



# Minisink Valley CSD

*We teach someone you love.*

## New Otisville Elementary Groundbreaking

**Sun., Sept. 17, 2:00 PM**  
at the new site on Mt. Hope Road, behind the Town of Mt. Hope Park

Guest Speaker - Senator Bonacic

Refreshments compliments of MV PTO

Please join us!

## You're Invited to a Parent Workshop

Guest Speaker: Dr. Thomas Lickona

*Raising Children of Character: Instilling Respect & Responsibility*

Thurs., Aug. 31, 2006, 7:00 pm - 8:30 PM  
Goshen Board of Education Building  
227 Main Street, Goshen, NY

## Middle School Project Update



On September 5, 2006, our middle school students will walk into a new classroom addition. Many of our parents had a "sneak preview" during our spring concerts and parent nights. We are proud to report that this project has been completed on time and within the budget guidelines approved by the voters in December 2003. We have already begun to receive the promised aid from New York State. We hope you have an opportunity to visit during one of our many middle school evening programs.

**FIRST DAY  
OF  
SCHOOL  
SEPTEMBER 5**

## 2006 - 07 School Board Meetings

Middle School Cafeteria - 8:00 PM

- July 13, 27
- Aug. 10, 24
- Sept. 14, 28
- Oct. 19
- Nov. 2, 16
- Dec. 7, 21
- Jan. 11, 25
- Feb. 8, 22
- Mar. 8, 22
- Apr. 12, 26
- May 17, 31
- June 14

### Minisink Valley CSD

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

### Board of Education

John M. Lenane, *President*, Wayne Hawkins, *Vice President*  
Michelle McDonald, Shawn O'Connor, Gina Richichi, Joan Romanyschyn, Michael Sauchuk, Tracy Sutera, Victor Vignola

### Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Martha Murray

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**Newsletter**  
Debbie Roda

## From the desk of Dr. Martha Murray, Superintendent of Schools

### Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Schools are unique in that every September, we each return with a clean slate. Faculty, staff and administration are renewed and anxious to greet students on September 5, 2006, with a promise to be better than we were the year before. Students can be assured of a fresh start.

As we begin the 2006-2007 school year, we are reminded of our promise to create a caring and safe environment for all of our students. To that end, we will be concentrating on character education, in particular, fostering respect and responsibility. Dr. Thomas Lickona from SUNY Cortland will be joining the faculty and staff on opening day to give us the tools we need to do our part to raise respectful and responsible children, maintain a safe school environment and build the caring community in which we all want to live. We are partnering with the Goshen School District to bring Dr. Lickona to Orange County. There will be a special parent workshop with Dr. Lickona in Goshen on Thursday evening, August 31, 2006. Look for details on the cover of this newsletter and come out and join us.

We will also be focusing on staff development as an important method in guiding and improving student achievement. We will work with math and ELA consultants to make sure our curricula are aligned with NYS Learning Standards and to analyze data from the state assessments to inform our instruction.

Please look for the special invitation in this newsletter to join us for the groundbreaking of our new elementary school in the Town of Mount Hope. This September groundbreaking will put us right on schedule for a September 2008 opening.

Let's continue to work together this year to provide a quality education for our youngest citizens. Join us at school and sporting events. Come out and attend a meeting of the school board. Visit our website frequently. This is your school district. We welcome your participation.

*Sincerely,*

*Dr. Martha Murray*



As part of his Eagle Scout project, senior Matthew Graham refurbished our September 11, 2001 memorial adding pavers and additional landscaping.

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### VISITOR & PARKING INFORMATION

Visitors to each of our schools are asked to sign in at the greeter's desk located in the lobby of each building. You may be asked to show identification before you can proceed to conduct your business. Please understand that this extra security measure is for the safety of all of our children.

When visiting our campus, please park in one of our lots and not along a road or driveway. For everyone's safety, it's important for emergency vehicles to be able to move freely around the campus.

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### Key Club goes International

We are proud of senior Shivani Radhakrishnan who has been elected international president of the Key Club at their recent convention in Boston. Key Club is a service organization affiliated with Kiwanis International giving students an opportunity to take part in school and community service

projects. Shivani's duties include overseeing the international board and visiting Key Clubs throughout the world.



## School Tax Levy Information

The school tax levy is the share that the community contributes to support the school budget after state aid and local revenues are factored in. The budget approved by voters last May represents an increase of just under eight percent in spending over the prior school year. Approximately one-half million dollars of the increase is for the permanent financing for the middle/high school addition and improvements approved by the community in December 2003. This expense will be offset by additional state aid equal to nearly 95% of these costs. The balance of the budget increase reflects higher utility and audit expenses, and increased staffing, employee benefits, supply and program costs to address inflation and a growing student population. Based on assessment data provided to date, we project that the average tax rate increase will be in the 3% range.

Once the school district establishes the final tax levy amount needed to meet our budget, state-calculated equalization rates must be applied to determine how the amount is dispersed among our six component townships. If the true market value of properties across the district changes *proportionally* from the prior year, then the projected 3% 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 receive tax rate changes that are less than the projected average.

School tax bills will be mailed at the beginning of September. The collection schedule is as follows:

Sept. 1-Oct. 2 Can be paid in person or by mail

Oct. 3-Oct. 31 Can be paid in person or by mail  
(2% penalty added to bill)

Nov. 1-15 By mail only to:

*Commissioner of Finance  
124 Main Street  
Goshen, NY 10924*

### Project Cooperation... Tradition Continues



During the week of July 31 through August 3 incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders had the opportunity to participate in Project

Cooperation. This program is designed to help 6<sup>th</sup> grade students learn about the middle school that they will enter in September. Under the supervision of Ms. Karen DeVora, Project Cooperation administrator, and Ms. Trish Eckert and Ms. Jennifer Curreri, project coordinators, the students go on scavenger hunts to familiarize themselves with the building and meet people who work here. They participate in sports, aerobic exercise, arts and crafts and swim day at the high school pool to make new friends and/or strengthen their friendships with classmates. Staff also includes middle school teachers, teacher aides and former students. The goal of the program is to help 6<sup>th</sup> graders build leadership skills, confidence and self esteem.

### MVCSD PTO

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 and makes a positive difference for our students. They welcome your membership and participation. Look for information in the PTO and building newsletters as well as at the open houses in the fall. Sue Pavlick is the PTO President for the 2006 - 2007 school year.

### MV Teachers' Association Craft Fair

Crafts, Food, & Fun  
Saturday, October 28, 2006  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
High School Gym

Support the scholarship fund.  
Support the students of Minisink Valley!

*All proceeds go to the MVTA Scholarship Fund.*

# 2006 - 07 Student Calendar

September	04	School Closed – Labor Day
	05	First Day of School for Students
	22	Early Dismissal Drill
October	02	School Closed – Yom Kippur
	09	School Closed – Columbus Day
	20	½ Conference Day
November	07	School Closed – Conf. Day
	10	School Closed – Veterans' Day
	17	½ Conference Day
	22	School Closed – Conf. Day
	23	School Closed – Thanksgiving
	24	School Closed – Thanksgiving
December	01	½ Conference Day
	25	School Closed – Winter Recess
	26	School Closed – Winter Recess
	27	School Closed – Winter Recess
	28	School Closed – Winter Recess
	29	School Closed – Winter Recess
January	01	School Closed – New Year's Day
	15	School Closed – Martin Luther King Day
February	09	School Closed – Conf. Day
	16	School Closed – Pres. Weekend
	19	School Closed – Pres. Weekend
March	26	School Closed – Conf. Day
April	02	School Closed – Spring Recess
	03	School Closed – Spring Recess
	04	School Closed – Spring Recess
	05	School Closed – Spring Recess
	06	School Closed – Spring Recess
	09	School Closed – Spring Recess
May	28	School Closed – Memorial Day
June	22	Last Day – HS Graduation

## OPEN HOUSES

**Otisville Elementary**  
**Thursday, Sept. 21, 6:30 PM**

**Minisink Elementary**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6:45 PM**

**Intermediate School**  
**Monday, Sept. 18, 6:00 PM**

**Middle School**  
**Grade 6 - Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7:00 PM**  
**Grades 7/8 - Wednesday, Sept. 27, 7:00 PM**

**High School**  
**Wednesday, October 4, 6:00 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>355-5110</b>

Visit us at [www.minisink.com](http://www.minisink.com)