

# Minisink Valley CSD

*We teach someone you love.*

District Newsletter August 2008

## PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The Minisink Valley Parent Teacher Organization is a welcome partner in all of our schools. The PTO provides many opportunities for involvement in our schools. For the past several years, this fine organization has brought literacy initiatives to the forefront of their efforts. A very successful pre-school reading hour is held every other week in our middle school library. In addition, they have started a pre-K book borrowing program called the 1000 Book Club in both of our elementary school buildings. Programs like these two continue to make a positive difference for our students. The PTO welcomes your membership and participation. Look for information in building newsletters and on our website, as well as at our open houses in September.

## OTISVILLE ELEMENTARY RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Hundreds of community members took the opportunity to tour the new Otisville Elementary School after a ribbon cutting ceremony that featured NYS Senator John Bonacic as the guest speaker. The school will first open its doors to students on Wednesday, September 3, 2008.



## PROJECT COOPERATION



Under the direction of middle school teachers, Jen Pagnanella and Alycia DeVito, Project Cooperation saw another successful year. Two hundred and twenty-three students attended this summer program designed to help ease the transition from intermediate school to middle school. Students participated in events centered around team-building activities and ice-breaker games. Over the duration of the camp, students were given the opportunity to cook, tie dye t-shirts, act out skits demonstrating the Minisink Five, take a tour of the building, learn how the middle school schedule works, and practice opening their lockers. Afternoon activities were centered around the themes of health and awareness, sports, and water activities. During this time, groups rotated through stations that included a dunking booth, zumba, tug-of-war, tennis, and various other activities. In addition, students watched a presentation by "Birds of Prey," swam at the high school pool, and ended the week with a picnic lunch and ice-cream at Shannen Park.

**SCHOOL OPENS SEPTEMBER 3 - Welcome Back**

### **Minisink Valley CSD**

P.O. Box 217, Rte. 6, Slate Hill, NY 10973

### **Board of Education**

Ethel Crow, *President*, Michelle McDonald, *Vice-president*  
Alfred Gibbs, John M. Lenane, Shawn O'Connor, Robert Prokopchak, Gina Richichi, Paul Rickard, Joan Romanyschyn

### **Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Martha Murray

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**Newsletter**  
Debbie Roda

# From the Superintendent's Desk

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The rhythm and meter that develop in schools between September and June are the heartbeat of education. They are steady and predictable. The rhythm of the school year is unique to education. It is fast-paced and packed with learning, growth, and feelings of achievement. The planning that we demonstrate in structuring our curriculum and delivering instruction is, in itself, a lesson for students. By leading them through a well-planned year, we help set the tempo for their futures.

This year the entire district looks forward to opening the new Otisville Elementary School in the Town of Mount Hope. This is a school building of which the entire school district can be proud. It was good to see so many families attend the ribbon cutting ceremony on August 17 and tour the building for the first time. We hope that those of you who were unable to join us will get to see your new school as you attend open houses, concerts, plays and other evening activities throughout the year. This new building has allowed all of our students in our K-5 programs to move to improved instructional spaces.

The 2008-2009 school year will see the implementation of our five-year strategic plan to improve teaching and learning throughout the district. We will have regular updates on the strategic plan page of our web site, [www.minisink.com](http://www.minisink.com). As you look over the plan, you will see that our faculty, staff and administration, with the support of the board of education, is committed to continuous improvement. Just as we expect our students to grow each year, we will strive to get better at what we do.

Opening day is all set for September 3, 2008. We will be glad to have our students back. We know that the year will present a number of challenges as well as a number of opportunities to excel. Our most important challenge will be to provide our students with the quality education they will need to be successful in a rapidly changing but exciting world. We will strive to provide this education in an environment that is safe and open and that will allow each child to prosper. We believe we can make a difference in the lives of the children and young people of this community. The community has every right to be proud of our schools - in our classrooms, on our fields and courts and on our stages. We welcome the participation of the entire community as we get back into the rhythm.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martha Murray  
Superintendent of Schools

## 2008-09 School Board Meetings

Middle School Room 108 - 8:00 PM

- July 10, 24
- Aug. 7, 21
- Sept. 4, 18
- Oct. 2, 23
- Nov. 6, 20
- Dec. 4, 18
- Jan. 8, 22
- Feb. 5, 19
- Mar. 5, 19
- Apr. 2, 23
- May 7, 21
- June 4, 18

**SCHOOL OPENS  
SEPTEMBER 3**



## 2008 - 2009 Student Calendar

September	1	School Closed - Labor Day
	2	School Closed - Supt's Conf. Day
	3	First Day of School for Students
	30	School Closed - Rosh Hashanah
October	9	School Closed - Yom Kippur
	13	School Closed - Columbus Day
	24	½ Conf. Day
November	4	School Closed - Supt's Conf. Day
	11	School Closed - Veteran's Day
	21	½ Conf. Day
	26	School Closed - Conference Day
	27-28	School Closed - Thanksgiving
December	5	½ Conf. Day
	24	School Closed - Winter Recess
	25	School Closed - Christmas Day
	26-31	School Closed - Winter Recess
January	1	School Closed - New Year's Day
	2	School Closed - Winter Recess
	19	School Closed - Dr. M. L. King Day
	27-30	Regents Exams Tentative
February	6	School Closed - Conference Day
	13-16	School Closed - Presidents' Wkd.
March	13	½ Conference Day
	30	School Closed - Conference Day
April	9	School Closed - Passover
	10	School Closed - Good Friday
	11-19	School Closed - Spring Recess
May	25	School Closed - Memorial Day
June	16-25	Regents Exams Tentative
	26	Last Day HS Graduation

### VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

For the ongoing safety of our students, visitors to our schools will have to show identification when they sign in. Please have picture ID ready.

## OPEN HOUSES

Otisville Elementary  
Grades 3-5 - Tues., Sept. 16, 7:00 PM  
Grades K-2 - Wed., Sept. 17, 7:00 PM

Minisink Elementary  
Wed., Sept. 17, 7:00 PM

Intermediate School  
Mon., Sept. 15, 6:00 PM

Middle School  
Grade 6 - Mon., Sept. 22, 6:30 PM  
Grades 7/8 - Tues., Sept. 23, 6:30 PM

High School  
Thurs., Sept. 25, 6:30 PM

## *Contact Us*

Good communication between home, school and community is important. Our automated system means that you will be able to leave voice mail messages after hours. These will be retrieved and answered promptly.

Otisville Elem. School	8am - 4pm	355-5850
MV Elementary School	8am - 4pm	355-5270
MV Intermediate School	8am - 4pm	355-5250
MV Middle School	7am - 3:30pm	355-5200
MV High School	7am - 4pm	355-5150
Transportation	7am - 4:30pm	355-5140
Pupil Personnel	8am - 4pm	355-5105
Business Office	8am - 4pm	355-5120
Personnel Office	8am - 4pm	355-5810
Central Admin.	8am - 4pm	355-5110

## MV Teachers' Association Craft Fair

Crafts, Food, & Fun  
Saturday, October 18, 2008  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Minisink Valley High School Gym

*"We're crafting scholarships for our  
Minisink kids!"*

*All proceeds go to the  
Minisink Valley Teachers' Scholarship Fund.*