



# The Madison Messenger

“Success is not a matter of chance, but of choice”

MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2019

Once again this has been a very interesting winter. We have had days where the snow has melted and you could go outside with a light jacket and then it is followed up with freezing temperatures where we need to stay inside. It is very difficult to predict what the weather will be like even after watching the news.

Over our Winter break, the temperature was nice and unfortunately our first day back to school was met with 40 mph winds and snow. This wild weather resulted in our using our last emergency day of the school year. By state education law, we must have 180 school days per year. In our planning of the school calendar we add five additional days for emergencies. At this time, all five emergency days have been used. If for some reason between now and April break we need to close again due to weather, we may need to change April 12<sup>th</sup> to a day of school. If this is to occur, we will be sure to notify every one of the change.

You may have recently heard that the Madison Central School District was identified by the New York State Education Department as a Targeted District. Our Elementary/Middle School was identified as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement building (CSI). These identifications are based on student performance and growth on New York State 3-8 assessments in ELA, Math and Science, the participation rates for the 3-8 assessments, and chronic absenteeism. This identification will provide an opportunity to grow and learn. We will be following NYSED guidelines for CSI schools and Targeted districts. Although students are not “penalized” for opting out of the 3-8 assessments, school districts are penalized. As part of ESSA, districts are expected to have 95% of their students participating in the assessments. These assessments are important to our district as we use the results and questions to determine where we need to improve our curriculum and in what areas we are doing well. When students do not participate in the assessments, not only do we receive a zero for each student, but we are unable to use the data to prepare students to be successful on the future regent exams. We strongly urge all of our students to participate in these assessments so we can get a realistic view of where we are as a district and where we need to go.

In the months to follow, we will be looking for feedback from our parents, students and staff as we take part in a climate survey. This survey will help inform the direction of the district as we develop our improvement plan. We will also be looking for community members to take part in our Participatory Budget process with School Improvement Funds. If you have any questions about the districts designation as a Targeted District or CSI School, please go to our website and view the power point. You are also welcome to call the district with any additional questions you may have about the climate survey, Participatory Budgeting or the School Improvement Plan.

At the time of this letter, our girls’ basketball team is preparing for sectional finals at the Carrier Dome. We all wish them good luck and hope they go far into the state championships.

Sincerely,

*Mike Davis*

## COMING EVENTS

- March 1 Turkey Dinner-5:00-6:30  
March 1 Music-A-Thon /Auction-6:30  
March 2 Volleyball Tournament – 10:00 am  
March 5 BOE Budget Workshop- 6:30 pm  
March 6 Exchange Concert – 6:30 pm  
March 15 Supt. Conference Day-No School for students  
March 19 BOE Regular Meeting-6:30 pm  
March 25 Bloodmobile – 9:00-2:00  
April 2-4 NYS ELA Testing  
April 2 BOE Workshop Meeting – 6:30  
April 4 & 5 Musical - SHREK – 7 pm  
April 12-22 No School-Spring Recess  
April 23 BOE Regular Meeting/BOCES Budget Vote -6:30 pm  
May 1-3 Grades 3-8 State Math Exam  
May 7 Budget Hearing- 6:30 pm  
May 9 3-5 Spring Concert-6:30 pm  
May 10 Staff In-service – Students dismissed at 11:20  
May 11 Junior Prom/Crowning @5pm  
May 16 6-12 Spring Concert-6:30 pm  
**May 21 Budget Vote-12-8 pm**  
May 21 Spring Concert-Grades K-2-6:30  
May 21 BOE Regular Meeting—7:30 pm  
May 27 No School - Memorial Day  
May 29 Bloodmobile – 9:00-2:00  
May 30 Kindergarten Registration-By Appointment  
June 4 BOE Workshop Meeting-6:30 pm

## \*\*\*BOARD OF EDUCATION OPENINGS\*\*\*

The Madison Board of Education will have 3 seats available this year. The successful candidates will serve 4-year terms beginning on July 1, 2019. Petitions are available on April 4, 2019 and can be picked up at the Main Office. Petitions are due back to the Main office no later than April 22, 2019 at 3 pm.

## MADISON UNIVERSAL PRE-K REGISTRATION

Applications for Madison Central School's 2019-20 Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program are now being accepted. If you did not receive a packet in the mail, you can obtain one from school or on the school's website where there is a link to the application. Applications should be returned to Linda Wood in the Main Office no later than March 15, 2019. Screening for incoming Pre-k students will be held at a later date. You will receive information regarding this in the mail.

Children who will be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2019 are eligible for this free program, staffed by a certified teacher and paraprofessional. Pre-readiness academic skills, self-help, speech, language, fine motor, gross motor (large and small muscle), social, and other developmental skills are emphasized daily during this full day program. Parent/child activities also take place throughout the year.

Questions can be directed to Mr. Brian Latella, Elementary Principal at ext. 265 or Linda Wood at ext. 201

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration and screening for children not currently enrolled in our Pre-K program will be held on May 30, 2019, by appointment. If you or someone you know has a child who will be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2019 and does not currently attend our Pre-K program, please contact Linda Wood at 893-1878 ext. 201 if you have not received information in the mail by the middle of May.



## CAN YOU READ IN THE DARK?



Mrs. Bergeron and Mrs. Sreca's Second Graders Celebrated Reading with FLASHLIGHT FRIDAY. We brought in sleeping bags, flashlights, popcorn, and juice and hunkered down for a wonderful day of reading with the lights off. What a great day of reading in the dark with flashlights, a unique twist on exploring our wonderful skill of reading.



## **SKI DAY!!**

The sixth graders take advantage of a special ski day at Toggenburg every year. Here we are enjoying our time outside learning some new skills on the slopes!



## **What is a CSI school?**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that state agencies use criteria to determine if a school is eligible for Comprehensive Support and Instruction (CSI). If a school is found eligible, they must work with local agencies and community stakeholders to develop a plan to improve student outcomes. Madison Central School has been deemed a CSI school for the 2018-2019 school year.

You may go to the MCS website ([www.madisoncentralny.org](http://www.madisoncentralny.org)) to view a powerpoint that explains what this means for our district. One way that MCS will be addressing this and attempting to improve student outcomes is through Participatory Budgeting.

## **What is Participatory Budgeting?**

Participatory Budgeting (PB) engages all stakeholders, including parents, students, and educators in deciding how to spend part of the school budget. The district will be putting together a committee to help plan this process. Students will participate in assemblies and meetings where ideas will be shared for improving MCS. Stakeholders will develop the ideas in budget proposals. The school community will then vote on the proposal that best meets the school's needs. The district will fund and implement the winning idea up to a predetermined dollar amount through the use of School Improvement Grant money from the Federal Education Department. This money has been set aside by the Federal Education Department and can only be used for Participatory Budgeting activities.

Our students will learn about civic participation and have an increased sense of social responsibility. In the process, they will gain confidence and see that their voices are heard and that they have the ability to make change happen. In addition, they will learn lifelong skills such as collaboration, research, interviewing, surveying, problem solving, critical thinking, and public speaking. Students will also learn about budgeting and financial education.

If you have further questions or are interested in being involved in this unique process, please contact school superintendent, Michael Davis or myself at (315) 893-1878.

Michele Cotter  
Administrative Intern

## Greek Gods and Goddesses

The sixth graders recently finished a unit about the Greek and Roman Empires. We also read The Lightning Thief. As an end of the unit activity, we researched a bit more about a Greek gods and goddesses, and then shared what we learned with the elementary students. Here we are ready to do our presentations.



## SPIRIT WEEK

Student Council makes sure to bring everyone together for spirit week. The week is spent working together to complete challenges and making memories with classmates. We collected and donated food to our local food pantry as part of spirit week. The local food pantry, located in the Madison Baptist Church, is open to anyone in need on the last Saturday of each month

from 9-10 am. Student Council also started a clothing closet. Donations are still being accepted. Any clean clothing, boots, shoes, etc. can be dropped off at school for others in our community to use. Contact Amber Neiss with any questions.

## Volleyball Game during Spirit Week



Student Council Clothing Closet

## **Madison Biology Students - Amgen Biotech Experience**

This month at Madison High School, Mr. Hunter's 9th and 10th grade Living Environment, Forensic Science, and TC3 Biology students are experiencing a true biotechnology experience thanks to the generosity and outreach of the Amgen Corporation, in conjunction with Harvard University and Springfield Technical Community College. Students have been exposed to laboratory techniques such as agarose gel electrophoresis, plasmid engineering, gene cloning, transformation of bacteria, and the Polymerase Chain Reaction throughout the month of February. The goal of the project is to genetically engineer bacteria that produce a protein normally produced by sea anemones, allowing them to glow with a red color. These truly high level experiences will give Madison students a leg up in several highly competitive (and well paid!) scientific careers.



