

MVTA- Our Collective State of Being

Issue 68

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Otisville Options

By Lisa Keller-Decker, MVTA President
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At our last Building Reps. Meeting with the Superintendent, staffing changes were discussed. There will be approximately 140 students from Greenville who will be moving from the Minisink campus to the Otisville building, with a total of 730– 750 students in the K-5 school. There will be 4 new classes at 4th and 5th grade and approximately one additional class at each grade level to be added in K-5, dependant on enrollment.

Dr. Murray shared that the District will be looking for volunteers who wish to change buildings and these wishes will be honored, whenever possible, taking into account such balancing issues as experience, grade level certification and special skills. Forms will be coming out for volunteers to list their preferences regarding grade level, etc. Dr. Murray noted that if a person volunteers to move and that the grade level requested is unavailable, they may withdraw their name. The District has not developed criteria for deciding who may be asked to move if volunteers are not adequate to staff all of the necessary positions. The District hopes to notify faculty and staff of their placement by winter recess, or at least by the end of the first semester. Possible administrative changes have not been finalized by this time, and this may effect the decision of some teachers regarding whether or not to volunteer for a move. As retirements may also play a part in staffing of the new building, our MVTA Reps. were asked to let our members know that early notification of pending retirements will be helpful to the District regarding staffing decisions that must be made. Please take the opportunity to let your Building Rep. know if you have any concerns that have not been addressed in this article, as the District is seeking to make a transition that is as positive and supportive as they are able for our students and our teachers.

FYI

By Lisa Keller-Decker,

VOTE-COPE- Help support school budgets, elect school board members and show your local unity by giving to VOTE-COPE, NYSUT's political arm. We are able to capture 40% of all donated monies to be used locally to support all the above. Chairwoman Wendy Ellert reminds all members who did not get a chance to give (either by check or payroll deduction) that contributions will be accepted until the end of October. *All folks who opted to use payroll deduction last year will have this in place for this year.*

MVTA Scholarship Golf Outing- Michael Burns and Brian Golden (both HS) will be hosting this fundraiser at Tarry Brae on Monday, Oct. 8. The donation is \$100, which includes a round of golf, cookout and prizes. Support our students by signing on to play!

MVTA Craft Fair- As you are aware, it is on Oct. 27 at the HS Gym. Chairwoman Meg Catizone is looking for YOUR help, in the form of volunteering to bake, help set up or man booths. Monetary donations to the MVTA Scholarship Fund are also a tax-deductible and easy way to go, so whatever your preference, contact Meg at the HS ASAP.

Making Strides Against Cancer- Chairwomen Kathy Arns (ext. 3242) and Kristine Kidney (ext. 3259) (both MS) are looking for walkers and sponsors for this walk-a-thon to support breast cancer research. NYSUT is a flagship sponsor of this event, which will be held on Sunday, October 21 at the Woodbury Commons. Our members have already gotten over \$500 in pledges for this worthy cause! Do your part and contact Kathy or Kris today. Donations can be made at: <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/mvta>

NYSUT Pocket Calendars Are Coming!- The coveted calendars should be making their collective way to me in the next week or so... keep your fingers crossed.

Monetary Donations/Requests- Need to be made to your Building Rep. **at least one month** before the funds are needed. Examples include yearbook ads, charitable donations, conference expenses, etc. Your Building Rep. attends Executive Meetings every month. Failure to submit requests in a timely fashion could cause a refusal of funds.

Upcoming MVTA Meetings

Building Unit Meetings- These occur monthly in all of our sectors. I can be available to speak with you on all matters union during these gatherings, given a timely request!

Building Reps/Superintendent- Oct. 24 4PM
Please bring any questions and concerns to your Building Rep. ASAP so that s/he may deal with issues on a building level first.

Executive Meeting- Oct. 1 in MS LR at 4PM
If you have something for the good of the order or want to get more involved with the MVTA, please let me know.

As questions come up about your professional life at Minisink Valley, please avail yourself of the assistance your MVTA Representative can offer.

Building Representatives

High School- Franklyn Cherry
Middle School: Paula Barnes
Intermediate: Jeanne MacDonald
Elementary: Eileen Jacobs
Otisville: Wendy Ellert

Ask Mr. Contract

By Chris D'Angelo, MVTA Vice President

This will be a monthly column which addresses specific contractual issues. To have your question or contract issue addressed, please forward it to Chris by the first of each month! He can be reached at cdangelo@minisink.com

Mr. Contract would like to address the Sick Leave Bank. Notice to join must be received in writing by October 1 to the Administration. All full-time tenured teachers donated 2 sick days. Each probationary teacher donates one day. Additional days will be requested only when the total number of days remaining in the bank are less than 180.

Recently, a change in sign in/out procedures was addressed by Mr. Contract at our last meeting with the Superintendent. The addition of times as well as the District's informing us that the contact sheets would be kept for a year "due to the auditors", who noted that this was lacking in the District's latest audit. Mr. Contract reminds all that such records cannot be used for disciplinary purposes, but are to be used **for safety concerns only**, as written in the recent MOA to the contract (which should be out in its new form this fall!). If this should become an issue for you, please let your Building Rep. know immediately.

Mr. Contract is always in search of topics to address- he deals in all things contractual only please.

MVTA Classy-Free Ads

Hosted by MS Teacher Gerry Farrell, this is a monthly column that advertises things for rent, sale or just general solicitation. It is for the use of members and retiree members only, please. Ads may be edited for length or content. Have something to share with the general populace? Leave Gerry an email at gfarrell@minisink.com before the **10th** of the month.

Adrienne Butvinik (HS) shares- The Caitlin M Hammaren Foundation has just been registered for GoodSearch and GoodShop as seen in *Oprah Magazine, ABC News, and The New York Times*.

GoodSearch.com is the search engine with a unique social mission. It's powered by Yahoo!, so you get the same great search results, but each time you do a search, GoodSearch makes a donation to your cause!

Caitlin Hammaren was a former Minisink student who lost her life tragically last April in the massacre at Virginia Tech. Anyone who knew her would tell you what a good kind girl she was. The Caitlin Hammaren foundation provided its first scholarship to a Minisink student last year and will give assistance to projects in the arts- something that was always close to Caitlin's heart.

Sofa Sleeper- Beautiful Ethan Allen Sofa Sleeper finished in Waverly Campbell plaid (navy blue, white gold teal). Great construction with pull out mattress. Also available is a coordinating teal colored recliner. Perfect for apartment, college dorm lounge area, or basement/loft. Contact Amy Peluso at apeluso@minisink.com or apeluso@hvc.rr.com or 294-8850.

Minisink Valley Kiwanis Rose Day- Be a hero with that someone special by purchasing a dozen roses! For a mere \$13, you can help those that help our own and make your sweetie (or yourself) happy. Both red and rainbow mix are available by calling Lisa Keller-Decker (x5240) or emailing her at millsburg@optonline.net . Delivery will occur on Oct. 17 and the last day to give LKD your orders is Oct 2.

Interior House Painting- Contact retiree John Zuclich (386-3177 or 597-4772). Your rooms will be left neat and complete! :-)

Free House Numbering- The Minisink Valley Kiwanis are offering to provide any district resident with a free house number sign. Specific info regarding this service may be found on the District's website at the following link: http://www.minisink.com/fileadmin/user_upload/pdfs/kiwanis_help_program.pdf People may also contact LKD at x5240 or Dave Morse at slapshot@frontiernet.net or 858-8920.

Please remember to pass on all info regarding births, illnesses or deaths to our Social Chair-woman Susan Petrosky (VoiceMail #8364).

The MVTA Remembers Flowers were sent to Lisa Keller-Decker (MS), to honor the passing of her father Ralph, a teacher of mathematics for 41 years.

Please remember to send any/all submissions for this newsletter by the **10th** of the month- I am always on the lookout for articles, letters, concerns, etc. (LKD) VoiceMail #8348



What's all the buzz about?



You might have heard your colleagues talking about MAP, the Member Assistance Program available from NYSUT Member Benefits Trust. Or maybe you've already joined. But if you haven't, you may want to once you read about MAP's benefits.

By joining MAP, an e-mail based program, you'll be among the first to hear about new, endorsed programs and program updates. You'll receive special offers from Member Benefits or from providers of its endorsed programs. Your opinions will be solicited on new programs under consideration for endorsement. When possible, you'll help Member Benefits test potential new programs and provide feedback.



Frequently, MAPers are entered into drawings for prizes donated by providers of endorsed programs and Member Benefits. Since MAP's introduction last spring,

MAPers have entered drawings for Bose® Quiet Comfort 3 Acoustic Noise Cancelling Headphones, free admissions to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, a summer fun pack filled with a variety of items, and an OfficeMax gift card worth \$100. In addition, new MAP enrollees and existing MAPers are automatically entered into quarterly raffles; to date, prizes included digital cameras and an iPod nano.

MAPers receive e-mail communications from Member Benefits and occasionally from

its providers of endorsed programs. Member Benefits oversees the frequency of e-mail communications to ensure you will not be bombarded. On average, a MAP e-mail alert is sent once every three weeks.

Rest assured, Member Benefits does not share your e-mail address with outside interests other than endorsed program providers and then only under controlled circumstances. Once a program provider receives approval from Member Benefits to send you an offer or information, the vendor will be required to destroy the e-mail listing after sending the communication.



This exciting, new program allows you to help shape future programs and services exclusively available to you and your colleagues.

Help make a difference. Become a MAP team member. Enroll on our secure page by logging on to www.memberbenefits.nysut.org and see the feature on our home page.

For information about this program or about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please call NYSUT Member Benefits Trust at (800) 626-8101, e-mail benefits@nysutmail.org, visit www.memberbenefits.nysut.org, or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

