



**Dec-Jan-Feb-Mar
2015-2016**

**View our district's
calendar by going
to our website.**

**Under the "District
Info" tab. Click on
2015-16 School
Calendar.**

CONTACTING US

**High School:
570-368-2611**

**McCall:
570-368-2441**

**Loyalsock Valley:
570-435-0446**

**Lyter:
570-368-2614**

Montoursville Area School District

"Home of the Warriors"

THE MESSENGER

www.montoursville.k12.pa.us

Message from the Superintendent

The 2015-2016 school year is off to a great start for the Montoursville Area School District. Our students have done a great job in and out of the classroom. Our fall athletic teams all had great seasons and would like to thank all of you for your continued support. Our high school drama students did an outstanding job with the fall play and our high school band has thrilled audiences at every performance. It has certainly been an exciting fall.

The stadium renovation project regarding the artificial playing surface (Astroturf) and the new track are complete and were used throughout the fall athletic season. We feel this project went very well coming in on budget and providing us with a great facility. We sincerely thank the community and those directly involved in this project for their support. A special thank you goes out to those responsible for anonymously gifting half the funds to make this project successful.

With winter weather quickly approaching it is important that we have accurate contact information in our "Parentlink" phone system. Last year we began using this system to quickly communicate with our entire school community regarding weather related delays and or closures. We also use this system to communicate emergency and other important district information. I encourage you to make sure your contact information is still accurate. For those of you that use our "parent portal" you can use that system to update any needed contact information. For those of you who do not utilize our "parent portal" I would suggest contacting the secretary in your child's school if you have had a change in contact information from last year to this year. In most cases if you received calls from our parent link system last year and your contact information has not changed you should be all set to go for this year.

On behalf of the entire district thank you for sending us such great kids to work with and we hope you all enjoy a great holiday season. Please take time to enjoy the many community events our schools will offer over the next few months.

Happy Holidays for Montoursville Area School District

Message from the School Board

As the newly elected president of the Montoursville Area School Board I would like to introduce myself. My name is Ron Snell. I graduated from MHS in 1974. After a stint in the US Army I returned to reside and raise my family in the Montoursville Area School District.

It is my mission as well as the present boards to insure that all students in the district receive a quality education. The new board intends to proceed in a measured, deliberate and responsible way. I feel that the board working together with the administration can achieve this goal.

We will make every attempt to be transparent and we hope that all who are interested will plan on attending the board meetings. We appreciate input from the community and will make every effort to keep people abreast of the happenings of the district and to respond in a timely manner to questions and concerns. Our e-mail addresses are listed on the school's website.

We hope you and yours enjoy the holiday season and that you have a very happy and prosperous New Year.

News From Loyalsock Valley

The Calendar

January 4: Students Return to School from Holiday Break

January 18: No School (Snow Make Up #1)– MLK Day Observance

January 22: 2nd Marking Period Report cards issued

February 1: No School (or Snow Make-Up Day #2)

February 12: Valentine's Exchange

February 15: No School for students- Presidents' Day (or Snow Make Up #3)

February 26: Kindergarten Registration for 2015-2016

March 2: Dr. Seuss' Read Across America Day Activities

March 22: Parent Conferences (4:00-6:45 PM)

March 23: Act 80 Day- No School Grade K-4 only

March 23: Parent Conferences (10:00 AM – 6:45 PM)

March 24: No School for Students (Spring Break)

March 25: No School for Students (Spring Break)

March 28: No School (or Snow Make-Up Day #6)

March 29: No School (or Snow Make-up Day #5)

March 30: No School (or Snow Make-up Day #4)

April 11-15: PSSA ELA Testing – 3rd and 4th grade

April 18-22: PSSA Mathematics Testing – 3rd and 4th grade

April 25-29: PSSA Science Assessment – Grade 4

Running Club will be offered to 3rd and 4th graders at Loyalsock Valley from 3:30-4:30 on Tuesdays during December, January and February. The program is organized by the Montoursville cross-country team and coaches. The programs goal is to help students to stay active and have fun during the winter months! The program is free and signup sheets can be found in the guidance office.



Box Tops for Education- Spring Collection Drive & Other Reward Programs

The Valley PTO will begin its second Box Tops for Education Collection Drive of the school year on Monday, March 7th. Box Tops provide an easy way for the school to earn money for school activities and supplies. There is no selling involved, just the simple clipping and collecting of General Mills products with the "Box Tops for Education" logo, and sending those pieces to the school. The school, in turn, receives money for each collected Box Top. Anyone can participate. Collections will be accepted any time at the school during school hours or can be sent in with a student. Further information is available at the Box Tops website, www.bboxtops4education.com. The PTO sponsors a collection contest that will run March 7th through March 18th. The Valley PTO will provide prizes to the classroom that collects the most Box Tops. Also, keep in mind the Giant A-Plus rewards program which runs until early March. Target also has a school rewards program. If you have a Target card, you can designate funds to come to the school. The PTO continues to collect Campbell Soup can labels as well. Thank you to everyone for your assistance with these programs that benefit our students. Community members willing to donate Box Tops and/or Campbell's Soup labels may drop them off at the school office any week day throughout the year.

The Valley says a BIG "Thank You" to...

- *Montoursville, Eldred Township, and Plunketts Creek Volunteer Fire Companies...* for our annual Fire Prevention Activities and the Fire Prevention Poster Contest. Thank you so much for your dedication to our community and to teaching our students about fire safety. Students in grade K-4 created stories to promote good fire safety tips they learned during Fire Prevention Week. Volunteers from the various fire departments reviewed the submissions and chose one student in each grade level for a special grand prize. Those winners were awarded with a ride to school in a fire truck on November 24th. Grade level grand prize winners were Kindergarten: Wyatt H., 1st grade: Brody B., 2nd grade: Julie F., 3rd grade: Autumn M., and 4th grade: Madison C.
- *Faith United Methodist Church...* for its support in once again offering to fund the summer Kinder Camp program at the Valley and Lyter Elementary Schools. The program will be held for the tenth straight year this July. Kindergarten teachers use screenings to help determine which incoming students would benefit from this transition program that assists them in adapting to the kindergarten day.

PSSA is on the way

The annual state assessment tests are quickly approaching. 3rd and 4th grade students will take the PSSAs for English-Language Arts (ELA) the week of April 11-15 and the Mathematics assessments April 18-22, 2016. With the help of the PTO, students will get in the mood to "Do Our Best on the Tests" with the annual kickoff breakfast on April 11th.

Additionally the 4th grade students will take the Science PSSA during the week of April 25. Please refrain from scheduling any appointments or family excursion trips for your 3rd and 4th grade son or daughter during these time frames.

At Lyter

Lyter Elementary School held a Veterans Day celebration on Wednesday, November 11. The celebration was for all the students and faculty of Lyter Elementary and their military family members (active and retired). 111 Veterans attended the celebration making it the most in attendance in the 10 years the program has been held. Veterans were escorted by their family members to the student's classroom for introductions which was followed by a parade and a short assembly. Patriotic songs were sung by the students led by music teacher, Mrs. Kukuchka.

There was a guest speaker for the 4th grade students prior to the celebration. Retired High School Principal, Ray Huff, shared some of his military experiences during his time in the Air Force.

During the weeks prior to the celebration several activities were completed. Reading books and activity booklets were given to the students to work on. The 4th graders learned about the history of our country, American and Military Flag history, and the history of the Pledge of Allegiance. The 4th graders then completed a writing assignment about what they learned about Veterans Day and some of the students read their paragraph at the assembly.

Money was also donated by students and staff of Loyalsock Valley and Lyter Elementary School for the Honor Flight Network. This donation will help pay for travel expenses for Veterans to go to the Memorial in Washington DC. The total amount collected was \$650.00. For more information on Honor Flight go to www.honorflight.org.

Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices.

We transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans – World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill. Of all of the wars in recent memory, it was World War II that truly threatened our very existence as a nation—and as a culturally diverse, free society. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, an estimated 640 WWII veterans die each day. Our time to express our thanks to these brave men and women is running out.



At Loyalsock Valley

Loyalsock Valley Elementary School held a Veterans Day celebration on Friday, November 13. The celebration was for all the students and faculty of Loyalsock Valley Elementary and their military family members (active and retired). 63 Veterans attended the celebration making it the most in attendance in the 6 years the program has been held. Students and faculty wore their patriotic clothes to school. Veterans were escorted by their family members to the student's classroom for introductions which was followed by an assembly in the multipurpose room.

During the weeks prior to the celebration several activities were completed. Reading books and activity booklets were given to the students to work on. The 4th graders learned about the history of our country, American and Military Flag history, and the history of the Pledge of Allegiance. The 4th graders then completed a writing assignment about what they learned about Veterans Day and some of the students read their paragraph at the assembly. The music teacher, Mr. Carpenter, taught the students a song to sing to the Veterans during the assembly. Mr. Carpenter also played *Taps* on his trumpet.

Money was donated by students and staff of Loyalsock Valley and Lyter Elementary School for the Honor Flight Network. This donation will help pay for travel expenses for Veterans to go to the Memorial in Washington DC. The total amount collected was \$650.00. For more information on Honor Flight go to www.honorflight.org.

The students and staff at Loyalsock Valley Elementary would like to thank everyone who was a part of this special day and all Veterans for their military service.



Running club will be offered to 3rd and 4th graders at Lyter Elementary School from 3:30-4:30 on Mondays during December, January and February. The program is organized by the Montoursville cross-country team and coaches. The program's goal is to help students stay active and have fun during the winter months! The program is free, signup sheets can be found in the nurse's office.

2nd graders go caroling!



Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la la la la la...this year the second graders at Lyter were full of holiday spirit! On December 10th, the students stayed after school for a wintertime craft and caroling party. After a fun-filled night of pizza and crafts, the students went caroling throughout the streets of Montoursville. Hopefully you heard their beautiful voices as they spread some holiday cheer!

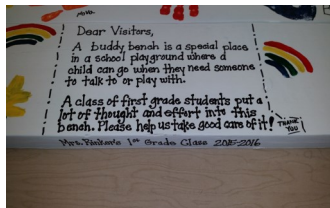
Have you Filled a Bucket?

For the fourth year, Lyter Elementary faculty and staff is excited to be utilizing their school wide positive behavior support plan, which was created around the book *Have you Filled a Bucket Today*, by Carol McCloud. In this story, every person carries an invisible bucket above his/her head. When we act kindly towards one another, we not only fill others' buckets but we also fill our own. However, when we act unkindly towards one another, we dip out of others' buckets as well as our own. A "bucket filler" is a student who has worked hard to fill others' buckets and to not dip from any others' buckets.

Lyter's faculty has been recognizing students who show random acts of kindness towards others by awarding Bucket Filler Slips. Every week, Mr. Kurtz recognizes one student per classroom who has displayed the qualities of a "Bucket Filler". So far this school year, Mr. Kurtz has recognized 250 students at Lyter Elementary School for going out of their way to help others.

Make sure to check out the Lyter Elementary section of the Montoursville School District website to see weekly updates on who has earned a Bucket Filler Certificate from Mr. Kurtz. Keep up the great work kids!

FRIENDS WANTED!



If you are looking for someone to play with at recess, try visiting Lyter's new Buddy Bench! What's a Buddy Bench? It's a special place on a school playground where a child can go when they need someone to talk to or play with. Thanks to Mrs. Rinker and her first

grade students, Lyter's playground now has its own bench so students no longer have to feel alone or that they have nobody to play with at recess. Mrs. Rinker's class designed the bench and taught everyone at Lyter what the bench is for. By asking others to play, we show them we care and that we don't want them to feel alone at recess time. Come and check it out next time you are at Lyter Elementary School!

*** Mrs. Rinker and her class would like to give a special "Thank You" to Danny Albert of Albert Custom Construction for donating the wood and to Mr. Stopper for his help putting the bench together.

LYTER WALK-A-THON 2015

Once again the community of Montoursville has come through in a big way. Through the efforts of our children, we raised more than \$15,000 during this year's walk-a-thon. The money raised will fund field trips, assemblies, educational materials for the classrooms, parties, and many other school activities. I would like to thank Mr. Cillo for serving as D.J., and Mrs. Missy Stutzman for spending many months organizing this event.

M.H.S. HOMECOMING COURT & FOOTBALL PLAYERS VISIT LYTER

During the month of October, Lyter students were treated to a visit by this year's Homecoming Court & members of the Montoursville Football team. The young ladies and young men took time out of their busy schedules to spend time reading to the children of Lyter. I want to thank the high school administration, Coach Keefer, Mr. Delong, and Mr. John Berresford for assisting with this event.

LYTER FOOD DRIVE

From Monday, November 16 to Friday, November 20, Lyter held a food drive for our local Salvation Army. They were in need of a variety of non-perishable food items for the upcoming holiday seasons. Our Salvation Army provides 41,000 meals to 20,000 families each year, and 660 Christmas food baskets to ensure that all those in need have a good Christmas meal. I am so proud to announce that the children at Lyter brought in more than 1,500 food items. Great job kids!

THANK YOU SAM'S CLUB

This school year Lyter was selected by our local Sam's Club to receive twenty \$50 gift cards. Twenty of our teachers were presented with a gift card at our October faculty meeting. To thank Sam's Club for this \$1,000 gift, five members of the fourth grade class accompanied me to Sam's Club in Muncy on Thursday, November 5. We presented them with a thank you banner signed by all our students and staff.

THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS

We want to thank the firefighters for the great fire safety program presented to Lyter students on October 9. The firefighters did a wonderful job of providing important educational information to our children. This is always a special day for our children.



The instrumental program at McCall has been very busy this fall.

The Beginner Band started with recruiting 60 new 5th grade members. With the start of the 2nd quarter, the band is rehearsing together.

The middle school band currently 121 strong (also known as the "Gold Band") had started the year by rehearsing for their fall marching season. Our 1st performance was our annual performance at the final home Jr. High Football Game on October 15th. The students learned marching techniques as well as a few of Montoursville's "favorite football fight songs". Our Jazz Band started up and is "swinging" away with charts for our concert.

All bands are rehearsing for the **December 16th** Christmas Concert to be held at C.E. McCall Middle School Commons.

RYAN'S CASE FOR SMILES

Each day, thousands of volunteers across North American work to provide hospitalized children with whimsical pillowcases, giving them an emotional boost and reminding them they are not defined by their illnesses. With every stitch, every yard of fabric and every pillowcase, we get one step closer to our goal of helping kids with life changing illnesses or injuries, feel better to heal better. This organization is called "Ryan's Case for Smiles."



18th Annual Science Fair at McCall

Each year, the 7th and 8th grade students at McCall have the opportunity to participate in a science fair. The date for this year's competition is **February 9, 2016** (snow makeup day February 11, 2016).

At the end of November or beginning of December, each 7th and 8th grade student received a packet of information from his/her science teacher. This packet will contain guidelines, rules, information on judging, list of prizes, and an entry form. Please ask your child to bring the packet home and spend some time discussing its contents with him/her. ***The entry forms will be due January 8, 2016.***

One of the goals of the science fair is to provide an opportunity for the parents and community to get involved with their children and the school. The science fair is open to the public throughout the day from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM with the awards presentations at 4:00



FOOD FIGHT AT McCALL!!

The Community Service Discovery class at McCall Middle School held a food drive during the month of October called the "Food Fight." Mrs. Gavitt's students organized the drive by having a competition between the homerooms to see who could bring the most food items in during the drive. Mrs. Beadle's 5th grade homeroom were the winners with a total of 256 items. The Food Drive collected a total of 1388 food items during a three week period. On Monday, 10/19/15, Mrs. Gavitt took her students to the United Churches of Lycoming County Food Pantry on Park Ave. in Williamsport where they delivered their donations and volunteered their time at the pantry. Congratulations to the students and staff at McCall for making the "Food Fight" a success!

More News From McCall...

McCall Student of the Month

September:

5th Grade – Sidney Burke, Cael Frame, Cadence Gephart, Naomee Mallery, Madison Moll, Drew Seese 6th Grade – Owen Blair, Kyrie Bomboy, Austin Cummings, Dylann Eck, Kylie Garlick, Alexis Hartland, Madelyn McLaughlin, Madeline Keeth, Lea Worthington 7th Grade – Lydia Barbour, Teanna Brennan, Andrew Head, Gabrielle Gair, Ezra Mason, Mackenzie Paternostro, Rose Saul, Baily Stonecypher, Haley Zartman 8th Grade – Zoey Bird, Madeline Farber, Connor Mattie, Alexandria McKenna, Koby Wilson

October:

5th Grade – Lydia Earnest, Cole Johnson, Simon Ramsey, Kane Wright, Mahlon Yonkin 6th Grade – Edward Brown III, Madison Dembitsky, Kristen George, Ian Labatch, Abigail McLaughlin, Benjamin Nields, Nicholas Reeder, Lily Saul 7th Grade – Hannah Albert, Shelby Beltz, Logan Carey, Molly Chapman, Elon Feiock, Elias Hunt, Ethan Lepley, Lauren Marks, Annaliese Spitler-Straley 8th Grade – Sherry Chen, Kyle Dirk, Alex McWilliams, Ian Plankenhorn

November:

5th Grade – Emma Eck, Keyarah Garcia, Connor Imbro, Shyanne Klemick, Ruby Muse, Kayden Smith, Abigail Zartman 6th Grade – Arianna Cozzi, Halie Marriott, Daniel McCafferty, Cole Remsnyder, Sara See, Alexa Tupper, Zachariah Way 7th Grade – Kylie Andrews, Gabrielle Cornish, Kristopher Cornish, Dominic Fredin, Dalton Hinds, Benjamin Huff, Aidan Morrow 8th Grade – Alissa Bausinger, Julia Bradley, Sara Conrad, Cole Ranck, Abigail Shoemaker, Kendra Tucker, Morgan Umstead

News From The High School



I am planning to take a student/parent/adult trip to the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador in June of 2016. We will be checking out the Charles Darwin Research center, home of the world famous Galapagos tortoises; visiting and snorkeling at several of the islands; taking a volcano walk; and many other fun activities. If you are interested in joining us, you should be signed up by the beginning of the year. To get all of the details and to sign up - go to www.eftours.com and enter the tour number 1616744YJ. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at tmorgan@montoursville.k12.pa.us

Turtles here we come! Submitted by: Tammy Morgan



Mu Alpha Theta, the Montoursville chapter of the National Mathematics Honors Society, is excited to announce its membership for the 2015-2016 academic year. Members this year: Ashley Cipicic (treasurer), Isaac Davis, Kimberly Foster, Sarah Nields, Collin Payne (president), Mikala Shaffer, Cheyenne Wood, Cassandra Crouse (new member and vice-president), Lacy Kimberling (new member), Ashley Little (new member and secretary), Gillian Mitchell (new member). Induction ceremonies were held Thursday, November 12th in the high school library and were led by current members. General requirements for membership in the society include completion of Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry by the end of the junior year with a minimum average in all mathematics courses of 92%. There are additional requirements and benefits of membership that we encourage all students to explore as they build their resumes and experience for the future.

COUNSELING SUPPLEMENT

COLLEGE ADMISSION ACTIVITIES

The senior year is quickly passing. Students and parents are urged to read thoroughly all information received from the colleges for which your son or daughter is seeking admission. Please be alert to **application deadlines**. For applications to be sent before Christmas vacation, all materials must be received in the Counseling Office by December 15.

The other deadline which is critical is the **Financial Aid deadline**. We are hoping to host a free FAFSA completion workshop in February. For those colleges who require the **CSS Profile**, deadlines vary. However, they are earlier than other forms of aid and the process should be started immediately. More information on the FAFSA can be found at www.fafsa.gov. More information on the CSS profile can be found at www.collegeboard.org.

NOTICE TO PARENTS OF COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS

PASFAA Position Statement

Financial Aid Planning & Scholarship Search Companies

The goal of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (PASFAA) is to advise students and their families seeking financial assistance for post-secondary education. PASFAA provides free services to students about financial aid availability and the application process.

Financial Aid Administrators offer their expertise with regard to eligibility and availability of state, federal and institutional programs. Assistance in the proper and accurate completion of the necessary forms which students use to apply for the various available programs is also provided.

PASFAA encourages all interested students and their families to first inquire about financial aid through the financial aid office of the post-secondary institution they are interested in attending. PASFAA members strive to provide professional, accurate advice to students that are free of cost, and is provided in a timely manner.

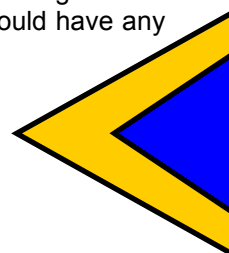
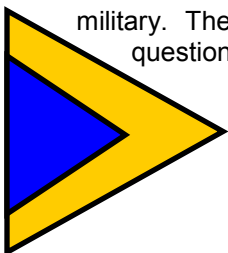
PASFAA acknowledges the growing number of businesses offering financial aid planning and financial aid application assistance. However, given the diversity of services provided by these businesses, PASFAA members may not be in a position to address the legitimacy, reputation, or effectiveness of these companies. Ultimately, the responsibility for determining the potential benefit to be derived from these services lies with the student and the parent.

PSAT and PSAT 8/9 ADMINISTERED

On October 14, 2015, all juniors and sophomores took the College Board's Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). While primarily an exam geared to juniors, it is felt that it would be beneficial to allow sophomores to take the exam as well. All freshman took the PSAT 8/9 on the same day. The students' scores, original test booklets, and interpretive materials will be returned prior to the Christmas Vacation and Mrs. Albert will present on how to understand the scores.

ASVAB ADMINISTERED

On November 19, 2015, the Armed Services Vocational Battery (ASVAB) was administered to interested students. The ASVAB is a series of ten subtests used to measure a student's aptitude in vocational/technical areas. Although the ASVAB is designed for military entrance requirements, students may find that the information gained relative to their vocational aptitudes might assist in postsecondary planning, be it schooling or occupational pursuits. It is administered and scored by military personnel. The test is free and places the student under no obligation to the military. The ASVAB is a voluntary test and requires a signed parental consent form. If you should have any questions or be in need of additional information, contact Mrs. Albert at the high school.



AP SCHOLARS AWARDS

Mrs. Rupert, Advanced Placement Coordinator, has announced the following outstanding achievements of those students who were enrolled in AP classes and took the AP exam last May.

Thirty-three students at Montoursville Area High School have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams for the 2015 school year.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 20 percent of the 2.1 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

Two students qualified for the highest honor-National AP Scholar. This designation is given to students who receive an average score of at least 4 (out of 5) on all AP Exams taken and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. The National AP Scholars for the 2014-15 school year are Amelia Deacon and Nevan Schulte.

Ten students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are Jamie Atondo, Tristan Bailey, Amelia Deacon, Sean Little, Mackenzie Rodrigues, Nicholas Russo, Nevan Shulte, Staci Shoemaker, Cayla Treaster, and Jennifer Twardowski.

Nine students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are as follows: Marissa Folk, Autumn Hall, Aleksandr Kraft, Kayla O'Brien, Collin Payne, Jasmine Silver, Shelby Simon, Daniel Yeagle and Haylee Young.

Fourteen students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are Isaac Davis, Rachel Eichenlaub, Alex Fischer, Kimberly Foster, Cole Karschner, Jacob Kiessling, Elizabeth Lee, Sarah Nields, Kelsey Rogers, Mikala Shaffer, Megan Stoner, Zachary West, Sonja Williams, and Cheyenne Wood.

Congratulations to all students and teachers involved!

A REMINDER TO CHECK INFORMATION FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE ON-LINE

Mrs. Albert and Mrs. Rupert would like to remind students and parents to check the counseling website. You can find information on many topics, including scholarships that are available for students in the counseling office. Mark your calendars now to especially check the site in April; this is when the applications for the Montoursville Area School District scholarships become available. A link for "MAHS Counseling" can be found on the High School webpage. Please be advised that this site is currently under construction, so please check back if you cannot find what you are looking for on our new webpage.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

As part of the scheduling process, your son or daughter will need to consider whether he or she would like to enroll or continue in vocational education. Most vocational education programs prepare students to obtain entry-level job skills so that they will qualify for a job following high school graduation. Further training at a postsecondary education institution is also an option. Please take time to read this important information and to discuss career goals and choices in vocational education with your daughter or son. Students in 9th grade will be receiving information from

NON-HOME SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Vocational/Technical Education opportunities for 10th, 11th, & 12th grade students (2016-2017) of the Montoursville Area School District will be provided by the Lycoming Career and Technology Center (LCTC) of school districts comprised of: Montoursville, East Lycoming, Muncy, Warrior Run, and Loyalsock.

Transportation will be provided by the MASD to LCTC. Students must provide their own transportation for senior co-op programs.

Various clusters of Vocational/Technical Education available to MASD students (10, 11, and 12) and locations are as follows:

CLUSTERS

	LOCATION
1. Drafting & Design Technology.....	Lyco CTC/Hughesville Jr/Sr High School
2. Construction Technology	Lyco CTC/Hughesville Jr/Sr High School
3. Automotive Technology	Lyco CTC/Hughesville Jr/Sr High School
4. Culinary Arts	Lyco CTC/Hughesville Jr/Sr High School
5. Criminal Justice (Law Enforcement).....	Lyco CTC/Hughesville Jr/Sr High School
6. Health Careers	Lyco CTC/Hughesville Jr/Sr High School
7. Early Childhood Education	Ashkar Elementary School in Hughesville
Computer Service Technology.....	Lyco CTC/Hughesville Jr/Sr High School

Note: All clusters are open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students (2016-2017).

Also, Agriculture and Business programs will be available in the home school (MAHS) regular program; (Grades 9-12).

At the present time, clusters at LycoCTC for MASD students will occur in two-hour blocks every day for the entire school year. Thus, five (5) periods each day will be available to schedule regular academic classes.

HIGH SCHOOL DEFICIENCY LETTERS FOR SENIORS

With the issuance of mid-year report cards, the high school counseling department will mail letters to parents of seniors who appear to be in danger of not completing graduation requirements and, consequently, not receiving a high school diploma.

Established requirements for graduation include the successful completion of specified subjects plus the accumulation of 26.0 credits and demonstrated proficiency in reading and mathematics in accordance with Chapter 4 Regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

It is hoped that the mid-year letter will give concerned students and parent's sufficient time to take whatever positive steps are necessary to remove deficiencies and to be assured that a diploma will be earned.

CAREER/COLLEGE SELECTION PROGRAM PRESENTED

Early in the spring, Mrs. Albert will be presenting a program for how to choose a career/college, as well as explaining and distributing information on the SAT and ACT to all juniors. The primary purpose of the presentation is to introduce prospective college applicants to a systematic approach to choosing a college. The program will focus upon the various factors to consider when selecting a college, the mechanics of applying to a college, and how colleges determine an applicant's qualifications for admission. The presentation will also cover options other than college, such as employment and military.

PENN COLLEGE SPRING VISITATION DAY

On Saturday, April 2, 2016, The Pennsylvania College of Technology will be holding Spring Visitation Day. The shops in the various college programs will be open for visitation. Instructors will be present to answer questions, and students will be on hand to operate and explain exhibits and displays. We feel this is a good opportunity for parents to become involved in their child's educational plans and have an opportunity to observe firsthand the program of study their child will be pursuing. In addition, the admissions staff will be making presentations to students and parents for those interested in attending Penn College after high school. Interested students can register online at Penn College's website: www.pct.edu/openhouse or by calling the Admissions Office at 327-4761.

FINANCIAL AID FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

There are three primary sources of financial aid to seniors who plan to attend a college, business or vocational school, or school of nursing. These are the state (PHEAA) grant, the federal (Pell) grant, and the financial aid package from the school or college that the student plans to attend.

The PHEAA Grant and Pell Grant are accessed through one application (FAFSA). It is strongly encouraged that you file the FAFSA via the internet. Be sure to go to the current website, which is www.fafsa.ed.gov. You and your senior must also apply for a FSA ID prior to completing the FAFSA on-line at www.fsaaid.ed.gov. Student and parent must have separate email addresses.

At their discretion, some colleges may require the CSS Profile. Please check the instructions sent by your college or check with the Financial Aid Office to determine if the CSS Profile is required.

FAFSA applications must not be submitted before January 1, 2016, but they should be submitted as soon thereafter as possible. Promptness in filing will result in early information regarding the amount of financial aid for which you are eligible. The applications will require 2014 tax information.

Parents should prepare income tax forms as early as possible. It is important that financial aid applications be submitted early, since many colleges make awards on a "first come, first served" basis. Once all the funds are dispersed those who submit applications will not be awarded grants. Deadlines vary for each college; contact the college financial aid office for these dates. Always follow the earliest deadline from your college list.

In addition to the above sources, students who meet eligibility requirements may apply for the Stafford Loan Program by marking yes on the appropriate question on the FAFSA form. Repayment does not begin until six months after graduation or withdrawal from school. A master Promissory Note will be sent upon completion of the FAFSA if you answer yes on the application question regarding the Stafford Loan Program.

A Financial Aid Night was held at MAHS on October 28, 2015. The PowerPoint presentation from this night is on the counseling website.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Seniors need to be especially aware of opportunities to apply for scholarships throughout the coming months. The scholarships available through the counseling office are listed on the counseling website under the "For Seniors" link. There are also handouts available in Mrs. Albert's office. The applications for the scholarships that are available to the MAHS seniors only will be available on the counseling website beginning April 1, and will have a strict deadline announced at a later date. You may call Mrs. Albert at 368-2611/ext. 5031 with any questions regarding scholarships.

SUMMER PROGRAM OFFERED TO SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS

Applications are available online at www.pfew.org for sophomores and juniors interested in attending Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week this summer. The program will be held on the campuses of Lycoming College and the Pennsylvania College of Technology. The purpose of the program is to teach students various aspects of the private free enterprise system. The students will divide into teams with the task of turning an imaginary company into a financial success. Also, various speakers representing career fields such as finance, engineering, manufacturing, advertising, and politics will make presentations.

Students must live on campus for the entire week and will be able to choose the dates of attendance from among four different sessions. Cost to students for program materials, room and board amount to \$1500.00, paid for by scholarships for those attending. However, there is a non-refundable registration fee of \$285.00 which may qualify for financial aid or as a payment plan.

The "Early Bird" deadline is March 4, 2016 and final deadline is April 8, 2016. Students may apply directly at www.pfew.org.

Traffic Safety

learn safe driving "By the Numbers"



In a crash, unbuckled passengers can become a projectile and increase the risk of hurting or killing others in the car by **40%!**

When you buckle up, you protect your child.

In a crash, your seatbelt keeps you from flying into your child, which could injure or kill.

BUCKLE UP – EVERY ONE – EVERY TIME!

Community Traffic Safety Project 570-433-0820

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration will take place on Friday, February 26, 2016 at Lyter Elementary School. In order to keep your waiting time at a minimum, parents with a last name beginning A through M are asked to register from 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and parents with a last name beginning N through Z should register at the 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. session. More detailed information will be available on the school district webpage, www.montoursville.k12.pa.us as the date approaches.

Please note that any student to be registered for kindergarten must be five years of age **prior to September 1, 2016.**

Contacting Us...

Lyter Elementary School

900 Spruce Street
Montoursville, PA 17754
Phone: 368-2614

Loyalsock Valley Elementary School

3790 Route 87 Highway
Montoursville, PA 17754
Phone: 435-0446

C. E. McCall Middle School

600 Willow Street
Montoursville, PA 17754
Phone: 368-2441

Montoursville Area High School

100 North Arch Street
Montoursville, PA 17754
Phone - Main Office: 368-2611 * Guidance: 368-3547 *
Athletics: 368-3513

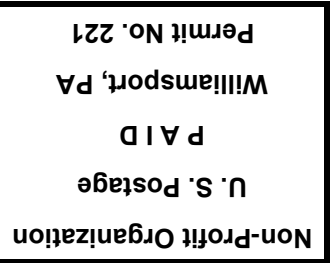
Montoursville Area School District

Administrative Offices

50 North Arch Street
Montoursville, PA 17754
Phone - Superintendent: 368-2491 * Taxes: 368-7564 *
Business Manager: 368-3500 * Curriculum: 368-3552 *
Special Education: 368-3502

If you wish to anonymously report suspicious or illegal activities on district property or at district events, call the School Resource Office at 570-368-3554 or e-mail mstorms@montoursville.k12.pa.us . If an immediate response is necessary, please call 911. All information will be kept confidential.

ECWSS



Montoursville Area School District
50 North Arch Street
Montoursville, PA 17754