

Welcome to the first issue of the new format of the Fort Plain Central School District Newsletter. This newsletter will appear in the "Mohawk Valley My Shopper" on the first weekend of each month. We are looking forward to bringing you district news in this economical format. For more articles, expanded information and additional photos of district events, please be sure to regularly visit our website at www.fortplain.org

A Word from Superintendent Douglas Burton: It's time for another school year to begin, and while the construction project is coming to an end, our staff is getting excited about the new facilities and the educational benefits those renovations will bring. As always, we are saying good-bye to some longtime, dedicated employees who have decided to begin their own adventures in retirement. Each one has touched so many lives in untold ways over the course of their time here, with their dedication, commitment, professionalism and expertise. We thank them and we will miss them. Beginning with this school year and in the future, our district will operate with fewer bus routes, fewer stops, less counseling services and fewer instructional staff, as our Board of Education attempts to continue our high quality of education at a cost which is affordable to the entire community. In addition to the instructional benefits, our district has replaced an unsafe, structurally unsound bus garage with a new energy efficient prefabricated metal building which will house both maintenance vehicles and equipment, along with school buses under cover twelve months a year. This will enable the district to ensure a longer life of operation for the vehicles and provide for ease of maintenance and cleaning for the safety of our students. With a new Library-Media Center in the elementary school, a new playground area for present and future children of the community to enjoy, renovated classrooms with energy efficient windows, solar panels on our roofs, more physical therapy and life long fitness facilities for our students, the teachers' task will be made easier at a cost of "pennies on the dollar" to the community. As noted earlier, our construction will continue into the fall and early winter months. In the coming weeks, we look forward to the addition of two complete walls of tack board for displays of student work and instructional bulletin boards in each of our renovated elementary classrooms. More classrooms will have interactive white board technology and computers, there will be new Life Skills classrooms, and expanded fitness areas and equipment (which can be opened to our community during non-school hours). Our entire instructional community wishes to thank the members of the 2007-2008 Board of Education (President David Fredericks, James Petty Jr., Mary Beth Hudyncia, Russell Vance, Robyn Cutspec, Amy Sammons and Jami Stevens) for their foresight, commitment, financial planning and willingness to provide a plan for an affordable solution to continue to update our facilities with increased energy savings and state of the art equipment and instructional materials for the students of this community.

FPCS Wishes Retirees Success: Please join us in extending well wishes to our recent retirees. We know that they will have a new, different, and exciting future ahead of them. Retiring this summer were:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Cheryl Phillips | Harry Hoag School, Speech Therapist, 21 years in the district |
| Craig Phillips | Jr/Sr High School, P.E. Teacher/Coach/Advisor, 35 years in the district |
| Barry Kahn | Harry Hoag School, Grade 5 Teacher, 34 years in the district |
| Sarah Maiello | Harry Hoag School, P.E. Teacher/Coach, 33 years in the district |
| Gordon Eggleston | Head Bus Driver, 20 years in the district |
| Roger McDuffee | Full Time Bus Driver, 10 years in the district |
| Guy Barton | Regular Run Bus Driver, 37 years in the district |
| Kermit Mosher | Full Time Bus Driver, 33 years in the district, will retire in October |

A Word from Cathy Brucker, Special Education Director: We are looking forward to an exciting year and welcome our new and returning students. The special education offices will be returning to their original location, across the hall from the newly designed elementary main office. If you have any special education or 504 questions, please contact us at 993-4000, ext. 3526. Enjoy your holiday weekend!

Important Transportation Changes: In an effort to serve the families of our district, while also operating in a cost efficient manner, several changes have been enacted in the transportation department. Beginning with the first day of school, the "Late Bus" for after school help/activities (3:45 p.m.) will no longer transport students who live within the Village of Fort Plain, with the exception of Prospect Hill. Permission slips and other correspondence going home with students will indicate that village students staying after school for scheduled activities or extra help will need to provide their own transportation. In addition, please note that some of the bus runs listed on the school district calendar have changed. The following changes to downtown stops will be in effect as of the first day of school:

Bus 48 (Route 1) will make the following stops: Intersection of Division St. & Center St., Intersection of Abbott St. & Reid St., Across from Beck St., Trailer Park past Town of Minden barn, 186 State Hwy. 80, Intersection of Valley Brook Rd. & St. Hwy. 80, 147 State Hwy. 80, Catholic Church sidewalk. *The following stops have been eliminated from this run: 199 Main St., Intersection of Division St. & South St., 120 Reid St., 154 State Hwy. 80, 172 State Hwy. 80, Honey Hill Road, Beck St.*

Bus 46 (Route 5) will make the following stops: Papa Joe's, Intersection of Crouse St. & Willett St., Reformed Church
The following stops have been eliminated from this run: Dairy St., 23 River St., Behind the firehouse

Bus 6 (Route 8) will make the following stops: 19 Douglas St., 24 Hancock St., K-Auto, Dr. Rao's Office

The following stops have been eliminated from this run: 5 Kellogg St., across from the car wash, across from the Charter House

Harry Hoag School News: Notes from Mrs. Tharp, Building Principal....The long-awaited playground is ready! Following months of research, planning, and site visits by a committee of faculty members, the new playground at the elementary school is up and running! Many children have already been using the new swings and slides. There are many new things to look forward to at the Harry Hoag School this fall. They include the brand new media center, trees, classroom windows and floors, and of course your teachers and friends. This is going to be a very exciting time and I can't wait to see you and begin the new school year.



Jr/Sr High School News: Notes from Ms. Larrabee, Building Principal....Please be aware that the West St. steps are not yet ready for use. We will keep you advised as to when the brand new steps are open. * The Jr/Sr High School will host its annual Fall Open House on October 7th. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet their children's teachers and learn a little about the courses they are taking. More information will be mailed home as the date approaches. * We are proud to announce that several new courses are being taught in our building this year. They include: Fit for Life, Forensics, Computers & Careers, Exploring Spanish, and Advanced Digital Photography. * All students, parents and guardians should be reminded that student cell phone use is not permitted during the school day. Anyone needing to contact a student should call the main office. More information on the cell phone use policy can be found in the Code of Conduct and Board Policy Book. * As students return to school, please encourage them to become involved in sports, clubs and other available activities. The new Student Council advisor, Mrs. Lisa Trembley, has set a goal of involving more students and community members in Student Council and other school activities. The Council will hold elections on September 24th and the representatives will attend a Leadership Camp in October.