



Notes from the Counselor's Corner....

Neighbors Helping Neighbors! This year, as part of our ongoing effort to help our students grow into thoughtful and caring citizens, we will be implementing a food collection that will aid our local food pantry. A list of items needed for the month of October is attached, and will be placed on our school website. Kindly send in what you can with your child, so that we can help our community members in need.

Banana Splits Permission slips have been sent home for students who may be interested in attending *Banana Splits* meetings. *Banana Splits* is a support group for youth from one-parent or other non-traditional families, and the goal is to help students handle problems or issues that may be unique to those situations. Our *Banana Splits* program will run as a peer support group, and will meet during lunch periods in Room 228, under Ms. Picone's facilitation. During the meetings, students will use a variety of formats, such as discussion, art projects, and letter writing, to address issues they may be having difficulty dealing with, such as anger, fear, change, or depression. *Banana Split* discussion group sessions will run for the entire thirty minute lunch time period, usually once per week. In order to attend *Banana Splits* on a continuing basis, it will be necessary for students to bring in a permission slip or note signed by a parent or guardian.

Students may join any time during the school year!

Eighth Grade Students

A representative of *The Academies of Morris County* visited the Walter T. Bergen School on October 1, 2008, and many students have expressed interest in applying to the academies. Students are also encouraged to visit the Open Houses that have been scheduled. Visit the website, www.mcvts.org for detailed information and dates. Applications for Morris County School of Technology are available online, and must be sent to Ms. Picone for completion and so that records can be forwarded in a timely manner.

Any eighth grade student who may be applying to other private or parochial high schools should bring the necessary paperwork to Ms. Picone as soon as possible, so that the necessary documentation can be sent to those schools by the school's deadline.

Passaic County Technical Institute PCTI will begin accepting applications for those interested in applying as incoming freshman for the 2009-2010 school year shortly. This is a good time to visit the website, www.pcti.tec.nj.us to look over the many programs that are available. Parents of interested students can also contact Ms. Betty Schulte at 973-389-4235 for further information.

De Paul High School will be hosting a "Shadow Program" for interested eighth grade students beginning on October 1st, and for interested 7th grade students beginning on February 1, 2009. Appointments are necessary for shadowing and those appointments can be made by contacting Mrs. Leccese at 973-694-3702, ext. 400. This is a great opportunity to explore De Paul High School and experience directly from the eyes of a student!

Absences/Tardies Please remember that it is vital for students to attend school regularly, and to get to school on time daily. It is important to remember that not only do excessive absences and tardiness negatively impact school performance, but that patterns and habits are being established that students will carry with them as they go on to high school and enter the job market. In fact, many of the more selective high schools that our students have applied to consider absenteeism and tardiness when deciding upon student candidates. It is up to us all to foster the best habits possible!



*Ms. M. Picone
School Counselor
WT Bergen School
Bloomingdale, NJ
973-838-4684*