

The FLYER

*The Newsletter of
Monroe School
District #70
December 2011*

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

In November, Monroe students and staff collected approximately 1,532 canned and dry food items to help with Limestone High School's canned food drive sponsored by its Student Council. The top two home room classes in the drive were Mrs. Fitzanko (8th grade) with 377 items and Mrs. Berger (7th grade) with 340 items. Great job Monroe!

WINTER BREAK

Monroe students will have an extended break during the holiday season. The break begins after school dismisses early (at 1:35) on Tuesday, December 20 and runs through Wednesday, January 4, 2012. The students will return to school on Thursday, January 5, 2012. Monroe's staff will return on January 4 for a scheduled institute day.

JR. HIGH MUSIC PROGRAM

Monroe's Jr. High music programs are scheduled for Wednesday, December 14. The fifth grade band, advanced band, jazz band and both choirs will perform for the elementary students at 12:45 PM. Later that day at 6:30 PM, the students will put on a performance for the parents and community. Monroe's K-4 students will perform a concert later in the year for Grandparent's Day scheduled for February 2012.



BREAKFAST with SANTA

Monroe's AMPT is sponsoring Breakfast with Santa at Monroe School on Saturday, December 10 from 8-11 AM. Santa will join the festivities from 9-10:30 AM. Professional photos with Santa will be available by Waddell Photography. Breakfast is \$5 and includes pancakes, eggs, sausage and choice of coffee/milk/juice.



Come join friends and family for a warm breakfast and enjoy the sounds of holiday music by Monroe's choir directed by Mr. Jeff Driscoll. Happy Holidays from the AMPT!

WINTER SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Winter is here. To contact parents about any school closings, we will first attempt to send an automated message using our AlertNow messaging system. If you have questions about weather-related school closings, please be sure to watch WEEK, WMBD or WHOI television stations or to listen to any of the AM 1470 WMBD radio network stations.

COLD WEATHER

Colder weather demands that students wear coats and hats. On a daily basis, we monitor the weather conditions to determine whether or not we can take our students out during their recess, which last fewer than 15 minutes. Please be sure your child comes to school daily dressed to go outside if that decision is made.

INCREASE IN LUNCH PRICE

When students return to school on January 5 after winter break, Monroe's student lunch price will increase from \$1.60 to \$1.65 per lunch. The reason for the increase in price is due to a change in the United States Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Law. The new law states that schools participating in the National School Lunch Program must receive sufficient revenues, without using federal reimbursement funds, to cover regular nutrition costs. Federal reimbursement funds cannot be used to offset the normal cost of regular, non-reimbursed school lunches. In a review by the USDA, using its contribution calculation formula, Monroe is under the required average lunch price by five cents. As a result, Monroe must increase the amount it charges for a school lunch by five cents.

PRE-SCHOOL SCREENING

The Special Education Association of Peoria County provides developmental screening for children from birth to age 5 (not kindergarten). The screening checks areas of development that include: vision and hearing, speech and language, behavior and social development, small and large muscle coordination, thinking and reasoning skills and other readiness skills. Children residing in Monroe District #70 are asked to participate in pre-school screening on January 9 & 10, 2012 at St. John's Lutheran Church (6614 W. Smithville Road). Anyone interested in this screening should call 697-0880 (EXT. 200).

Monroe Elementary School Dist. #70
5137 W. Cisna Rd.
Bartonville, IL 61607

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2011 TAX LEVY

The Monroe School Board is committed to avoiding unnecessary increases and keeping its tax rate at a consistent level. At its regular meeting in November, the Board passed a tentative tax levy which will result in a slight decrease in the tax rate. The previous year's tax rate for Monroe was 3.1174% while the tentatively approved rate for 2011 is 3.0736%. Due to the amount requested in this levy, Monroe is not obligated to hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing before Monroe's final Certificate of Tax Levy is approved in December.

STUDENT MEDICATION

Monroe students, who take medication at school, including an inhaler, must have a completed "Request for Administering Medicine at School" form. These forms can be picked up from Mrs. Lutz in the office.

PARENT NOTIFICATION

Schools must inform parents on locating sex offenders living in the community. One location is the Illinois State Police Website, accessed at <http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor>. It contains information about registered sex offenders in Illinois.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please visit our website for current lunch menus and school calendar information.

<http://www.monroe70.org>

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