

Blair Blast

November 18th, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last week we had a meeting for all parents interested in starting a new program to MVVS, "Destination Imagination". Unfortunately, parent attendance was very low. Fortunately, we have two parents who are extremely interested in coaching a team. But, they cannot do this alone!

As stated on their website: <http://www.nh-di.org/about/>

"Destination Imagination is an exhilarating after-school activity in which students work in teams to solve mind-bending challenges and present their solutions at tournaments. Teams are tested to think on their feet, work together, and devise original solutions that satisfy the requirements of the Challenges. Participants gain more than just basic knowledge and skills—they learn to unleash their imaginations and take unique approaches to problem solving."

A DI Team consists of five to seven students. At this time, MVVS is working to establish three teams. The K-2 team is a non-competitive team and a 3-5 team and a 6th grade team, both of which will compete in the regional tournament. Due to the fact that we are beginning this process late in the year, we must register our teams by December 18th.

We need your help. If you are interested in helping or coaching a team, please email me immediately. Once I know how many parents have shown an interest in supporting the teams, I can then open up student membership to the teams.

On Tuesday night, Professor Mahesh Sharma offered a second parents' event to the parents of students in SAU 39. The event was well attended, ninety-eight attendees, to be exact. It was great to see a few Mont Vernon parents present. The focus of the evening was building an understanding of what effective strategies for teaching mathematics involves. The fact that many adults were taught the procedures methodology is important because we do what we know. Professor Sharma stressed the importance of teaching and learning the language and structures of mathematics, "the why of mathematics". Parents learned about the decomposition and recomposition of mathematics and how essential the skills of number sense and math fact fluency are key components to all future learning in mathematics.

The Staff at MVVS continue to work diligently on improving their knowledge and understanding of the structures of mathematics, while improving teaching and learning of mathematics at MVVS. We will continue to work with Professor Sharma during this school year. Beginning in January teachers will have an opportunity to pilot two new math programs, which are being considered for adoption by the schools in SAU 39.

This week we have enjoyed Parent-Teacher conferences. We hope that all parents have had an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher to discuss their student's successes and challenges during the first portion of this school year. If you have not taken advantage of this opportunity, please do not hesitate to call the school, email your child's teacher or stop in to make an appointment to meet with the teacher. Research has proven that a parent's involvement in their child's education is one to the top indicators of success for a student.

Please allow this Blair Blast to serve as a reminder that there are only two days of school next week. Please remind your children to wear their winter wear when they return to school on Monday. The weather outside can be very cold since we are set on a hill. Students go outside daily for recess and need to come prepared for the weather.

The Staff at Mont Vernon Village School wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

