

TechNews

Monroe Technology Center

Winter 2009-2010

Large Turnout for Middle School Mixer!

A large number of curious middle school students brought their parents to Monroe Technology Center on Wednesday night, November 4th, for MTC's Annual Middle School Mixer.

The evening kicked off in the cafeteria with live demonstrations from MTC volunteer students and Monroe faculty. Then the middle school visitors were treated to hands-on tours of individual program classroom and shops areas . In another classroom, Mrs. Katy Warehime, Monroe Guidance Counselor, delivered an overview of Monroe Technology Center to interested parents. Students and parents were encouraged to visit at least four classroom/program areas and speak first-hand with MTC instructors on each program they were interested in.

Numbers to Remember

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Middle school students visit Culinary Arts at the Middle School Mixer

Monroe Programs Combine for "Food Fight"

The Video Production and Culinary Arts classes at Monroe Technology Center combined to create a pilot video for the Loudoun County Public School's cable station. "Food Fight" pits two student teams from the Culinary Arts Program. The teams have 90 minutes to prepare a three course meal using their own recipes. Each course includes a "secret ingredient". The contest is judged by area professional chefs.

The program is produced by the Video Production class at Monroe, with recent MTC Video Production graduate, Javier Pierrend, as the creator and director. "Food Fight" gives viewers a chance to see inside the culinary program and witness some reality TV at its best. Student chefs and student video crews function on a professional basis in combining the programs from the two Monroe Technology Center specialties.

The winning team receives cash and prizes, plus the opportunity to work with the paid staff at The Conference Center at Lansdowne. Judges included Wesley Rosati, Executive Chef at Lansdowne Resort; Christopher Carey, Executive Chef at The Wine Kitchen, Leesburg; and Jason Reaves, Pastry Chef at Market Salamander, Middleburg.

Students from MTC's second-year Video Production class served as the crew. Culinary teams were composed of Michelle Johnson (HTH), Lyndsay Woltner (DMH), Christopher Aycock (LVH), and Aaron Wolak (LVH). Video production students included Joey Hoefler and Nick Miliuous (FHS), Blake Harvey (LCHS), and Austin Smith (DHS).

The program will air in January over the LCPS cable station (Comcast channel 18, Verizon channel 43). LCPS's Public Information Office operates the channels under the direction of Public Information Officer Wade Byard. The Executive Director is Assistant Public Information Officer Ivy Allen, with Monroe Technology Center's Video Production teacher, Gary Hawke, as Executive Producer.



Claude Moore Foundation Gives \$125,000 for Continuation of Medical Sciences Program

The Claude Moore Charitable Foundation has donated \$125,000 to Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) to continue the work of the Claude Moore Scholars program.

More than 200 students have participated in this health and medical sciences program. The Claude Moore Scholars program includes the following health and medical sciences pathways:

- Introduction to Health and Medical Sciences
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Practical Nursing
- Pharmacy Technology
- Radiologic Technology

This is the third year the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation has given financial support for this unique and innovative effort. To date, LCPS has received \$400,000 from the foundation for the Claude Moore Scholars program, which is overseen by Monroe Technology Center (MTC).

Students enrolled in these programs are part of the Loudoun Governor's Career and Technical Academy housed at MTC.

Students in the Claude Moore Scholars health and medical sciences program earn dual-enrollment college credit with Northern Virginia Community College as well as a variety of industry-standard certifications and licensures. Graduates of this program have gone on to pursue higher education or directly enter a career in the health and medical sciences.

Founded in 1987, the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation's mission is to enhance educational opportunities, including higher education, for young people in the Commonwealth of Virginia and elsewhere. Its namesake, Dr. Claude Moore, was a pioneering radiologist who invested heavily in real estate in Loudoun County. He died in 1991 at the age of 98 and established the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation to continue his philanthropic legacy.



Tools of the Trade Holiday Tree

Monroe's Tools of the Trade Tree made its annual appearance in the main hallway this year chock full of its usual number of unique ornaments that represent the different programs offered at Monroe. For example, there is a fire engine (Firefighter/EMT), police cars (Administration of Justice), hand-made stethoscopes (Health & Medical Sciences), cookie cutters (Culinary Arts), etc.

The "Tools of the Trade" tree has a long tradition at Monroe going back to the late 1970s. The story goes that MTC Administration wanted the lobby to look a bit more festive during the holiday season and came up with the idea. Everything from shiny circuit boards from long lost computers to nurses' caps to hair rollers have adorned the tree over the years.



"Shadowing" Begins at Monroe

Monroe shadowing days began on December 3rd and will continue during the month of December. What is shadowing?

Students from other Loudoun high schools who may have an interest in coming to Monroe for the next school year attend a morning at the school visiting several programs of interest. These students see first-hand the classrooms and shop areas, speak to the instructors teaching the course and students attending the program, touch the equipment and observe what is going on.

Not sure what programs are offered at Monroe? Think you may want to attend MTC? Contact Mrs. Warehime at 571-252-2080



Spotlight on Peter Nguyen from CIED.

By Mrs. Katy Warehime, Guidance Counselor

Peter is a senior at Briar Woods High School. With his hard work and multiple AP classes he was recently accepted to Virginia Tech. He will major in computer engineering. He currently is enrolled in two AP classes Government and Language. Peter is involved in the Technology Student Association club at Briar Woods. One of the projects in the association is building a computer. Peter has a leadership position being the head electrician. Peter was also the student of the first nine weeks in his Computer Integrated Engineering & Design class at Monroe Technology Center. Throughout his high school tenure, Peter had been involved in the track team his freshman year and played the piano in the jazz band freshman through junior year. He manages to work at Zero Subs and partnered with his brother in developing a website to create a small business re-building computers. When asked how to succeed his response was, "You have to push yourself." Way to go Peter!!!



Practical Nursing News

Practical Nursing has been very, very busy the last couple of months! In November, PN I and PN II, took two field trips. The first was to the National Museum of Health and Medicine located on the Walter Reed campus. We went on the Anatomy and Physiology tour and viewed a movie on autopsy. There were several other displays that the students viewed, including one on Bubonic Plague and the history of microscopes.

The second trip was to Richmond, Virginia to the Board of Nursing. We met a few members of the Board and learned about the disciplinary process. While there we were able to witness several formal disciplinary hearings. The process was interesting and quite a learning experience.

The second year students are busy in the classroom and clinical. They have finished the classroom portion of the Obstetrical and Neonatal Unit and the Psychiatric Nursing Unit. Mike Bowen, a former graduate of this program, stopped by and talked about Psych nursing to the class. Tracy Cross, another former student, spoke to the students about Breastfeeding.



First year is busy too! The class is working furiously to finish Anatomy and Physiology and Fundamentals of Nursing. They are also learning basic nursing skills such as taking accurate Vital Signs and performing physical assessments.



Environmental Plant Sciences News

Arabidopsis Experiment

My Environmental Plant Sciences class at Monroe Technology Center has been growing a genetically altered plant called *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Arabidopsis* is a small flowering plant related to cabbage and mustard. This genus is of vast interest since it contains thale cress which is *Arabidopsis thaliana* one of the model organisms used for studying plant biology and the first plant to have its entire genome sequenced. Changes in thale cress are easily observed and that's why it is a very valuable model which can possibly one day help cure cancer.

When I grew my set of effector *Arabidopsis* I changed the light conditions to see what would change in the growing habits and how the plants will finally come out to be at the end of the experiment. In this project we have been working with Virginia Tech's Mr. David Lally of the Fralin Life Science Institute's Biotechnology Center. The project itself is known as The Partnership for Research and Education in Plants (PREP). This program provides compelling research experiences to high school students and teachers while helping scientists to discover the function of previously unknown plant genes.



Environmental Plant Sciences News

by Christopher Rupp

My name is Christopher Rupp. I'm a senior at Loudon Valley High School and I am currently taking Environmental Plant Sciences at Monroe Technology Center. Last year I earned my Virginia Flower Growers Greenhouse Certification and I am currently working towards becoming a Virginia Certified Horticulturist through the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association.

I have been using a landscape design program to design the landscape at the Monroe Technology Center's house project on Gum Spring road. The program we use to create the designs is called Landscape Pro. Landscape design is one of the career paths I plan to take.



Environmental Plant Sciences News

Riparian Planting at Cleremont Farm, Upperville, VA

by Alex Little

Today, we are experiencing more problems with the environment than in any time before us. There is more pollution occurring in the air and water. Drought and intensified weather conditions are plaguing the news. The health of our water systems is declining due to water pollution. The Chesapeake Bay is not and has not been healthy for a very long time. The oyster population, a sort of canary in the coalmine for bay health, is greatly decreasing. Overharvesting, habitat destruction, and disease have caused the population to decrease to less than 1% of historic levels. Pollutants like nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment entering the water as a result of agriculture, urban, and suburban runoff are causing sickness in many bay species. Continued population growth and development is destroying forests, wetlands and many other natural areas.

There are thousands of organizations all over the world devoted to stopping the downturn of the health of our environment. They do things like organize programs that provide awareness and promote conservation and put together projects that help conserve as well. One project implemented by many organizations is Riparian buffer planting. A riparian buffer is important on any river bank, creek side, or meeting place of water and dry land. It creates an environment that will hold down the soil so that it does not erode into the waterway and pollute the watershed with sediment. The legal length of a watershed is 30 feet. One of the reasons there has been a decline in our watershed's health is because of development and farming causing there to be massive stripping of land, especially near waterways. We plant several different kinds of plants up the bank of the waterway for as long as the area allows. The longer the riparian buffer, the safer the bank is from eroding into the water.

Last Thursday our environmental plant sciences class visited Cleremont Farm in Upperville to participate in a riparian buffer planting with the Natural Resources Conservation Services and the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District. We learned that riparian buffers are important for the protection of our watersheds. To plant a riparian buffer, you use certain native plants to hold onto the soil so that it does not erode into the water system. There was a small stream whose banks were eroding, causing sediment to make its way into the water and through the watershed. We planted several Norway spruces, white oaks, grasses, and silky dogwood to prevent this erosion. Knowing that I could affect our environment by doing such a simple thing was a fantastic thing. It felt good to know that I was contributing to a cause.

Floriculture Impact

by: Chelsey Bordelon

In society today, all around the world, floriculture is taking a climb. Monroe Technology Center's Horticulture program is helping take that climb. In this program I am doing my study on floral design. With the help of my instructor, Mrs. Chaves, I've learned so many different things about floral design. I've learned how to open my imagination to new ideas and how to incorporate them into my designs. In this department, we receive many different floral orders from places such as schools, science fairs, churches, and different banquets. The horticulture program is also dual enrolled at Northern Virginia Community College; so not only am I getting the high school credits that I need, I am also getting 10 college credits that will be a big help in the future. I do recommend this program to anybody who is interested in the environment and would like to learn more about your very own surroundings and how to preserve them as best as you can. This program has paved the way to my future, and I can't wait to get to the end of the road.



The logo for TechNews is a dark green rectangular banner with the word "TechNews" written in white, sans-serif font. The banner is tilted slightly upwards to the right and is layered over a light gray background that includes a thin white crosshair and a small green dot at the top right corner.

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