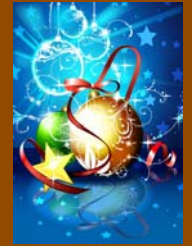




From the: Bears Den



(A Quarterly Newsletter From the Superintendent)

VOLUME II, ISSUE 2

WINTER 2009

Message from the Superintendent

It is really hard to believe that we are into the holiday season and will soon begin the second half of the 2009-10 school year. Several initiatives have taken place during this time. We are pleased with the outcome of our Elementary Playground upgrade. We now have a safe and updated area for our children with room for growth in the future. Another project that should be completed by the time you receive this newsletter is the renovation of our water delivery system. We have completely eliminated the use of our 50 year old storage tanks and replaced them with the use of Variable Force Drive (on demand) pumps. This should assist us in avoiding problems in the future.

In closing, I would just like to say that I am reminded on a day to day basis of the tremendously talented students and staff we have. If you have not had the chance please take the opportunity to visit us either in person or on the web at :

www.monroecentral.org

Sincerely,

Shane Robbins

MCE Recognizes Local Veterans

The students and staff presented a Veterans Day program for local veterans. The program was an opportunity for the school community to say thank you for the sacrifice and service of our local veterans.



The program was emceed'd by Mr. Koch and featured vocal performances by Mrs. Sarah Morgan, Mrs. Gaby Lacy, and a duet with Mrs. Mandy Bly and her daughter Allie. Mr. Brent Chamness read the "Gettysburg Address" and Mr. Larry Mitchell read a poem entitled "The Wall." After the playing of taps Mr. John Moore read a poem

describing the meaning of each of the 13 folds of the flag as our local cub scout troop performed the flag folding ceremony. It was a great way to honor those who have served in our Nation's armed forces.



Band and Choir Concert Puts Everyone in the Mood for Christmas!

The Monroe Central "Fine Arts" department presented a Winter Concert titled "Christmas Around the World." The Band, directed by Mr. Stacey Briggs and the Choir, directed by Mrs. Diane Chalfant, provided attendees an evening filled with festive music that featured performances from groups in both the vocal and instrumental specialties. Songs performed included Christmas favorites ranging from "Jingle Bell Rock" to "Let it Snow." The evening concluded with a combined Choir and Band performance of a song titled "A Holiday Sing-A-Long." The



Fine-Arts department include more than just festive music. Also a part of this years program was the viewing of work on display from Mr. Jeff Wagner's Art classes. Patrons had the opportunity to view the student work, on display in the hallways, both before and after the Christmas Concert. If you did not have the opportunity to attend you missed out on seeing the tremendous amount of talent possessed by the students within our school corporation. Check the calendar for upcoming events!

Research Links Exercise to Academic Achievement



Written by Elizabeth Duffrin... A recent study found that students who scored higher on a state-wide Fitness Gram in 5th, 7th and 9th grade also scored substantially higher on state-wide standardized tests in math and reading, even when it controlled for poverty. That doesn't prove that fitness caused higher test scores, but it does suggest a correlation, says Diane Wilson-Graham, a physical education consultant with the California Department of Education. The study was based on records of 954,000 students. Sev-

eral studies found that replacing some class time with physical education boosted standardized math scores, according to a review of the research by Action for Healthy Kids. (For more, see "The Learning Connection" at: www.actionforhealthykids.org)

The research that directly links a healthy weight to academic achievement is still tenuous, reports Action for Healthy Kids. Some research has found that overweight children are more likely to have low test scores, but both could be

the result of other factors, such as poverty. However, one recent study that controlled for the mother's education level and other factors found that overweight boys were more likely to have lower math test scores. Overweight children are more likely to suffer from depression, which could potentially impact their school performance. Severely overweight children report a quality of life similar to that of children battling cancer, according to a study that appeared in the April 2003 *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Elementary Playground.....

Although the timeliness of the upgrade to the Elementary Playground was not the most ideal, none the less the Monroe Central Elementary students now have a much more safe and hopefully enjoyable playground. By utilizing funds leftover in the building project, coupled with a generous donation from the Elementary PTO, we were able to make great strides in upgrading the elementary playground. After a site visit from the Insurance Company last summer revealed safety issues with several of our older pieces of equipment we began

speaking with playground specialists to put together a proposal that would allow us to provide our students with not only more, but safer equipment. The project included the removal of two slides and merry-go-rounds that failed a safety inspection. In the process several new items were added, a new "playground grade" mulch was added and trees that were identified by the insurance company as barriers to proper supervision were removed. The end result has been that we now have a safer area for our students with room to grow in the future.



Upgrades Completed to the Water Delivery System at MCSC

The upgrade was completed by “Peerless Midwest” in coordination with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

Over Christmas break the Monroe Central School Corporation completed a project which began with a bad water test last spring. The solution was to bypass the 50 year old storage tanks and go to a more modern direct drive system. Part of the strategy was suggested by consultants, and approved by IDEM, who recommended our storage capacity was in major excess of our demands. Director of Buildings and Grounds, Brian Brady and certified water operator,

Michelle St. John, have been taking weekly water tests over the course of the past several months to ensure our water supply was in compliance with state standards. Recently the state has moved the school’s testing to a monthly basis with the hopes of returning to the standard quarterly test with the completion of the infrastructure improvements. Contingency plans are in place to make additional improvements if needed. “The state made this recommendation and everyone involved believe it will be the most economical and efficient solution” Brady stated.

Say Hello to our Winter Character Counts Recipients



Gena Ruble

“Bus drivers are just a few of the unsung heroes whose

services often go unnoticed. Gena Ruble is one of those special people. She welcomes our students with a smiling face and cheerful gesture every day. She has displayed several acts of kindness and selfless service. She is just one of those people who make Monroe Central a special place.”

Chandler Bush

Instead of participating in a class gift exchange my



class donated money to buy presents for one girl and one boy from our Angel Tree. Chandler was so moved that he took on extra chores at home to earn extra money to donate to our class angel tree fund.



Tracy Koch

“Mr. Koch has long served as a teacher at MCE. His

family has been managing the stress of dealing with a serious illness in their family. Outsiders would have no idea because Mr. Koch approaches his responsibilities of teaching music with a positive outlook and de-

meanor. He maintains his upbeat approach as he shares his love of music with the students at MCE.”



J.D. Akers

“J.D. has served the community

in several ways over the years. As a retired state police officer he spends his time serving in one capacity or another at his church. J.D. has always been supportive of the students at Monroe Central and he has what many describe as impeccable character.”

The narratives are only summaries of our recipients nomination. Please visit our Character Counts Wall for a full write-up.

MC Monroe Central School Corporation
 (765)468-6868



**CHECK OUT OUR
 NEW WEBSITE**
<http://www.monroecentral.org>

- Shane Robbins- *Superintendent*
- Reece Mann- *Director of Student Services*
- Adrian Moulton- *Jr.-Sr. High Principal*
- Doug Jacobs- *Elementary Principal*
- Ron Downing- *Director of Operations*
- Brian Brady, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*
- Les McEldowney- *Director of Technology*

Board of Trustees

- Clyde Shaffer-President
- Kim Oliphant-Vice President
- Terry Addington-Secretary
- Bob Chalfant-Member
- Dennis Pattty-Member

You're Invited!

You are invited to attend meetings of the Board of Education of the Monroe Central School Corporation. The meetings are conducted the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Visit us on the web at;
www.monroecentral.org

The technology department has been working on the creation of a new website. We hope the new site will provide a clearer platform in communicating with our patrons. We will attempt to update the information found on the webpage more frequently so that it may indeed become a useful communication tool. STAY TUNED!

CHARACTER COUNTS

- Trustworthiness*
- Respects*
- Responsibility*
- Fairness*
- Caring*

ABOUT THE MONROE CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION.....

The Monroe Central School Corporation, formed in 1956, is a consolidation of Green, Stoney Creek, Parker, and Farm-land schools. On Wednesday, April 3, 1974, MC Jr.-Sr. High School was destroyed by a tornado. The new high school facility, built on the same site as the old high school, was first

occupied in April of 1978. The Monroe Central Elementary School opened in 1983. The jr/sr high school has been expanded to include the new auxiliary gymnasium and the Millennium Wing that contains several new classrooms and a large meeting room.

Current Resident

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 Parker City, IN 47368