

MCo Monday Minute

Monday, November 20, 2017

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The Sterling School recently raised money for hurricane victims. On Friday, they presented a check to the American Red Cross for \$232.

Quote of the Week – “When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.” – Alexander Graham Bell

Thanksgiving Break – School will be closed November 22-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday break. When we return the following Monday, we will have just 18 days of school remaining before Christmas break.



Celebrating Success – (1) The ELC celebrated their 50th day of school with a 50s day; (2) Camargo held an 80s day for the District High Attendance Day on Tuesday; (3) LBAR realtors visited the elementary schools last week and made their yearly book donation. The book was called [Spaghetti in A Hot Dog Bun](#) by Maria Dismody; (4) The ATC Carpentry Habitat for Humanity House now has a roof; (5) The MCHS football team closed its season as region runner-up on November 17th. Congratulations to the team and good luck next year.



Mapleton Shows Appreciation – To show their appreciation, Mapleton held a breakfast for maintenance and custodial staff on Thursday. Over the summer, Maintenance worked on Mapleton’s rock garden by the front entrance; for that reason, the Environmental Improvement Team painted rocks to give to maintenance so they could add their rocks to the garden. Earlier this year all Mapleton students and staff added their own painted rocks to this special spot. We give thanks for our maintenance and custodial staff’s hard work and dedication to the students of Montgomery County Schools.



Dear Santa,
PLEASE DEFINE
"GOOD."

Here Comes Santa Claus – The Mt. Sterling Advocate will accept Letters to Santa from preschool – elementary-age students through noon on December 4th. Letters must be typed and can be emailed to news@advocate.com.

Dates:

- Nov. 21– Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- **Nov. 22-24 – No School – Thanksgiving Break**
- Nov. 27 – Born Learning Parent Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Early Learning Center
- Nov. 28 – Dr. Robert Haynes Spring Musical Auditions for *Addams Family*, 3:45 p.m., MCHS Auditorium
- Dec. 2 – Lunch with Santa, 12:00-5:00 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria (*There will be a spaghetti lunch, craft bizarre and pictures with Santa. All proceeds go to the MCHS Bands.*)
- Dec. 7 – *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, 6:00 p.m., Camargo
- Dec. 7 – MCIS Orchestra Winter Concert – 5th Grade @ 6:00 p.m., 6th Grade @ 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 11-15 – MSE Santa Shop
- Dec. 11 – Camargo PTO Meeting, 4:00 p.m.



LBAR realtor reads Spaghetti in A Hot Dog Bun to Camargo students.



MSE students and staff packed 101 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This was MSE's October service learning project. After the items were donated, students packed each box with love.

- Dec. 12 – Mapleton SBDM Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Dec. 12 – McNabb Orchestra Winter Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13 – Camargo SBDM Meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- Dec. 13 – MSE SBDM Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- Dec. 14 – Student Holiday Showcase, 5:00-5:45 p.m., Camargo
- Dec. 14 – Holiday Celebration, 6:00 p.m., Camargo
- Dec. 14 – MCIS SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 14 – MCHS Orchestra Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 18 – Sterling Academy of Dance Nutcracker Performance, Mapleton
- Dec. 18 – McNabb SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 19 – MSE 4th Grade Christmas Dinner
- Dec. 19 - Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- Dec. 19 – MCHS Vocal Music Winter Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 20 – Christmas Parties, Mapleton and MSE
- Dec. 20 – Polar Express Day, Camargo
- Dec. 21 – MCHS SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **Dec. 21-Jan. 2 – No School – Christmas Break**

Continuous Learning through Professional Literature

Dealing with Smartphone Addiction

In this interview with Eric Hoover in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Jean Twenge (San Diego State University) summarizes her central message in the subtitle of her new book, *iGen* (Atria, 2017): *Why today's super-connected kids are growing up less rebellious, more tolerant, less happy – and completely unprepared for adulthood*. The root of the problem, says Twenge, is the smartphones glued to kids' hands. All that online versus in-person interaction is making them more vulnerable, less optimistic, less confident, and less happy.

Can we really make sweeping generalizations about iGeneration (which followed Generation X and the Millennials)? Yes, says Twenge. She's been studying U.S. youth for 25 years, and the changes were incremental until 2011, when a number of indicators of mental health and use of leisure time "just dropped off a cliff" – how much kids were going out, hanging out with friends, going to parties, loneliness, happiness, life satisfaction, depression. What happened in 2011? That's when smartphones reached market saturation.

"I've heard from parents and teens," says Twenge, "as well as middle-school and high-school teachers, who've said that all around them, each day, they see kids addicted to their phone, to the exclusion of living their lives. One teacher said he's surprised by how many of his students won't look him in the eye." And yet there's intense communication going on through the phones, and words have become more important. Bullying and arguments have moved online, with the

potential for greater and more lasting hurt. It's no longer true that "sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me."

What are the classroom implications of these changes? As a college professor, Twenge tries to strike a balance between giving students what they want (shorter readings) and what they need for long-term success (deeper understanding). She uses carrots and sticks "a little bit more" – quizzes on readings, points for class participation, an electronic textbook that enforces a deadline, in-person discussions, and more videos. She's been amazed at how effective these expedients are – but worries that she may not be preparing students for the real world.

What about the home front? "What I've learned as a parent," says Twenge, "is it's very hard to make your kids happy in the short term and keep their long-term well-being in mind. Those two goals conflict." So should adults just confiscate these evil devices? "No," she says. "The sweet spot for mental health and happiness is having that phone but not using it to excess." She believes we need to put screen time in the same category as junk food – enjoy it but set limits. And adults have to model limit-setting themselves, lest observant teens call them out as hypocrites.

"Taking Longer to Grow Up" by Jean Twenge in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 10, 2017 (Vol. LXIV, #11, p. A7), no free e-link available; Twenge can be reached at jtwenge@mail.sdsu.edu.

Be sure to notify the designated person at your school if you have calendar information that should be added to your website calendar.

Thank you so much for your effort and commitment to children. If you have questions about any of the information contained in this issue of The MoCo Monday Minute, please contact me at matthew.thompson@montgomery.kyschools.us.