

Minisink Valley Central School

We teach someone you love.

Celebrating the Past...

Did you know that the Minisink Valley Central School District received its name from the Minsi Indians who once roamed these hills and valleys? Did you know that the first school in the area opened in 1796 and that its first teacher was Stephen Fullerton? Parents were charged \$1.00 per child, per term for tuition, a pretty steep price considering the times.

Instruction was very formal in the old one-room schools. Students were required to raise their hands to get permission to get a drink, sharpen their pencils, or go to the "privy." Discipline was maintained by the liberal use of the switch or by the application of a hickory ruler upon an outstretched hand, and there was always that stool in the corner for an errant student to sit while wearing a dunce cap.

You will find these and other facts about the early schools in the area in a history currently being compiled as part of our Golden Jubilee celebration to be held in June 2005. This date marks the fiftieth anniversary of the date when local schools consolidated and elected our first board of education. Our first fifty years are being chronicled by a history committee chaired by former Otisville and Minisink Valley High

School history teacher, Mr. Drew Beckel. Along with a written history, this committee is putting together a historical display to be exhibited during the Golden Jubilee weekend, June 3, 4, 5, 2005. If you have photos, mementos, documents, news articles or

anecdotes and reminiscences you would like to share, please forward them to Debbie Roda in central office (355-5111) or Drew Beckel, 161 Coursen Road, Shohola, PA 18458 (570-296-6306).



"School Days"

**School days, school days,
Dear old golden rule days.
Readin' and ritin' and 'rithmetic,
Taught to the tune of a hick'ry stick.**

**You were my queen in calico,
I was your bashful, barefoot beau.
You wrote on my slate,
"I love you so."
When we were a couple of kids.**

-written in 1906

year of celebration, we will proceed with the vigor and determination referred to by John DeWitt to attain even "brighter crowns" as we continue to provide the best education possible for our children.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Welcome back! Here at Minisink Valley, we have been preparing for opening day 2004 since the final school bell sent our students scurrying out the door to begin summer recess. We believe that this will be a unique and exciting year for our students and the community at large. This is the year we celebrate our Golden Jubilee, a June celebration that marks our fifty years as a school district. We are anxious to share the story of who we are and how we got here. You can look forward to projects and activities that will help our students understand their scholastic roots.

While celebrating our past, our main focus, academic achievement for all of our students, remains constant. Standards-based accountability assures that we are on track for all of our students to meet or exceed New York State Learning Standards. State exams serve as a benchmark to help gauge the performance of students and raise questions about additional steps our teachers need to take to help our students improve. Everything we do in the classroom is intentional and connected to what we have to do to help our students succeed.

However, standardized tests should not be the sole criterion in judging student learning. We work hard to strike a balance between achieving rigorous academic standards and the well-rounded academic experience our children need to be successful in life. Minisink Valley takes great pride in the breadth of its programming, including a wide range of athletic and extracurricular activities that help develop each student's unique potential and character.

An environment of mutual respect and dignity is essential to cultivate character development in our children and young people. To this end, we are committed to providing a safe and supportive school climate in which our students can learn. The principles of character education are interwoven throughout all of our programs and activities at all grade levels.

The 2004-2005 school year will undoubtedly hold triumphs and challenges for our district. But our dual focus on student achievement and character development will not waver. Buttressed by an experienced and dedicated board of education and the continued support of the community, we anticipate an exciting and successful year for our students.

Sincerely,

Martha Murray, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL OPENS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY

Preparing for the Future...

While we will spend much of the 2004-2005 school years celebrating our past, we will also continue preparing for our future and the future of our children. The board of education continues to move forward with the recommendation of the Growth Task Force to purchase land to accommodate future growth. We also continue to monitor enrollment and the growth occurring in each of our six townships. The Growth Task Force will be reconvened this fall to look at new demographics and help make further recommendations.

School Safety

One of the results of our growing enrollment is increased traffic on our Route 6 and Otisville campuses. When dropping off students in the morning and picking them up in the afternoon, please follow procedures outlined by each of the buildings. In general, do not park in driveways or along curbs. Doing so can make loading and unloading students on and off buses dangerous. While it is important that we keep traffic moving, it is even more important that we keep our students safe.

Schools Schedule Open Houses

Our schools will sponsor open houses early in the school year. These are interesting and informative evenings that give parents an opportunity to meet teachers and find out about school procedures and practices. Open houses are scheduled as follows:

Otisville Elementary	September 22
Minisink Elementary	September 22
Intermediate School	September 20
Middle School	September 29, 30
High School	October 6

Scholarships and Awards June 2004

2003 American Legion Boys State Floyd Carter Post # 1079 / Brian Hanson
2003 American Legion Boys State George Smith Post #1607 / Ian Thornell
2004 American Legion Boys State Floyd Carter Post #1079 / Robert Yonski
2004 American Legion Girls State Floyd Carter Post #1607 Auxiliary / Dawn Handler

2004 American Legion Boys State George Smith Post # 1607 / Chris Krogslund
Anita and Arthur Zimmerman Scholarship / Joshua Cantor

Anthony Quinn Memorial Scholarship / Samantha Witkowski, Josh Cantor
Art Awards / Travis Iurato, Kara Atlas, Alida Masuck, Amber Santos
Art Purchase Award / Mark Packard

Bausch and Lomb Award / Christopher Krogslund
Bon Secour Hospital Scholarship / Kristine Fleckenstein
C.S.E.A. Scholarship / John Jordan

Carrie Skinner Bogart Memorial Scholarship / Lauren Sweetman

Charles Quick Scholarship / Liam Welsh, Jennie Gibbs
Community Blood Services Scholarship / Naveena David, Amber Santos

Daniel Schultz / Samantha Arne
DAR Good Citizen of the Year / Kristin Volpicella

Dodd D. Wester Memorial Scholarship / Lindsey Pascarelli
Elliot Spitzer Triple C Awards / Ryan Meikle, Samantha Witkowski
Eric Houghtaling Memorial Scholarship / Jenna Salvagin, Alida Masuck
Excellence Awards-Grade 09 / Andrea Faldermeyer, Matthew Graham
Excellence Awards-Grade 10 / Katie Ketchem, AJ Nappo
Excellence Awards-Grade 11 / Caitlin Hammaren, Christopher Krogslund

FBLA Award / Krissie Kilbride
George Smith Post #1607 Ray Giza Scholarship / Kerry Bellingham
Greenville VFW / Jordan Lamberg, Bradford Vernooy, Christina Ross, Caitlin Giannino

Greenville Wawayanda Lions / Larissa Lewis, Nicole Bolzan
Greenville Wawayanda Lions OCCC Scholarship / Nicole Baker

Homer S. Pace Business Award / Noura Ismaeil
Howard Timko Memorial Scholarship / Kristin O'Dell
Howells Fire Company / Ross Fratto, Elyse Gersbeck

Hudson Heritage Credit Union Scholarship / Joshua Cantor
Jacob E Gunther III Environmental Scholarship / Chris Palmer, Kristen Odell, Eric Blatz

James Adams Scholarship / Brian Hanson
Joan Anderson Greenville Auxiliary / Jenna Bostock

John Phillip Sousa Award / Carla Yater
Joseph Lynch Scholarship / Andrew Grebeldinger
Kiwanis Hugh O'Brien Leadership Award / Casey Rogers

Kiwanis Key Club Scholarship / Vinnie Simoni
Kiwanis Matt Kennedy Memorial Scholarship / Christopher Klein
Kiwanis Scholarships / Jennie Gibbs, Kristen O'Dell, Brad Gurda, Yvonne Rodriguez, Vinnie Simoni

Kodak Young Leaders Award / Michael Blake, Amanda Ewanciw
Kolmar Service to Society / Ryan Meikle

Land of the Lenape Scholarship / Brett Dombal
Lawrence and Janet Richards Scholarship / Kayleigh Baird
Leadership Orange Awards / Bethany Cooper, Brian Farley, Adam Olinski, Neal Sutera

Louis Armstrong Award / Daniel Ryan
Louis Persico Memorial Scholarship / Kelly Mottolo

Lt. Peter Freund Scholarship / Brian Hanson
LTI Scholarship / William Keppler

Marion Nebus Memorial Scholarship for Journalism / Gustave Hill
Michael D. Flynn Memorial Scholarship for Creative Writing / Amber Santos
Middletown BPW Scholarship / Jenna Bostock

Minisink Hose Auxiliary / Alyssa Thorne
Minisink Hose Co #1 / Gustave Hill

Minisink Soccer / Kelly Andryshak, Lindsey Pascarelli, Liam Welsh, Jason Whitehead

Minisink Social Club / Gustave Hill

Minisink Valley School Store Scholarships / Jason Whitehead, Brittany Henderson

Minisink Valley Student Council Scholarships / Joshua Cantor, Jennie Gibbs, Brad Gurda

Miriam Kayton Memorial Scholarship / John Mann
NY District Kiwanis Foundations Award / Jill Balzano
NYS Lottery Scholarship / Daniel Ryan

OCCC Educational Foundation Scholarship / Daniel Lang
OCCC Presidential Scholarships / Anthony Muccari, Rich Budd
Orange County American Legion Scholarship / Kerri Bellingham
Otisville Lions / John Mann, Ryan Meikle, Nicole Baker, Daniel Lang

Otisville Mount Hope Democrats / Joshua Cantor
Peter Farlekas Scholarship / Chris Klein, Daniel Ryan
Presidential Freedom Scholarship / Andria Mynders
Project Graduation Scholarships / Grace Handler, David Babcock, Eddy Rameau

PTO / Nadia El Fawal, Kevin Miedema, Camille O'Brien, Jessica Vanderheide, David Naples

PTO / Jill Balzano, Laura Falconieri
Ramapo Merit Scholarship / Kristine Fleckenstein

Rensselaer Medal / Daniel Butterfield
Rose Calak Memorial Music Scholarship / Daniel Ryan
Rotary Golden Gear Scholarship / Sara Schulz, Caitlin Giannino, John Mann

Rotary Leadership Award / Jacob Dubrava, Cody Ryan, Laura Thelander, Jon Tveit

Rutgers Engine Company #1 Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship / Kerry Bellingham

Rutgers Engine Company Dennis Murtaugh Scholarship / Danny Lang
SADD Award / Naveena David, Joseph Gattuso

Scott Aldrich Memorial Scholarship / Eric Bernhardson
SUNYOrange Alumni Scholarship / Richard Budd, Anthony Mucarri

University of Rochester Humanities Award / Charlotte Gabrielson
Voice of the Valley Awards / Robert Yonskie, Kayleigh Baird
Warwick Valley Quilters Guild / Savannah Cosh, Jennie Gibbs

Minisink Valley Teachers Association Scholarships / Jonathan Carter, Misik Cizek, Kristine Fleckenstein, Troy Hanson, John Mann, Andria Mynders, Joseph Shand, Carl Topp, Craig Valentino, Kristine Volpicella

Kiwanis Achievement Awards / English, Annette Vidal; Social Studies, Samantha Witkowski; Math, Laura Falconieri; Science, Lindsey Pascarelli; Language, Andria Mynders; Business, Melanie Cardona; Home and Careers, Jessica Dineen; Technology, Mike Weeden; Art, Travis Iurato; Vocal Music, Lauren Fischer; Instrumental Music, Carla Yater.

PTO Achievement Awards / English, Kristen Volpicella; Social Studies, John Atlas; Math, Jill Balzano; Science, Alex Altman; Language, Larissa Lewis; Business, Brad Gurda; Home and Careers, Susan Grova; Technology, Jennie Gibbs; Art, Alida Masuck; Vocal Music, Naveena David; Instrumental Music, Dan Ryan; Physical Education, Josh Wharton and Krissie Kilbride; Yvonne Demberg Award, Eddy Rameau



Minisink Valley High School
Class of 2004

MINISINK VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PO Box 217, Route 6, Slate Hill, NY 10973

August 2004

Dear Parents and Guardians of Minisink Valley Students:

New York State Education Law, Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification yearly to faculty, staff, and all persons in parental relation regarding the potential use of pesticides throughout the school year. Please be assured that we are committed to keeping the use of pesticides to a minimum.

The Minisink Valley Schools is required to maintain a list of all faculty, staff, and persons in parental relation who wish to receive 48-hour notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications and specified conditions are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- ◆ The school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72-hours following an application;
- ◆ Anti-microbial products;
- ◆ Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper-resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children; silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- ◆ Boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- ◆ The application of EPA designate biopesticides;
- ◆ The application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25;
- ◆ The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to provide written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your (child's) school, please complete the form below and return it to the pesticide representative for our schools, **Mr. William Blosser, Director of Buildings and Grounds, P.O. Box 217, Slate Hill, NY 10973.**

Minisink Valley Central School District
REQUEST FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATION NOTIFICATION
School Year 2004-05

Check where applicable:

____ MV Elementary ____ Otisville Elementary ____ Intermediate ____ Middle School ____ High School

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Work Phone Number: _____

e-mail address: _____

2004 - 05 School Calendar

September	1	Conference Day	March	11	Conference Day	
	2	First Day of School		24-31	Spring Recess	
	6	Labor Day		27	Easter	
	16	Rosh Hashanah		April	1	Spring Recess (cont.)
	24	Early Dismissal			22-25	Holiday
October	11	Columbus Day	24	Passover		
	22	1/2 Conference Day	May	30	Memorial Day	
November	2	Conference Day		June	16 - 24	Regents Exams
	11	Veteran's Day	24		Last Day/HS Graduation	
	19	1/2 Conference Day				
	24	Conference Day				
	25-26	Thanksgiving				
December	3	1/2 Conference Day				
	24-31	Winter Recess				
	25	Christmas				
January	17	Dr. Martin Luther King Day				
	25-28	Regents Exams (Tentative)				
February	18-21	Presidents' Weekend				



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 and makes a positive difference for our students. The PTO welcomes your membership and participation. Look for information in the PTO and building newsletters as well as at the open houses in the fall. Allison Wilbur is the PTO President for the 2004 - 2005 school year.

Early Dismissal Drill

The early dismissal drill is part of the county-wide Emergency Management Plan. It has been scheduled for Friday, September 24. Each of our school buildings will dismiss 15 minutes earlier on that day, and there will be no PM YMCA Club Kid Program. Our athletes must also leave campus, but can return later for practice. Coaches will provide team members with information on the afternoon schedule. We appreciate your help and cooperation, and ask that you make appropriate arrangements for the early arrival of your children.

YMCA Club Kid Program

The morning and afternoon childcare program is under the direction of the Middletown YMCA, a licensed daycare agency. The YMCA also provides this service in many neighboring districts.

Programs are offered, both before and after school, in our K-5 buildings and in the afternoon at the MS. Please stop by the YMCA at 81 Highland Avenue, Middletown, or call 343-1158 for more information. They will be happy to answer any of your questions.

School Tax Levy Information

The school tax levy is the share that the community contributes to support the school budget once state aid and other local revenues are deducted. The budget approved by voters last May is 8.9% higher than the previous school year, reflecting unprecedented increases in pension system, health insurance, liability insurance and utility costs. The estimated tax rate increase presented at the time of the budget vote was in the ten percent range, a projection that we are working to trim with every extra dollar that becomes available. Our ability to project more accurately at this time continues to be thwarted by the absence of a state budget as of the start of August.

Once the school district establishes the final tax levy amount needed to meet our budget, state-established 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 any increase in school property taxes will affect each of our townships fairly 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. 1-30	Can be paid in person or by mail
Oct. 1-Nov. 1	Can be paid in person or by mail (2% penalty added to bill)
Nov. 2-15	By mail only to: <i>Commissioner of Finance</i> <i>124 Main Street</i> <i>Goshen, NY 10924</i>

How can we help?

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

For your convenience, hours and telephone numbers for our schools and offices are listed below:

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

Minisink Valley CSD

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

Board of Education

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Newsletter

Debbie Roda