District took part in a consolidation feasibility study in 2009 with Belleville and New Glarus. The underlying motivation for each of the three districts participating was to take a look at whether or not consolidation could enhance opportunities for our students. In Monticello we were also interested in having unbiased facts and figures because the question of possible cost savings through consolidation comes up every time we go to referendum.

This study was conducted by the Wisconsin Taxpayers' Alliance with a grant from the Department of Public Instruction. The scope of the study was narrow, focusing on the potential fiscal impact of consolidation. A presentation of the study's findings was presented on Sept. 21 at a joint meeting of the Monticello, Belleville and New Glarus school boards. The study outlined fiscal advantages and disadvantages to consolidation but made no recommendations. When the meeting concluded, the three boards made no commitment other than to discuss the findings in their home districts.

Monticello discussed the findings at the November 11th board meeting. New Glarus held a public follow-up meeting February 1st and included a review of their immediate facility needs. On February 17th, I met with superintendents Bill Conzemius of New Glarus and Randy Freese of Belleville to take a good hard look at whether or not consolidation would be realistic solution to the needs each district faces.

Here are the conclusions:

- Monticello does not have the facility needs that New Glarus and Belleville have.
- A consolidation between the three districts would likely mean construction of a new high school on "neutral ground." While the idea of expanding educational opportunities for students is intriguing, the increased aid generated by a consolidation would only be a down payment. The idea that taxpayers would be burdened with the remainder of the cost was unacceptable to all three districts.
- It would be unlikely that increased aid generated by consolidation would result in any significant tax relief. Furthermore, any savings in staff, transportation, administration, etc. would not be dramatic enough to justify consolidation at this time.
- A common element for all three districts is the uncertainty of long term state funding for education. We will likely feel this pinch the most in Monticello due to our small size and the fact that our enrollment is not growing. The State continues to shift more of the burden for K-12 education to local taxpayers. We are currently in the third year of a non-recurring six year referendum that has allowed us to exceed the revenue cap and help bridge the funding gap through 2014. If things remain the same, the reality is that another referendum will be necessary when this one ends. That was also the message given in the public meetings leading up to the 2008 referendum.

We are committed to providing every Monticello student with an excellent education as a foundation for a successful future. We think the best way to do this is in a small, personalized atmosphere where students have multiple opportunities to achieve academic excellence and to participate in a strong co-curricular program.

With this in mind, we would be wise to look for ways in which we can work together to share resources and improve educational opportunities for our students. We now have better insight into the challenges each district faces, and we would like to keep the doors open to future conversations with both Belleville and New Glarus. This can be done without consolidation.

District residents are always welcome to attend meetings of the Board of Education at 7:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. There is an opportunity for public communications at the outset of every meeting if you would like to comment on this or any other issue. As always, we invite your input.

4 Year Old Kindergarten News by Amy Gordinier

As March begins, 4K is still having fun with fairy-tales! One of the stories we read several versions of is Jack and the Beanstalk. The students planted beans and kept track of their growth.

We will begin a pizza unit later this month. We have only ten letters left to learn in the alphabet! We just finished the letter O and had our very own Olympics with the other 4K class. The students earned medals and awards for their effort. ☺

Important dates:

Tuesday, March 2nd- Dr. Seuss Day

Wednesday, March 17th- St. Patrick's Day and Family Reading Night

March 31st- April 5th is Spring Break!

4K Participates in the Olympics! by Teri Fahey

To celebrate "O" Week, the afternoon 4K classes participated in their own Olympic games. We started off by watching a little bit of the real Olympics on our projector (also known as the movie theater). Shaun White winning the gold medal proved to be one of our favorite events! We then moved into our own events. We had some great competition in the turtle toss, the javelin (straw) throw, the hammer (sock) throw, and the balloon pop! Everyone who participated received a gold medal, and we all had a great time being Olympians – even if it was for only one day!



Second Grade News by Angie Richter and Ann DeNure

It has been a fantastic fun-filled February. We started off seeing if the groundhog saw his shadow. They say spring is on its way (we shall see). On Monday, February 8 we celebrated the 100th day of school with multi-age activities. The students got to travel from room to room and create, draw, build, and write with "100." We prepared for the "year of the tiger" by learning about the Chinese New Year. On Thursday

of that week we saw the senior class play and a "math magic" assembly. We were fortunate to have lunch with our grandparents that same day. To finish off a full week, we celebrated Valentine's Day. Friday was also the opening ceremonies for the Second Grade Olympics.

Even though we are very busy, we still have time for the 3R's. In reading, we have started our new

book. Our lowercase cursive writing is complete, and now our work will be done in cursive. Thanks for all your help with math flashcards! What a difference a little practice can do.

It was nice discussing your child's progress with you at conferences. Think Spring!

Fourth Grade News by Jules Cappelle



Fourth grade students inspect one of the newest books in the elementary library, Life in a Farming Community by Lizann Flatt. The book is a favorite because it includes 16 pages about Monticello, WI. Photographs were obtained using the internet from Monticello residents Polly Brockert and Richard Grahn of www.greencountyspotlight.com

Information checking and advising for the book was done by Sally Braem, owner of Extended Stay Rooming House in Monticello.

Driver Ed Classes Offered

Classes will be starting April 5 and run through May 24, 2010 on Monday and Wednesday nights from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Monticello Schools. For more information contact Denise Indergand at 558-9816. The cost of the class and driving, and permit test is \$250.00.

Stock Market Challenge by Mr. Steele

Winners of the Stock Market Simulation were recognized and rewarded this month for their valiant effort of investing in our nation's turbulent market. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor students had the opportunity to win cash for their savvy investment strategies and writing skills. Students learned about several types of investments, diversification, risk, and the importance of investing for short term goals and the future.

In her essay about investing Tanya Smith wrote, "I learned a lot during this game. The most important thing I learned is that I should always be saving money.

You never know what's going to happen and I want to be prepared."

Evan Schultz noted, "Successful saving starts with the right strategy. Have a plan!" Andrew Fink stated, "The younger you decide to start thinking about your retirement the better. When you decide that you are ready to start saving for you retirement you should meet with a financial analysts to help you plan for your future."

Here are the final results for the top financial investors. Dividends for each place were divided equally among the eligible qualifying team members: First

Place shared \$200 –Brad Bernet, Paul Fenner, Ryan Kinstler, and Derek Gilbertson; Second Place shared \$100 – Evan Schultz, Eric Schmid, Dustin Trumpy, and Will Fenner; Third Place shared \$75 – Ashley Schmid, Karlie Klossner, Alex Henning, Tanya Smith, and C.J. Dilley; Fourth Place shared \$50 – Preston Berg, A.J. Secord, Lucas Carlino, Brian Rufener, and Nathan May; Fifth Place shared \$25 – Luke Kolasch, Austin Steffen, Katie Gierhart, Laine Havens, and Tera Sherwin. Essay winners each received \$25 – Evan Schultz, Tanya Smith, and Andrew Fink.

MHS Post Prom 2010

For the past five years, a group of concerned parents, teachers, and community organizations have pooled their resources to plan and hold a fun-filled alcohol and drug-free Post Prom event for Monticello High School students. Evidence shows that these types of organized events help kids to stay safe and prevent tragedies related to drinking and driving on prom night. We are already in the process of planning for the 2010 Post Prom, which will be held following the Junior Prom on **Saturday, May 8, 2010**. This year at the Junior Classes' request, we will be busing the students to the Ultra Zone in Madison. The Ultra Zone is Madison's premiere family entertainment spot, featuring laser tag. A link to the Ultra Zone website is included: <http://www.playlasertag.com/>

The committee is dependent upon donations to help with providing a fun event and to keep our students safe during prom night. Thank you to those of you who have already provided donations towards the 2010 Post Prom celebration. If you haven't already done so, please consider assisting with this important endeavor. There are several ways to support the MHS 2010 Post Prom Party:

- Provide a monetary donation of **\$50 or more** and your family's, organization's, or business's name will appear on the back of the Post Prom commemorative T-shirts as a major supporter.
- Provide a monetary donation of **up to \$49**, be acknowledged as co-sponsor of the event in promotional materials, and your monetary

donation will be used to cover costs of the event, such food, entertainment, and prizes

- Provide a gift card or gift certificate for gas, hair care, massages, movies, food, soda, or other items to be given as door prizes

Checks should be made payable to the MHS Post Prom Committee, c/o the Monticello Public Schools, 334 South Main Street, Monticello, WI 53570. To ensure contributions are received in order to acknowledge your contribution in promotional materials, please send it no later than April 16, 2010. Thank you in advance for your generous gift.

If you have any questions about the Post Prom Party, please contact Linda Marty at 938- 4194 or Barb Duerst at 938-4458 or any of the other Post Prom Committee Members.

Sixth Grade News by Judy Kiel

Sixth grade students were busy preparing for their Middle Ages Fair which took place in their classroom the morning of Feb. 25th from 9:00 to 11:45 p.m. Student build castles were on display as students role-played such guild members as bread-makers, glassblowers, fletchers, minters, herbalists, florists, blacksmiths, and other professions of the day. The King and Queen, prince and princess, guarded by two faithful knights, were hosting the festivities of the day. A devout Monk was also on hand to pen letters; it is hoped our traveling minstrel will carry these letters on to the next village for us. Parents and grandparents were welcome to come to tour the fair, as were elementary, middle school, and high school students.

In English, students have started their Career Unit. Students are working their way through a career booklet, taking aptitude and interest inventories, and are in the process of creating a career portfolio that will continue with them and be added to annually as they progress through to their senior year. Unfortunately, we will be unable to take part in Blackhawk Technical College's 6th Grade Career Day on Campus in Janesville due to job restructuring, but the technical college hopes to transition the program smoothly to next year's Career Day.

Science takes us from the study of ocean waves to the study of sound and light waves! During this time, students will learn the parts and function of the eye and

ear as well as experiencing many hands-on activities and experiments. Always a fun way to learn!

Students have begun reading their first trade book of the year, the Newbery Award winning book, **The Door in the Wall** written by Marquerite De Angeli. Some students may find this book a challenge at first as they become accustomed to the language used during the Middle Ages. If you would like to help your child read and discuss a few chapters as we progress through the book; it may be helpful and make reading more fun.

In Math we are learning about variables and algebraic expressions before we move on to prime factorization, the greatest

common factors (GCF), and the least common multiples (LCM)...and then, on the fractions!

As always, I want to do the best I can for your child. I try to

encourage good quality work, organization, and I believe in working cooperatively with a positive attitude. If you have questions or concerns about your child's academic progress, please

don't hesitate to call me or stop by before or after school to discuss these concerns with me.

Choral News by Dena Gordon

"Thank you" to our accompanists, Deb Hauri, Shelly Molencamp and Julie Kinstler for doing such a fine job of helping students get ready for the Solo-Ensemble Festival on Saturday, February 20th in Barneveld. We are so fortunate in Monticello to have such fine musicianship in our piano players.

With the Six Rivers East Solo-Ensemble Festival complete, the Middle and High School Chorus members will be working on their

spring concert and contest music. High School students are still picking out pieces, but the Middle School students have been busy learning their numbers.

Elementary students will be participating in the World's Largest Concert again this year. They also have been thinking about their spring concert songs and will be starting them in April.

The next Music Parents meeting will be on Monday, March 1st at 6:00p.m. in the choral room.

Music Students of the Week during January and February are Alexa Siegenthaler, Jonathan Errthum, Reece Rufer, Simon Blohowiak, Clare Gietzel, Marissa Peterson, Duncan McGonagle, Ali Risley, Sora Baker, Hallie Chicker, Jessica Schmid, Jack Krebs, and Emma Ness.

Band Notes by Mike Korth

This is the busiest time of year for Middle and High School Band students. This newsletter deadline is one day away from the **SRE Solo/Ensemble Festival at Barneveld**. The students have been working hard and juggling their schedules between school activities, snow days, and late starts. Regardless, we always do the best we can with the time available. All SRE schools will participate while students are judged on their Vocal, Piano, and Instrumental skills. Results will follow next month.

Besides Solo/Ensemble, the High School Band students have had a busy **Pep Band** month, and have been preparing music for the our **Band Trip to New York from March 25-30**. We are thankful to everyone who participated in our **"Cowbell with the Pep Band"** night. It was a success. Jason Pinnow, an 8-year percussion student here, was the

"lucky" winner. As always, he never missed a beat!

Our Band Trip to New York will begin at 4:00PM on Thursday, March 25. Seventy-six students, chaperones, and director be on charter buses for the 14-hour drive. We will have a busy itinerary. There will be three performing opportunities while we are there. Those will be at the Jersey Garden Outlet Mall, at Montclair University in upper Montclair, NJ, and at Henry Snyder Academy of the Arts High School in Jersey City, New Jersey.

While in New York City, we will be exploring Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Grand Central Station, the top of the Empire State Building at dusk, Greenwich Village, Central Park and Strawberry Fields, Harlem, see major landmarks such as Church and Grant's Tomb, Times Square, take a ferry to Ellis Island and to the Statue of Liberty on Liberty

Island, Battery Park, visit the 9-1-1 area which is almost 10 years past now, Wall Street, Federal Trinity Church, NY Stock Exchange, World Trade Center Memorial Site, Brooklyn Bridge, South Seaport, Chinatown, Rockefeller Center, and tour Radio City Music Hall and maybe see a Rockette or two. We will be eating at some interesting restaurants. We also are fortunate to be able to see Blue Man Group and Broadway's "Phantom of the Opera". We will be stopping at the Rock n Roll Hall of Fame on the way home.

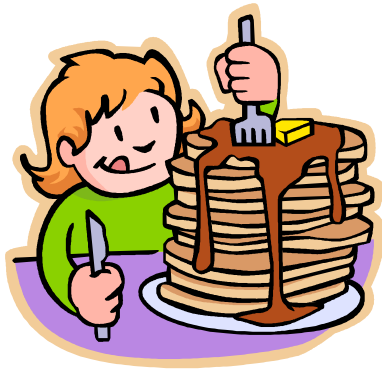
My students and I are very thankful for the support of our fund-raisers that we had. It would not be possible without those. The trip will be a mixture of music, education, learning, and fun. We will do our best to represent the community of Monticello in the way it should be. We are grateful for this opportunity.

Monticello Music Parents by Jean Adler, President

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our "Cowbell" fundraiser on February 15. The money we raised will be used to fund the High School Band Trip to New York later this month.

The winner of the first annual "Play Cowbell with the Band" was Jason Pinnow. Jason truly entertained the audience with his excellent cowbell skills.

Our students would be unable to take such a trip without the continued support of the community. Watch for this fundraiser again next season.



Time for the Lions/FCCLA Pancake Brunch!

Sunday, March 21st
7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Rehmstedt Gym

Tickets Available at the Door
\$6 Adults / \$3 Children under 12

Bring your appetite - It's all you can eat!

FCCLA News by Linda Marty

Wow! February and March are busy months for our FCCLA chapters! On February 26th, 13 members will be competing at regional STAR events at Oregon High School. Good luck to all competitors: Nicole Baebler, Jamie Statz, Hunter Pratt, Brock Westby-Hess, Evan Schultz, Alex Henning, Kelsey Jacobsen, Liz Pratt, Katie Studer, Megan Ball, Brittany Dubel, Jacob Marty and Kenny Swann. Regional representatives, Megan Ball and Michael Fink will be assisting with the competitions. Thank you to Cathy Fink, Jeff Lamb, Ken and Vicki Colle and Katie Kubly for being judges for this event. Any member who receives an 85% or above will move on to state competition in April.

One student, Evan Schultz is working on his Recycle and Redesign project, which encourages students to strive to find new ways to reuse items and

materials by redesigning them into a new, finished product. He feels strongly that if others could use this strategy it would "affect our lives today and the world tomorrow" as stated in the FCCLA creed.

Thank you to all the middle schoolers who contributed to the M.S. FCCLA penny war. We raised a total of \$198.27, which will be donated to Children's Miracle Network. The 6th graders won the battle and will be enjoying pizza as a reward.

The middle school members hosted our annual senior citizen dinner on February 18th. Thank you to all the parents for providing a dish for the dinner.

The middle school chapter will be providing bars for the blood drive on February 26th. In addition, 5 members will be assisting in the canteen area. It is great that

these members are willing to give up their day off of school to help out. Thanks to Alma Baumgartner, Lauren Schilder, Brecklyn Klosterman, Kuenzi Aeberhard and Maddie Bartels.

Upcoming events for the middle school chapter include our trip to the Kalahari Water Park on March 7th, a Tastefully Simple tasting party and sale, elementary food drive and a mini "lock-in" on March 26th. Members will also receive 4 tickets to sell for the Lions Pancake Breakfast on March 21st.

High School members have ordered books to donate to the Family Birth Center at the Monroe Clinic Hospital to give to new parents to encourage reading. They will be helping the Lions with the pancake breakfast on March 21st and also will have tickets to sell. We will be starting our annual candy bar sale on

March 1st. These delicious candy bars sell for only \$1.00 and are a tasty treat. This is our major fundraiser of the year so it supports our many activities. We appreciate your support. We will also be going to the elementary classrooms twice to provide candy bars to students who would like to purchase some. Members who plan to attend state conference will receive 25% of their sales to put towards hotel costs.

I am still waiting to receive information about state conference, April 6-8 at the Kalahari. This means that we will have a short time for registration. Members who want to attend should have talked this over with their parents and have a decision made. I will get out information as soon as I receive it.

Thank you to everyone for all of your support of our chapter. We appreciate your donations to our various food drives throughout the year, the food parents provide for our activities, parents who chaperone and encourage their members to participate, and those who support our fundraisers. My members are busy with many activities and your help is truly appreciated.

Food Drive - Elementary Classrooms - March 8-12

The middle school FCCLA chapter will be holding their annual food drive the week of March 8. Students in the elementary

grades will be asked to provide nonperishable food items or cash. The classroom that donates the most items per student will be rewarded with an ice cream sundae party, compliments of the middle school FCCLA chapter. All donations will be given to Green Cares, our local food pantry. In addition, our FCCLA chapter will be making a monetary donation to Green Cares. All nonperishable food items are appreciated but they could especially use canned fruits, pork and beans, and canned vegetables other than corn or peas. Thank you, in advance, for supporting this worthy cause.

Tastefully Simple Tasting Party and Sale:

The Middle School FCCLA will be hosting a Tastefully Simple Tasting Party on Monday, March 8th from 5:00 - 7:30 in the FACS (Family and Consumer Sciences) room. Tastefully Simple products are a variety of products to help you make quick and easy foods. There are sauces, dips, desserts, soups, and their famous bread mixes. Anyone is welcome, and encouraged, to attend the tasting party to try out some of these delicious foods. The spring line of food will just be starting so there will be some new items to try. You will be able to order items during the tasting party or FCCLA members will also be selling these items. If you would like to order something and are not contacted, please contact Linda Marty, at school. Thank you to Julie

Schwartzlow for your assistance with this project.

CTSO Week:

This year our FFA, FBLA and FCCLA chapters worked together to hold CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organizations) Week February 12-19. Thank you to the committee members who worked hard to put this week together: Megan Ball, Tyler Meier, Jacob Marty, Brett Hefty, Karlie Klossner and Aaron Hefty. We organized four teams with a variety of members from the high school chapters and all the 8th graders. They competed in 4 days of donations and 2 games. Monday we played Pony Basketball Shoot Out and finished off the week on Thursday with dodge ball. Monday's donation item was money and we collected \$171.68. Personal care items were collected on Tuesday with 249 items received. Wednesday we collected 378 non-perishable food items. The money and items from the first three days will be donated to Green Cares Food Pantry. Thursday we collected baby items for the Green County Pregnancy Center; we received 221 items. Thank you to everyone for your participation and all the donations! It was a great week and a wonderful outcome as we will be able to help many people with these donations. The red team won and enjoyed pizza for lunch on Friday.

UPCOMING DATES

March 8	Professional Development	12:24 p.m. Dismissal
March 30	Quarter 3 Ends	
March 31	Teacher In-service	No School
April 1-5	Spring Break	No School
May 29	Graduation	1:00 p.m.
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday	No School
June 7	Quarter 4/Semester 2 Ends	Last Day of School

The March Art Newsletter 2010

K-12 Art with Mr. Worachek

The **Kindergarten Artists** have created a trivet, and a turtle with ceramic clay. The next part of the sculptural unit will be to create fish with polystyrene Styrofoam. It will be cut, shaped, sanded, and eventually painted. When all the clay projects have been fired, they too will be colored with paint.

The **1st -3rd Grade Artists** have finished a decorative coil container, and are in the process of finishing a self portrait sculpture created with ceramic clay. They too will be painted. Usually clay projects are glazed, but due to the high cost of glaze, paint is less expensive, and more colorful.

The **4th -5th grade Artists** have finished their coil containers, and most of them have been fired. They will be coated with a clear transparent glaze, and fired again. Their next project will be a plaque with images of their choosing.

The **6th grade Artists** are learning how to Silk Screen on T-shirts brought from home. The first project is a one color, with a very simple design. They are learning how to create a paper stencil of an image, and slogans like I Love Dogs, or I'd Rather be Playing Video Games. The stencils are created with Exacto knives, which they have practiced with and have learned how to use

them safely. The final project is a 5 color design incorporating 3 different photos, to create a new and original design. They will use registration techniques to line up their stencils, so the colors line up in the right places when printed.

The **H.S. Art Classes** are creating a Two-faced sculpture, including a person's face on one side, and an animal of their choice on the other side. The challenge will be in putting it together. They have a good start on the faces. They will be very interesting when finished.

The **Advanced Art students** are working at an advanced level, some are creating paintings, some are creating drawings, and one student is working with ceramic clay.

Thank You for your continued support for the Arts in Monticello.

We are in need of recyclables, such as the Lean Cuisine trays; butter or Cool Whip containers with lids; or donations to purchase materials that run low this time of year. Thanks again for your donations.

Thanks,
Mr. Worachek
woracti@monitcello.k12.wi.us

**Featured Artists for March 2010
Desiree Marty, Grade 10, and
Kasey Westby-Hess, Grade 11**



Desiree Marty, grade 10 is a very talented art student. Desiree has always loved art ever since she was in the elementary. She works hard on her art, tries different mediums, and is a pleasure to have in Advanced Art Class.

Kasey Westby-Hess, grade 11, is a very fine artist. He is one of the most creative and talented artists I have had as a student of art. He is holding different parts of a rocket he has designed, and is creating it with ceramic clay. Kasey is also in Advanced Art class.



School District of Monticello

Calendar of Events

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 PTO Meeting Music Parents Meeting 6pm Band Trip Chaperone Meeting 7pm	2 BBB Regional Juda here 7pm Pep Band	3	4 BBB Regional tba	5 GBB Black Hawk 6pm	6 BBB Regional Final tba
7	8 Early Release at 12:24pm Tastefully Simple Tasting Party 5pm	9 GBB Regional tba Grade 10 to State Capitol	10 School Board Meeting 7:30pm	11 GBB Regional tba	12 BBB Sectional tba	13 GBB Regional Final tba BBB Sectional Final tba
14	15 MS BBB Albany 5pm	16 MS BBB Black Hawk 5pm	17 Family Reading Night 5:15pm	18 BBB State Tournament	19 GBB Sectional tba BBB State Tournament	20 GBB Sectional Final tba BBB State Tournament
21 Lions Pancake Breakfast 7am MHS Band Dress Rehearsal 6:30pm	22 MS BBB Albany	23 TR at Platteville	24	25 TR at Platteville GBB State Tournament Band departs for New York 4pm	26 MS FCCLA Mini Lock-In 3:15pm GBB State Tournament	27 GBB State Tournament
28	29 MS BBB at Juda	30 Band Returns Q3 Ends MS BBB at Pec	31 NO SCHOOL- INSERVICE DAY			



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