



MONOMOY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014



Chatham Elementary School

- 2nd Open House/Ice Cream Social
2:30-3:30pm
- 4th Student's First Day of School
- 8th PK/K First Day of School
- 16th Curriculum Night All Grades
6:30-8:30pm
- 17th EARLY RELEASE FOR STUDENTS
2:45pm
- 26th All School Assembly

October

- 15th Picture Day

Harwich Elementary School

- 2nd Open House/Ice Cream Social
2:30-3:30pm
- 4th Student's First Day of School
- 8th PK/K First Day of School
- 11th Picture Day
- 16th Curriculum Night Grades 1 & 3
6:30-7:30 Grade 1
7:30-8:30 Grade 3
- 17th EARLY RELEASE FOR STUDENTS
2:45pm
- 18th Curriculum Night Grades K, 2, & 4
5:30-6:30 Kindergarten
6:30-7:30 Grade 2
7:30-8:30 Grade 4

Monomoy Regional Middle School

August

- 28th Tour the school/meet the Principal
9-11am

September

- 4th Student's First Day of School
- 4th Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
8am
- 17th EARLY RELEASE FOR STUDENTS
1:50pm
- 22nd Curriculum Night
6:30-8:30pm

October

- 1st Picture Day

Monomoy Regional High School

August

- 21st Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
11am
- 27th Senior Class Orientation
10-noon
- 28th Underclass Orientation
Gr 8 & 9 — 10-11:30am
Gr 10 & 11 — 1-2:30pm
Cookout all Grades
11:30-1pm

September

- 4th Student's First Day of School
- 16th Picture Day
- 17th EARLY RELEASE FOR STUDENTS
1:50pm
- 17th Curriculum Night
6:30-8:30pm

District Dates & Meetings

- 1st Labor Day
- 2nd First Day for Teachers
- 3rd Classroom Unpacking & Set-up
- 4th Student's First Day of School
- 10th School Committee Meeting*
- 17th 40-MIN EARLY RELEASE FROM
SCHOOL FOR TEACHER
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- 24th School Committee Meeting*

**School Committee Meetings will
always be held in the Monomoy
Regional High School Library*

GARDEN CHALLENGE

To celebrate Earth Day last spring and in support of 'Go Green' & 'Farm to School' garden initiatives, Harwich Elementary School students planted seedlings in the courtyard. To reconnect with their spring experience, students are "Taking The Garden Challenge" this fall, identifying and labeling the plants and produce growing in the courtyard.



AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Monomoy Regional Middle School gym teacher, Mr. Webster, pushes his students to demanding aerobic heights, and then has each student find her or his pulse and heart rate. The lesson integrates health, science and physical education, all blended in one lesson plan. The lesson also helps provide an outlet for some excess middle school energy as well.



MONOMOY STUDENTS EARN TOP HONORS AT NATIONAL PROJECT CITIZEN COMPETITION

This past school year, both Harwich Middle School and Chatham Middle School students excelled in the nationwide Project Citizen competition, which promotes civic education and empowers students to express their voice to make positive changes in our country. Project Citizen is also a feeder into the much touted We the People program at Monomoy Regional High School.

Project Citizen requires students to analyze local issues within the school, community, or state and present public policy solutions to these local problems. The students' competition involves preparing for a public hearing on the issue, debating the problem, and justifying their solution and the creation of a portfolio outlining the problem, the research, and the solution. Members of state legislatures, legislative staff, and educators serve as evaluators for the hearings and portfolios.

This year, at the state-level, Harwich Middle School won the hearing competition based on their presentation and ability to answer questions from a panel of judges related to their "Dismount the bike or pay the hike" proposal. The students advocated that bike riders should get off their bikes at crosswalks, and walk the bike or face paying a ticket. Teachers Andy Matheson and Pam Reuss helped prepare students for the hearing.

Monomoy also won the portfolio portion of the competition with Chatham Middle School's presentation of "Get an Education, Inspire the Nation." Grade 8 students from Susan Rusch's Humanities class wanted to get legislators on board to pass a law requiring students to attend high school at least until the age of 18 or graduation. One component of researching the problem of school drop-outs found the students interviewing Superintendent Carpenter, Principal Mangelinkx, and the head of Monomoy's alternative program for students struggling in high school, George Sowpel. The students learned how legislation from the state or national level can create unfunded mandates, where the schools are left shouldering the financial burden for legislation that is passed without funds to implement a solution. By winning the state-level portfolio part of the competition, the class portfolio was boxed and sent to the Project Citizen national competition, along with portfolios from around the country. After evaluation at the Project Citizen National Showcase, Mrs. Rusch's class was one of only seven portfolios in the country to be deemed "Superior," the highest rating, at the national level.

BRINGING THE WORLD INTO CLASSROOMS

With the generous support of the Westgate Fund, Monomoy teachers can embark on enriching experiences that they in turn enrich the curricula in Monomoy classrooms. This summer, four teachers in the Monomoy Schools expanded their horizons by participating in professional development opportunities made possible in part by the Westgate Fund.

Barbara Gula and Nancy Gifford traveled to the big island of Hawaii to study volcanoes with the Geological Society of America. They not only learned about volcanos at the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, they also expanded their earth science knowledge by experiencing the one-two punch of hurricanes Iselle and Julio and an earthquake while in Hawaii. Barbara (in pink) and Nancy (in blue) have developed a cooperative learning design for their students which will allow seventh graders and third graders to share their knowledge and understanding of plate tectonics.



Georgia Smith-Fay attended a French immersion program in Vichy, France. This program was sponsored by CAVILAM and the Alliance Francaise. Georgia spent two weeks collaborating with teachers of French from around the world. Georgia (pictured far right) experienced immersion into French language and culture by staying with a host family in Vichy. Through connections Georgia has made with French schools, her students in French classes at Monomoy Regional Middle School will be connecting with pen pals in France through photos, letters, and emails.



Rachel Barnes studied Shakespeare in Italy, with the Royal Shakespeare Company at the University of Urbino. Rachel developed strategies for bringing the language of Shakespeare into the classroom in relevant and meaningful ways. While studying in Italy, Rachel (pictured in black) had the opportunity to read a scene from *Much Ado About Nothing* with British actress Josie Lawrence (pictured in white).



This type of teacher enrichment is made possible by you. Information about how parents or community members can support the Westgate Fund in promoting Monomoy educators' professional development can be found on the [district's website](#).

SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This summer, 54 Monomoy teachers volunteered to participate in a two-day workshop with a nationally-revered curriculum consultant, [Jay McTighe](#). Monomoy teachers spent this time developing performance task assessments and put the final touches on units of study in preparation for the first year of full regionalization.

ALLIANCE FOR CLIMATE EDUCATION

On September 9, all Monomoy Regional Middle School students attended a one-hour assembly where Alan Palm from the Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) presented information about climate change using engaging and informative visuals. He called on students to commit to impacting the environment in at least one positive way. Every student had a fact worksheet that they filled out during the presentation. Dennis Wahtola, a 6th grader, reported that the presentation, "Taught me a lot of stuff. People have to reduce the use of carbon." Visit the [ACE website](#) for more information.

N.E.E.D. ACADEMY

Starting September 22, the first group of Monomoy 5th graders will head off for their week at the N.E.E.D. (National Environmental Education Development) Academy in Truro. The N.E.E.D. Academy is administered in a partnership with the Monomoy, Dennis-Yarmouth, and Falmouth school systems, in partnership with the Cape Cod National Seashore. The N.E.E.D. Academy is located in the former Pamet Coast Guard Station on Ballston Beach in Truro. The academy director and a staff of naturalists teach a curriculum that emphasizes natural history, coastal ecology, and experiential education.

The program provides all participants unique understandings of the environment surrounding them on the Cape. The program also gives the Monomoy Class of 2022 their first common experience together and fosters friendships and independence. Staying overnight away from home is a big step for our 5th graders, but the program has a long history of success. By the end of this school year, every fifth grade Monomoy class will experience a memorable week-long residential experience at the N.E.E.D. Academy.



RIBBON CUTTINGS

Much of the focus over the past year has been on the construction and grand-opening (pictured below) of the new Monomoy Regional High School. The August 21st Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Monomoy Regional High School was a milestone for our new district, but many have overlooked that Monomoy is actually opening two new schools this year. The first day of school for Monomoy's middle school students found the students, their teachers, and many parents gathered on a sunny morning around the flagpole in front of Monomoy Regional Middle School, located on Crowell Road in Chatham in the former Chatham Middle-High School building. Monomoy Regional Middle School's opening ceremony began with raising the flag for the first time in front of the regional middle school, music from the school's band and chorus, and the traditional cutting of ribbon to welcome all into a "new" building.



ALL-SCHOLASTIC HONORS

Congratulations are due to Monomoy Regional High School junior Jen Keim for being named this summer by the Boston Globe as a 2014 All-Scholastic in Girls Golf.
