

We teach someone you love.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we begin a new calendar year, the financial news from Albany is grim. However, we are hard at work putting together a budget for the 2010-2011 school year that will fulfill the board of education's goal "to deliver a quality education in a fiscally responsible manner." In the current economic climate, "fiscally responsible manner" means controlling costs wherever possible. Your representatives on the board of education will tackle the challenging task of reviewing next year's spending plan in a series of budget meetings open to the public. The finance committee of the board of education will meet with administrators and program directors at 6:30 PM on February 4, February 18, March 4 and March 18 of 2010. There will be an opportunity for public comment at each meeting. Highlights from these meetings will also be posted on the web site for community review.

Finally, we never lose sight of the primary focus of all of our efforts here at Minisink: the academic success of all of our children and their preparation for the lives they will lead after they leave us. Three years ago, we listed important questions that must be at the forefront of all of the decisions we make on behalf of our students. They are so important that they bear repeating:

1. Are our students meeting New York State Standards?
2. Are we doing everything we can do to help them meet those standards?
3. Should we do more?
4. Should we do things differently?
5. Are we giving our students everything they need?
6. How will we pay for what our students need?

Our faculty, staff and administration will be working hard to answer those questions over the next several months as they work with our children in some of the most productive months of the school year. Join us for the many school events listed on the calendar page of www.minisink.com. We believe that when you see our children and young people in action, you will agree that we are indeed blessed with a smart, kind, hard working and creative student body.

On a personal note, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family all the best during this coming year. On behalf of the board of education and everyone who works here at Minisink Valley, Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martha Murray
Superintendent of Schools

EXCEL Project in Phase II

We are currently in Phase 2 of the \$26.2 million dollar EXCEL Project approved by the voters two years ago. The community gave us permission in December to build a new bus garage on South Centerville Road. We expect that work to begin the end of June and be ready for September 2010.

Our high school auditorium received a much needed face lift over the winter recess with new seating, new carpeting, a new sound system, and improved lighting and stage rigging. Renovation of the high school gym floor and bleachers will take place during the summer of 2010.

Work continues on the heating, air handling, electrical and plumbing upgrades in the elementary/intermediate school building. Please see the *Building Project* page of our web site for a more complete list of work included in this capital project.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

We are proud to report that all of our teachers meet NCLB standards and are highly qualified. If you have further questions about this federal standard, please contact our director of personnel, Mr. Brian Monahan at 355-5810.

Title IX and Section 504 Compliance

The Minisink Valley Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it offers employment and educational opportunities, including vocational education opportunities, without regard to sex, gender preference, race, color, national origin, marital status or disability. Inquiries regarding this nondiscrimination policy may be directed to the Minisink Valley Central School District, Box 217, Slate Hill, New York, 10973, 845-355-5110. Information and complaint procedures will be provided to any citizen, student or employee who feels that his or her rights under Title IX or Section 504 may have been violated by the district or its officials.

Title IX Officer - Brian Monahan

Section 504 Officer - Ruth Ann Zuclich

STAR applications must be filed with your local assessors office by March 1, 2010.

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, Cathy Prezioso, Paul Rickard, Joan Romanyschyn

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Martha Murray

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Newsletter
Debbie Roda

Budget Development Calendar

February 04, 2010	Finance Committee Meeting - Budget Development - 6:30 PM
February 18, 2010	Finance Committee Meeting - Budget Development - 6:30 PM
March 04, 2010	Finance Committee Meeting - Budget Development - 6:30 PM
March 18, 2010	Finance Committee Meeting - Budget Development - 6:30 PM
March 18, 2010	Deadline for Propositions Submitted by Registered Voters
April 08, 2010	Public Budget Presentation 7:00 PM
April 19, 2010	Submission of Petitions by Board of Education Candidates by 5:00 PM.
April 20, 2009	Absentee Ballot Applications Available
April 22, 2010	BOE Approval of 2010-2011 Budget at Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
May 06, 2010	Public Budget Hearing - 7:30 PM
May 13, 2010	Last Day to Register to Vote
May 18, 2010	Budget Vote and Board of Education Election - Noon to 9:00 PM

Federal Breakfast and Lunch Program

Children need healthy meals to learn. Minisink Valley offers healthy meals every day that school is in session. Children from households that meet federal income guidelines are eligible for free meals or reduced price meals. To take part in this program and to see if you meet federal income guidelines, download the application from www.minisink.com. Look under the *Forms/Publications* page under "Lunch Program Application." You may also call our registrar, Mrs. Ann Shand, at 355-5812. We post a daily menu on the individual building web pages.

2009 H1N1 Flu Update

Officials from the Orange County Health Department have reported that our area has not experienced a significant rise in the number of cases of the 2009 H1N1 flu virus. They speculate that this is due, in part, to preventative measures put into place by Orange County schools and families. We applaud parents who are keeping children home who exhibit flu-like symptoms, and who are stressing hand-washing and other healthy habits. These are important life skills that will serve our children well throughout their lives.

Equal Opportunity Employer

The Minisink Valley Central School district does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, gender preference, creed, color, national origin, marital status, or disability in educational programming activities that it offers. This nondiscriminatory policy includes the following areas: recruitment and appointment of employees, pay and benefits, access by students to educational programs, course offerings and activities.

Snow Closing Information

FM Stations: 92.1, 92.7, 92.9, 93.3, 94.3, 96.1, 96.9, 97.3, 97.7, 99.3, 100.7, 101.5, 102.3, 103.1, 103.7, 104.7, 106.1, 106.3, and 107.3.

AM Stations: 920, 1340, 1360, 1370, 1390, 1420, 1450, and 1490.

Closings are also announced on our website at www.minisink.com or by calling 355-5100.

New Board Member

At their December 15 meeting, the board of education selected Mrs. Stelly Brunelle to fill the seat vacated by Mr. O'Connor. Mrs. Brunelle will assume office at the January 14, 2010 meeting and will serve until the election on May 18, 2010.