

# the MTC VOICE

Monticello Transition Center

Dream, Believe, Achieve

Realize your potential and your dreams. Believe in yourself and others.  
Achieve independence by learning life skills, communication skills, and work skills.



Spread your wings and fly!

Year 1 Issue 4  
Dec. 2012

## 2012-2013 Calendar of Events December

12/12 Early Out  
12/12 Restaurant  
12/19 Pizza Party at KCC  
12/19 Shop for gift  
12/21 Gift Exchange  
12/21 End 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr  
IEP Progress sent home

12/22-31 and 1/1-3  
Winter Break No School  
(Class resumes January 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Mondays: Grocery Shopping  
Wednesdays: KCC and Community Activity

## January

1/1-2 No School  
1/9 & 1/23 early dismissals at 2pm

Contact Us:  
Monticello  
Transition Center  
818 1<sup>st</sup> St., Ste 306  
Monticello, IA 52310  
[cindy.arnold@monticello.k12.ia.us](mailto:cindy.arnold@monticello.k12.ia.us)  
[www.monticello.k12.ia.us](http://www.monticello.k12.ia.us)  
Ph# 319) 465-3989

You can sign up for weather email notifications @ [www.monticello.k12.ia.us](http://www.monticello.k12.ia.us), scroll down to cancellations and follow the prompts

From the teacher:

Hello Everyone,

Wow! November slipped by and I expect December to do the same. In November, we took some time to appreciate our veterans at the senior center. Students voted to pass on the pizza lunch served Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> and make our own Thanksgiving meal. We had sliced ham and turkey, creamed corn, mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls, fruit salad followed by pumpkin cheesecake. Everyone pitched in to cook and clean, and we enjoyed good conversation with each other. Read on to see what we did in November and what's to come in December. Enjoy Our Newsletter!

## A Look Back

In the classroom, students focused on relationship skills. Since this is an important topic and one that students are showing a great deal of interest in and difficulty with, I have decided to cover this topic over two months, November and December.

We discussed at great length public and private behaviors: public meaning more than 2 people and in a space that doesn't have a door and private meaning a place you can be alone that has a door (bedroom, bathroom, restroom stall, dressing room). We talked about behaviors that take place in these different places and sometimes in both. In a public place, what you do is seen by others. Talking about personal things in a public place is a bad choice. Your student should have brought this article home so you could discuss this further.

We have also been focusing on backward planning. All students need more practice at school and at home in this area. Estimating the length of time a task will take, planning enough time to get it done, and counting back on the clock to know when to start a task is difficult.

Last month we went to Subway. Most of the students wanted to purchase more food than they could afford and had to make a quick decision at the register on what to do without, in order to pay for their sandwich. Some went without pop and some without chips. It was a good learning experience for all of us.

## Rights and Responsibilities November

~Rights: "that which is due to a person from nature or law" We can have a boyfriend/girlfriend. We can have privacy when we want it. We can protect our bodies and ourselves. We can choose who we spend time with.

~Responsibilities: "particular duties and jobs that are expected" We know that relationships take time to develop. We know the difference between public/private behaviors. We know good secrets from bad secrets. We know to tell a trusted adult if we experience any kind of abuse.

**\*\*We did not finish this lesson in November and it will continue through December.**

3-Way Planning is a money management strategy. It is a structure to money management that involves:

- Money for things you need now.
- Money for something special you want.
- Money to save for the future.

As young adults get closer to adult living, they should be aware of the responsibility to pay for needs (e.g. bills) before they spend money on things they want.

**At School:** We learned about buying gifts. Gifts are for family and special friends. Plan for the money you need to buy gifts. Do not spend money in your savings for gifts to friends. Money won't buy friends.

**At Home:** With the holidays here, help your student pre-plan for gift buying. Deciding on a money limit for each person and pricing items in advance online to help with decisions and list making.

Help at/from Home.

- Students are required to keep track of the time, when it's time for work, when it's time to leave work, and "catch the bus." A few students have a watch and this has been very helpful in teaching them how to be responsible for time management. If your student does not have a watch, please talk with him/her about purchasing one: either analog or digital depending on his/her ability level.
- Students were introduced to this website which has a multitude of teen/young adult related topics. The articles can be listened to if needed, by clicking on the speaker icon. <http://teenshealth.org/teen/>
- Continue to practice backwards planning (see "A Look Back" section). For example, when to start chores in order to watch a favorite show on time or when to leave the house to make it to the movie on time.

A Look Forward, In December:

We continue to cover Relationships. This includes understanding boyfriend/girlfriend relationships, sexual abuse, positive body image/self-esteem, public behavior and private behavior, and the difference between loving favorite things and the feeling of loving others in a healthy relationship.

We will go to a local restaurant and again practice staying within our limit; including tip. We will do a few lessons on estimating food totals the week before we go.

Students have decided to have a Christmas party. They do not want to draw names for secret Santa, but would rather purchase a \$5-\$10 gift suitable for either gender. We will be helping students make this purchase at a local store on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>. Please help them remember to bring money on that day or before.

We will also be learning about how different cultures celebrate the holidays, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Las Posadas and Christmas. We will be making foods, crafts and listening to music representing these different cultures.

#### Student Voice

In November, my favorite thing to do was making and eating Thanksgiving lunch. We made ham, mashed potatoes, creamed corn, fruit salad and pumpkin pie. I made the creamed corn and it was yummy.

I also like to work at Shannon Elementary. I like to be around kids.

By Erika

