



The bi-weekly newsletter of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

MCIU CONNECTION

www.mciu.org

April 17, 2009

300+ Compete in Special Olympics

After several days of rain, the skies cleared for athletes to compete in the Annual Special Olympics Track and Field Competition held April 16 at North Penn High School. About 120 MCIU students attended the event and a total of 350 athletes from across the county participated. Once again, school district “buddies” or fifth grade helpers (pictured below with an MCIU student) traveled with MCIU classes.

Athletes competed in up to three events, including the 50-meter run or 25-meter wheelchair race, softball throw or tennis ball throw/hit/release and/or standing long jump. Accommodations are made for those athletes who can not grasp a ball; they hit a ball from a tee or push a ball with their elbow. Everyone receives a ribbon for each event. Athletes have practiced for this competition in their Adapted Physical Education class. When they were not competing, the students enjoyed recreational activities, including face painting and arts and crafts.

“All athletes, parents and teachers are so enthusiastic about this event. It is a great time for everyone involved,” said Darlene Anderson, MCIU Adapted Physical Education Teacher.



The MCIU is Going Green

The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit is a registered EPA Energy Star partner. The MCIU Energy Star goal is to reduce the amount of energy used for lighting, heating and cooling to levels of other Energy Star buildings that are the same age, construction type and business use.



Earth Day is April
22, 2009
Do your Part

The cost savings of reducing the amount of electricity and natural gas are significant. This will especially be the case in the year 2011 when energy costs are predicted to increase by 30 percent. Reducing our carbon footprint on the environment is also the green thing to do.

So how do we meet our Energy Star goals? Every MCIU employee needs to buy-in to the idea of conserving energy in the

work place. We can't do it without your help.

The largest energy user is lighting. Turn off your office lights when the room is unoccupied. You do it at home; why not here at work? Change old habits to save!

Heating and cooling is another area of savings. Thermostats are programmed for energy conservation. Please don't try to bypass the thermostat temperature program. What is comfortable for one person is uncomfortable for another. Keep a sweater in your office area and take home that space heater under your desk.

Changing old habits will take a little time to get used to, but if we stay true to our Energy Star commitment we can make a difference!



National Walk at Lunch Day

Wednesday, April 29th

12 pm to 1 pm

(or whenever your lunch hour is...)



All staff are encouraged to take a walk on April 29th! If you are on-site at the MCIU and want to walk as a group, meet outside the front entrance. If you work in another location, walk with your co-workers there!



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

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**Montgomery County
Intermediate Unit**
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Questions? Comments?

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**“Picturing America”
Grant Awarded to
Anderson School**

The Anderson School will soon be receiving a free collection of 40 high-quality reproductions of American art thanks to the initiative of Art Teacher, Jesse Gluckman.

Gluckman was recently selected as an award recipient for “Picturing America”, a grant program

sponsored through the National Endowment for the Humanities. The school will also receive a Teachers Resource Book which includes information on all the images and suggestions for using them to enhance classroom and library learning in a wide range of subjects, including American history, social studies, writing, literature, art and civics. Staff are encouraged to make use to the images and keep as many as possible on display throughout the 09-10 school year. “This is a great opportunity to teach our students a variety of subjects using artwork,” said Gluckman who used the picture of Paul Revere (above) in a recent social studies class. The students brushed up on the history of Revere’s role in the Revolutionary War as well as discussing Revere as a silversmith artisan.



Hazardous Chemicals, Pa Right to Know

The Pennsylvania Right to Know law requires the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit to keep and update Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and Hazardous Substance survey forms (HSSF) for chemicals and substances used and stored in our buildings. MSDS & HSSF information is available for all MCIU employees to view in the Right to Know information centers located in the MCIU Warehouse, PaTTAN Maintenance office & Printing Shop and The Anderson School Maintenance room. Employees that handle chemicals as part of their job must attend annual Right to Know training.

It is important to request MSDS information from vendors when ordering cleaning chemicals, printing chemicals, other office and maintenance supplies. MSDS information must be forwarded to Joseph Harrington, Facilities Supervisor. This is necessary to keep records updated as required by law.

If you need additional information, call Joseph Harrington at 610-755-9492.



Door Prizes Needed for MCIUEF Golf Fundraiser

Door prize donations are needed for the 10th Annual Golf Classic hosted by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Education Foundation (MCIUEF) on May 11th. This is one of two annual fundraisers the Foundation hosts to benefit special education students. To support this great initiative, please consider the following:

1. While shopping, if you see something which could be used in a gift basket, please purchase it and donate it to the Foundation. All donations are 100% tax deductible.
2. Please “re-gift” any gift(s) you don’t want to the Foundation.
3. When you are in the market, or a small boutique, hairdresser, restaurant, autoshop, etc., ask for a gift certificate. It helps to take a brochure and letter with you. Call Debbie Conaway at ext 110 to request a few brochures and letters.

Gifts may be dropped off in Supervisor, Howard Levy’s office, located in the Special Education Department. If you don’t come in to the MCIU, please ask your supervisor or another MCIU employee to bring the gift in to the Administrative Offices.

Please help to make this the best year ever for the children we serve!

MCIU Snapshots



Congratulations to Stan Wisler, Chief Financial Officer/Director

of Management Services, who was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO).

Hold the Date for the First Annual All-MCIU Retirement Party! The social hour and awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 11 beginning at 4 pm at the Westover Country Club. There are about 44 retirees this year who will be celebrated.