

We teach someone you love.

## *Capital Improvements Underway*



If you've visited or driven by our Route 6 campus, you've noticed the work in progress on Phase 1 of our EXCEL project. We are busy repaving and reconfiguring the bus loop in front of the elementary/intermediate school building. We are replacing the roof on the middle school and the sidewalks in front of that building. We are providing much needed drainage in the "pit" field next to the tennis courts and will soon be regrading and reseeding that field for future use. We are resurfacing the track and replacing the night lights on the football field. That's the work you can see. Inside the elementary/intermediate building, asbestos abatement in the classrooms is complete. During the school year, heating, air ventilation, electrical and plumbing upgrades will proceed classroom by classroom.

Our bus garage and site were also being renovated as part of this capital improvement project. However, last month the board voted to demolish the current building. While doing the renovation work, we discovered that the building does not sit on a foundation. In fact, when the concrete slab in the bus maintenance area was removed to allow for the installation of our new bus lifts, the structural integrity of the building was compromised and the building was deemed unsafe to even continue with the renovation work. After consulting with our architects and engineers from TetraTech, Inc. and with a representative from the State Education Department in Albany, the board decided the only safe and prudent course of action would be to demolish the building.

To replace this bus garage with a new one will take voter approval. The board is working with our architects and engineers, and representatives from the State Education Department to prepare a referendum to come before the voters later this fall. We will provide more information as it becomes available both on our web site and in the next newsletter.



**SCHOOL OPENS *Wednesday, September 2* - Welcome Back**

## *From the Superintendent's Desk*

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope that all of you had a wonderful summer. The months of July and August are a great time to relax, to spend time with family and friends, and to get caught up on things we could not finish during the school year. It's also a time to reflect on the year just ended and to consider ways we might be able to improve in the year ahead. The 2008-2009 school year was one of accomplishment and growth. All of our schools have been recognized as "schools in good standing," by the New York State Education Department. We opened a new elementary school in the Town of Mount Hope alleviating overcrowding in the Otisville School as well as the two schools on our Route 6 campus. In addition, we built and passed a responsible budget with the smallest tax levy increase in over ten years while preventing layoffs among our employees. Our plan this year is to build on the success of the 2008-2009 school year.

The quiet time is over and we are ready and eager to welcome our students on Wednesday, September 2, 2009. This newsletter contains important information to help you in preparing your child to attend school this fall. We also encourage you to watch our web site, [www.minisink.com](http://www.minisink.com), for the most recent information. Why not make it your homepage for quick reference throughout the year?

Academic progress remains our highest priority with literacy being the linchpin of that progress. It is at the heart of everything we do, including math and science. We encourage you to read to your children every day when they are young and then to help them set aside time to read by themselves as they grow older. Finding time to read yourself would be the finest example of continued learning you could demonstrate.

We look forward to seeing our students and their parents in September. You'll notice some changes on the Route 6 campus when you return as a result of work done in Phase 1 of our capital improvement project, which we call the EXCEL project. There are new sidewalks and a new roof on the middle school, a new bus loop in front of the elementary/intermediate school, a new track surface at the high school, and work continues on the field adjacent to the tennis court affectionately known as the "pit." In addition, asbestos abatement has been completed in the elementary/intermediate school classrooms so that heating, air handling and electrical upgrades can proceed throughout Phase 2 of the EXCEL project.

Every school year brings its challenges. This year will be no different. As we anxiously await the first day of school, let us promise to work together to turn those challenges into opportunities to grow and to improve. We remain committed to working together with parents and community members to continue the fine tradition of quality education for the youth of the community. I look forward to continuing to serve you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martha Murray  
Superintendent of Schools

*Back to School*  
*Wednesday, September 2*

### *Transportation Reminders*

- Please be at the bus stop 5-7 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time in the morning.
- Kindergarten students will NOT be dropped off in the afternoon unless a parent or other authorized person is present at the bus stop.
- The school district will no longer honor bus passes for occasional events and personal schedules (i.e., scout meetings, birthday parties, music lessons, babysitting, play dates, etc.) Please plan ahead to make necessary arrangements.

## OPEN HOUSES

Otisville Elementary  
 Grades 3-5 - Wed., Sept. 23, 6:00 PM  
 Grades K-2 - Wed., Sept. 16, 6:00 PM

Minisink Elementary  
 Wed., Sept. 16, 6:00 PM

Intermediate School  
 Thurs., Sept. 24, 6:00 PM

Middle School  
 Grade 6 - Tues., Sept. 15, 6:30 PM  
 Grades 7/8 - Tues., Sept. 22, 6:30 PM

High School  
 Mon., Sept. 21, 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.

<b>Otisville Elem. School</b>	<b>8am - 4pm</b>	<b>355-5850</b>
<b>MV Elementary School</b>	<b>8am - 4pm</b>	<b>355-5270</b>
<b>MV Intermediate School</b>	<b>8am - 4pm</b>	<b>355-5250</b>
<b>MV Middle School</b>	<b>7am - 3:30pm</b>	<b>355-5200</b>
<b>MV High School</b>	<b>7am - 4pm</b>	<b>355-5150</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>7am - 4:30pm</b>	<b>355-5140</b>
<b>Pupil Personnel</b>	<b>8am - 4pm</b>	<b>355-5105</b>
<b>Business Office</b>	<b>8am - 4pm</b>	<b>355-5120</b>
<b>Personnel Office</b>	<b>8am - 4pm</b>	<b>355-5810</b>
<b>Central Admin.</b>	<b>8am - 4pm</b>	<b>355-5111</b>

## **2009-2010 School Board Meetings**

Middle School Room 108 - 8:00 PM

- July 9, 30
- Aug. 20
- Sept. 10, 24
- Oct. 8, 22
- Nov. 5, 19
- Dec. 10
- Jan. 14, 28
- Feb. 11, 25
- March 11, 25
- April 8, 22
- May 6, 20
- June 3, 17

## **Minisink Valley CSD 2009 - 2010 Student Calendar**

September	1	School Closed - Supt's Conf. Day
	2	First Day of School for Students
	7	School Closed - Labor Day
	28	School Closed - Yom Kippur
October	12	School Closed - Columbus Day
	21	½ Conf. Day
November	3	School Closed - Supt's Conf. Day
	11	School Closed - Veteran's Day
	20	½ Conf. Day
	25	School Closed - Conference Day
	26-27	School Closed - Thanksgiving
December	4	½ Conf. Day
	21-31	School Closed - Winter Recess
	25	School Closed - Christmas Day
January	1	School Closed - New Year's Day
	18	School Closed - Dr. M. L. King Day
	26-29	Regents Exams <i>Tentative</i>
February	1	School Closed - Conference Day <i>Tentative</i>
	12-15	School Closed - Presidents' Wkd.
March	19	School Closed - Conference Day <i>Tentative</i>
	29-31	School Closed - Spring Recess
	30	School Closed - Passover Begins
April	1-5	School Closed - Spring Recess
	4	School Closed - Easter Sunday
May	31	School Closed - Memorial Day
June	15-24	Regents Exams <i>Tentative</i>
	24	Rating Day
	25	Last Day / HS Graduation

**Minisink Valley CSD**

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

**Board of Education**

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

**Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Martha Murray

**Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Newburgh, NY  
Permit No. 731**

**Newsletter**  
Debbie Roda

***School Tax Levy Information***

The school tax levy represents the portion of the school budget that the community contributes after state aid and local revenues are applied. The budget approved by voters last May represents a spending increase of less than two percent over the prior school year. The leveling off of energy costs, completion of the new Otisville Elementary School, and scaling back of supplies, equipment and all but essential items allowed the district to limit the increase to taxpayers while maintaining instructional programs for our students and continuing our technology advancements.

Based on our most current assessment data, we project that the average tax rate increase will be less than 1.5%. Near the end of August, when the district establishes the final tax levy amount needed to meet our budget, the state-calculated equalization rates will be applied to determine how the levy is dispersed among our six component townships. To the extent that true market value of properties across the district changes proportionally from the prior year, the projected average tax rate increase will affect each of our townships equally. If, however, changes in market value vary significantly between townships, then some towns will carry a greater share of the increase, while other towns will have tax rate changes that are lower than the projected average.

**School tax bills will be mailed at the beginning of September. The collection schedule is as follows: (see times/dates on tax bill)**

September 1-30	May be paid in person or by mail
October 1-30	May be paid in person or by mail (2% penalty added to bill)

*After October 30, contact:*

Commissioner of Finance 255 Main Street Goshen, NY 10924 (Orange County)	Sullivan County Treasurer 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701 (Sullivan County)
---	--

**MV Teachers' Association  
Craft Fair**

Crafts, Food, & Fun  
Saturday, October 24, 2009  
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.*

***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. Past programs have included Preschool Story Hour, 1000 Book Reading Program, book fairs, school calendar, field days, assemblies and movie nights. The PTO also awards several scholarships to graduating seniors. 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.