

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER ~ JUNE 2017



SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

The Special Education Department has had a very busy school year. Quarry Hill Community School opened the full day preschool classroom this past January for preschool students who will transition to Kindergarten in the fall. The students have had the opportunity to follow a full day schedule, which included specials. Ms. Samantha Mangano has provided a wonderful experience for our preschool students who are ready for the next big step...Kindergarten!

Colette Bidus and Katie Czarniecki, Special Education Teachers at Quarry Hill Community School served as Special Education Coordinators this school year. They have assisted the Special Education Teachers throughout the district and created transition protocols to assist with building level transitions.

At Granite Valley Middle School, a new classroom opened this year, the Therapeutic Learning Center, which is for students who need therapeutic supports to access the curriculum. Mr. Steve Nappi is the Special Education Teacher for this classroom. Mr. Nappi has also provided staff training in how to support the social/emotional needs of our students.

Mr. John Lempart and Ms. Colleen Williams, Special Education Teachers for the SOAR classroom at Granite Valley Middle School have worked together with Ms. Lori Hess, Special Education Teacher for the Life Skills classroom at Monson High School to develop specialized program descriptions which will be available to parents in the fall.

The Special Education Department met last week to reflect on all of the work and professional development over this past school year. The team identified strengths over this past year and developed goals to continue to strengthen our department over the next year. Thank you to all of the Special Education Teachers and Specialists for their continued dedication to the students of Monson!

MONSON SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (MSEPAC)

The Monson Special Education Parent Advisory Council held a meeting on May 16, 2017 from 6:00-7:00 pm in the School Committee Room at Quarry Hill Community School. Ms. Colette Bidus, Special Education Teacher joined me in presenting information about the 2017 Extended School Year Services which will be at Quarry Hill Community School.

PAC President, Holly Lynch, reported that there will be monthly meetings scheduled for next year and welcomed feedback for scheduling presenters and topics for next year. Please contact Holly Lynch at monsonpac@gmail.com if you would like to obtain more information about the Monson Special Education Parent Advisory Council.

TOPIC OF THE MONTH: SPECIAL OLYMPICS SCHOOL DAY GAMES

The Monson Public School District was invited to the Special Olympics School Day Games held on May 12, 2017 at Quabbin Regional High School in Barre, MA.

Special Olympics School Day Games are the perfect way for classrooms, school systems and surrounding communities to come together for a fun and inclusive day of activities featuring all of the elements of a traditional Special Olympics event.

During a School Day Games event, students participate in the traditional Opening Ceremony, compete or participate in three or more activities (depending on the sports chosen) and each is awarded for their accomplishments in a ceremonial awards presentation at the end of the event.

The Monson School District came together to celebrate our student athletes with a very special send off at Granite Valley Middle School, which was well attended by parents, teachers, staff, and community members. Our student athletes shined throughout the day to make it one of the most memorable Special Olympics School Day Games I have ever attended. A very special thank you to the Monson PTSA for donating the Special Olympics shirts and all who supported our student athletes on this very special day!

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY SAFE AND WONDERFUL SUMMER!

Sincerely,

Suzanne Morneau

Director of Pupil Services