

Montgomery Elementary School Newsletter

Friday, March 5, 2010

The Annual School Budget Vote takes place next Monday, March 8th at 7:30 p.m., in the school gym. Childcare will be available.

Attached to this newsletter you will find school-wide results from the **fall of 2009** beginning of grade **New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)** tests. The **NECAP** is administered to students in New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont as part of their statewide assessments.

NECAP results are used primarily for school improvement and accountability. Achievement level results are used in the state accountability system required under No Child Left Behind (NCLB). More detailed school and district results are used to help improve curriculum and instruction. **NECAP** tests in Reading and Mathematics are administered to students in grades 3 through 8 and 11; Writing tests are administered in grades 5, 8 and 11. The **NECAP** tests are designed to measure performance on VT Grade Level Expectations (GLE's), which students are expected to have acquired in the previous grade.

Student performance on this assessment falls into one of four achievement levels:

- * Proficient with Distinction = Level 4
- * Proficient = Level 3
- * Partly Proficient = Level 2
- * Substantially Below Proficient = Level 1

What did we learn from the **NECAP** this year? We continue to be pleased with our overall results. Our students performed above the state average in Reading and Math. We are celebrating achieving the **90% Proficiency and Above** benchmark for the first time! In Math, 90% of the students tested were Proficient & Above, and in Reading, 87%! There were no writing results for 5th & 8th graders this year, unfortunately, due to field testing of items.

Since the **NECAP** was first given in 2005, we have steadily improved student performance. During this time, we have improved 16 percentage points in **Math**, from 74% of students being Proficient and Above, to **90%**. We have had an increase of 20 percentage points in **Reading**, from 67% of students being Proficient and Above, to **87%**.

On the website www.schooldigger.com there are **NECAP** results listed for 219 K-8 schools in the State of Vermont. Only six schools in the State had better results in Math and 17 had better results in Reading. Montgomery had the highest percentage of free & reduced meals eligible students of any of these schools, which is significant, because this is often used as a performance indicator.

Another website you might find of interest is <http://education.vermont.gov>, with testing results and information for Vermont schools.

Work in our Professional Learning Communities continues to be an asset that helps us to improve instruction and student learning. You may access additional reports in the school office, if you wish to, or find them on our website. Please call the school to make an appointment with Beth O'Brien if you have any questions or would like to discuss the **NECAP** results.

"One School, One Book" Project

A family kick-off dinner in grades K-6 takes place at school at 6 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 10th** Please RSVP by **Monday, March 8th** so we can plan the meal!

Lindsey Waldman, our guidance counselor, has a folder outside her office containing camp and campership information. The **Chauncey B. Warner Camp Scholarship** is an amazing opportunity for children in Franklin County. The deadline is April 1st. For more information, you may email her at lwaldman@montgomeryk8.net or call her at school Tuesdays or Thursdays.