



Minisink Valley CSD

We teach someone you love.

New and Improved Website

- *School closings and delays*
- *Updated calendars*
- *Latest news*
- *Fall and winter sports highlights*
- *Middle school addition pictures*
- *Architectural drawings of the new Otisville school*
- *School report card information*

Much, much more... Visit us at www.minisink.com



Alyssa Coluccio and Amanda Morace perform in the high school drama club's mystery dinner theater.

TAKE NOTICE

The conference day in March 2006 has been moved from March 24 to March 31.

The Big Five-O!



Congratulations to Byron Bishop who is completing 50 years of service with the district. Mr. Bishop began teaching in Otisville in 1955 and is currently the AV aide in the high school.

Spring Musicals

We are proud of the musical theater performed every spring in our schools and we invite you to join us once again this March and April for performances you won't soon forget. Save the following dates:

- Intermediate School Musical
Alladin Junior
March 27 at 7:00 PM
Intermediate School Auditorium
- Middle School Musical
Anything Goes
March 31 and April 1 at 7:00 PM
Middle School Auditorium
- High School Musical
Something's Afoot
April 6, 7, and 8 at 7:30 PM
High School Auditorium

From the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Your board of education and I wish all of our families a very Happy New Year filled with the blessings that truly count in our lives – health, family harmony, and the well being of our most precious resource, our children. We are ready to meet the challenges that 2006 will surely bring, beginning with a new mandated testing program for our students grades 3-8 beginning this month. Faculty, staff and students have been working hard the last few months and our students are ready.

The academic progress a school district makes each year is monitored by the federal government's *No Child Left Behind* act first enacted in 2001. A label called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is applied to each school in the key areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and math. Previously, we reported that both our intermediate school and our middle school had achieved AYP in English Language Arts based on the performance of students in those schools on the January 2005 ELA exam. After conferring with the NYS Education Department, we have determined that while that is true of the intermediate school, it is not true of the middle school. Even if our middle school is able to show Adequate Yearly Progress on this year's English Language Arts exam, it will retain the label of a School Requiring Academic Progress for at least another school year.

We do not believe that labels tell the entire story of education here at Minisink Valley. Academic success is measured in many ways, including classroom tests, teacher observations, report cards, homework and special projects. We remain firmly committed to achieving our

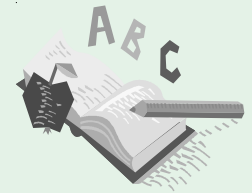
goal of academic success for every child, and we recognize that we must continually improve. These improvement efforts include data analysis, interventions for at risk students and improved instructional strategies.

In an attempt to better communicate and provide service to the community, we have redesigned our website. Please visit us at www.minisink.com to learn whether or not school is operating on a normal schedule, to find out what special activities are coming up in each of our schools, to read the daily announcements in the high school, to link to other resources of interest in the area, or just to learn more about the board of education, the progress of our building projects, or the development of the 2006-2007 budget. You will not be disappointed as you explore all your school district has to offer.

Finally, we invite you to join us as the board of education begins the process of budget development. Look for important key dates in this newsletter and on our website on our "Budget" page. We are committed to continuing to provide a quality education in a cost effective manner. Your support is important and we never take it for granted.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martha Murray



**Interested in becoming a member
of the board of education?**

Please check out the "Board of Education"
page on our website www.minisink.com.

School Tax Reform

The board of education continues to look at various school tax reform proposals coming out of Albany. The latest reform measure is proposed by Senate Majority Leader, Joseph Bruno and calls for annual adjustments to the STAR exemption among other things. Senator John Bonacic is proposing a bill which would split the local share for financing education between local property taxes and personal income tax. You can find out more about both of these proposals by visiting the senators' websites, www.senatorbruno.com and www.senatorbonacic.com.

Budget Development Calendar

February 2, 2006	Finance Committee Meeting – Budget Development
February 15, 2006	Finance Committee Meeting – Budget Development
March 2, 2006	Finance Committee Meeting – Budget Development
March 16, 2006	Finance Committee Meeting – Budget Development
March 30, 2006	Public Budget Presentation (7:30 PM)
April 6, 2006	Board of Education Approval of 2006-2007 Budget at Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
April 17, 2006	Submission of Petitions by Board of Education Candidates by 5:00 PM.
April 17, 2006	Absentee Ballots available
April 27, 2006	Board of Education Approval of 2006-2007 BOCES Budget at Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
May 4, 2006	Public Budget Hearing (7:30 PM) before Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
May 11, 2006	Last Day to Register to Vote
May 16, 2006	Budget Vote and Board of Education Election



National School Lunch Free and Reduced Meal Program

Our school district participates in the federally assisted National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. This means that students whose family income falls within prescribed limits may participate in the breakfast and/or lunch program *free of charge* or at the reduced rate of *\$.25 per meal*. The state publishes income eligibility guidelines, based on household size, each school year. To learn if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, you can go to the district's website at www.minisink.com (forms/ publications, free and reduced meal application) or contact the district registrar, Mrs. Ann Shand, at 355-5812. We encourage all eligible families to take advantage of this very beneficial program.



Budget News

Next month the finance committee of the board of education begins reviewing the proposed spending plan for the 2006-2007 school year. The public is welcome to attend. The committee will meet at 6:30 PM in the board room on the following dates:

- February 2, 2006
- February 15, 2006
- March 2, 2006
- March 16, 2006

Important Notice to MVCSD Taxpayers

STAR is the New York State Tax Relief Program that provides a partial exemption from school property taxes for owner-occupied, primary residences.

The *Basic STAR Exemption*, for all primary residence homeowners regardless of age or income, will provide a \$30,000+ full value assessment exemption for the school year 2006-07. If you are a new homeowner or have recently moved to a new residence, you must submit your application to your local assessor by March 1, 2006 to qualify for the exemption. You do not need to re-apply if you already receive this exemption and your residence is unchanged.

The Enhanced STAR Exemption is available to taxpayers who are 65 years of age or older by December 31, 2006 and whose total income does not exceed \$66,050.

The Enhanced STAR Exemption provides a \$50,000+ full value assessment exemption on your school tax bill. You may need to re-apply each year to receive the Enhanced STAR Exemption.

STAR exemption forms are available at your local assessor's office or may be picked up in the Minisink Valley Central School District's business office. **Complete and submit your application form to your local assessor, along with proof of residency and proof of income** (*required for Enhanced STAR, only*). Your local assessor can advise you of what forms of proof are acceptable.

STAR applications must be filed with your local assessor by March 1, 2006

All-State Musicians

Lindsey Grebeldinger, Laura Thelander, Cody Ryan, and Jon Tveit are seen here performing for the board of education at the December 22, 2005 board meeting. These students were

chosen to participate in the All-State Choral Festival held in Rochester the first weekend in December.



FREE CLASSES!
sponsored by MV PTO



Internet Safety for Parents

February 8, 15, 22
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
HS Media Center
Computer Lab
Call 355-5111 to Register

Minisink Valley CSD

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

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Newsletter

Debbie Roda