



MCIU CONNECTION



MCIU Budget Overwhelmingly Approved

The 2010-2011 MCIU General Operating Budget, which must be approved by the Boards of the 22 public school districts the MCIU serves, was passed overwhelmingly with more affirmative votes than in the past several years. The number of yes votes increased from the previous year by the following percentages for each section of the budget:

General Administrative Services:	5.3%
Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development:	5.2%
Legislative Services & Grants Development	5.4%
Technology & Information Services:	9.8%

“I did not anticipate during these difficult economic times that we would have such overwhelming support. It is a testament to the good work our staff does and the support and leadership that our Board provides on behalf of the MCIU,” said Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, Executive Director/CEO.

REMINDERS!



Know a great restaurant? Enjoy a special park, festival or other event? Have you traveled anywhere locally that was exceptionally fun or interesting? Share your “Great Find” with your co-workers through a new feature in *Connection*. “Great Finds” will be included on a regular basis. Simply email Kristen Rawlings at krawlings@mcIU.org with your recommendation.



Enroll for the Spring Montgomery County Schools Fitness Challenge, running April 1 through May 20th. To enroll, log on to <http://fitnesschallenge.mciu.org>.



Help support the 11th annual MCIU Education Foundation Golf Outing on May 17th. You can assist by participating as a golfer or sponsor or contributing a raffle prize valued at \$25 or more. Contact Kristen Rawlings at x197 to help out.



Turn a Working Lunch into a Walking Lunch

The MCIU is gearing up for National Walk at Lunch Day, and we want you to join us! We'll be joining tens of

thousands of walkers nationwide to celebrate National Walk at Lunch Day and to take the first steps toward better health.

On **Wednesday, April 28 at 12 p.m.**, employees at the MCIU Administration Building and at PaTTAN will gather for a brisk 30-minute walk at lunch. The first 50 registrants walking at the Administration Building site will receive a water bottle. Don't miss this opportunity to kickoff a daily walking routine to better manage your health. This event is a fun and easy way to incorporate fitness into workdays.

When done briskly on a regular basis, walking can help: decrease the risk of heart attack and type 2 diabetes; control weight; improve muscle tone and reduce stress.

To join in, meet in the parking lot at the Building B entrance to the Administration Building. PaTTAN staff will meet at the PaTTAN receptionist desk.

Hearing Support Students Benefit from Hearing Loss Association

Middle school and high school students in the MCIU Hearing Support Program will benefit from a newly formed relationship with the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). This April, the students were invited by the Montgomery County Chapter of HLAA to attend their monthly meeting. The featured speaker will be a Sprint Relay Representative who will be discussing Sprint WebCapTel and cell phone capability. HLAA has also invited our students and their families to a June picnic.

“These events enable our students to interact with adults who, in spite of their hearing loss, have navigated their way through school, college and the work place. Our hope is that our students and their parents will gain invaluable insights from these special adults,” said Terri Cohen-Johnson, Hearing Support Teacher.

HLAA is the nation's leading organization representing people with hearing loss. HLAA provides assistance and resources for people with hearing loss and their families to learn how to adjust to living with hearing loss. Its national support network includes an office in the Washington D.C. area, 14 state organizations and 200 local chapters.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

MCIU Connection

The bi-weekly newsletter of the
**Montgomery County
Intermediate Unit**
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Questions? Comments? Story Ideas?

Contact Kristen Rawlings
krawlings@mciui.org or 610-755-9313

Children's Book Recommendations Now on the MCIU Website

A new MCIU webpage will feature lists of newly-published children's books recommended by the MCIU-sponsored Southeastern Pennsylvania School Library Book Reviewers. The SEPASLBR are a group of area public and parochial school librarians and reading teachers, averaging 20-25 members.

The group has been meeting monthly since 1960. Members choose from books sent to them by publishers (primarily books written for children in grades K-8), share their reviews amongst themselves, and send copies of the reviews to the publishers. Visit the link below for great books to enhance your library or classroom collection:

<http://tinyurl.com/yll97rt>

Check in. Check out. A Continuing Series on Teachings from the Jorgensen Learning Center

To facilitate the most effective meetings, Dr. Ray Jorgensen teaches the importance of using a technique called Check in and Check out.

Checking in: A learning protocol usually used at the beginning of meetings to ensure that the participants have had a chance to "shake off the dust" from their previous interactions of the day. It focuses the participants to think about why they are in a meeting.
Checking Out: Another learning protocol enabling meeting participants to conclude the meeting by reflecting on the significance of the event and sharing that understanding with their team.

The check in, check out protocol in a meeting begins with an invitation to each participant to make a short statement that bridges the gap from their previous task/experience to the one at hand, ending with the words "I'm in."

For Check Out, each participant's contribution may be more specific as directed by the meeting chair. For instance, the chair may ask staff to share what they learned from the meeting or what his or her plans are for the holidays.



Making a DIFFERENCE

MCIU Connection will now feature occasional volunteer highlights from our staff. If you have an item to share, please email Kristen Rawlings, krawlings@mciui.org.

Katie Clements, Itinerant Hearing Support Teacher, shared the following information about her volunteer work.

"I am a volunteer with JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) and am currently being trained for the JDRF Mentor program. After the training, my daughter and I will be able to mentor families who have children that have been recently diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

My 12 year old daughter, Kira, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of 7 and we have been walking every year with the JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes, raising money to help find a cure. Our team is called "Kira's Candles....Lighting the Way to a Cure" because the walk always falls around her birthday. We have a different theme every year and Kira and her friends have a great time.

We are looking forward to becoming "official mentors" after mentoring 2 local families in the last few years when their children were first diagnosed."

For others interested in the JDRF, log on to their website at www.jdrf.org.

Tech Tip: Google Features

Click "Show options..." on any results page to view tools to refine your search. Standard options include:
Result types [e.g., images, videos, news]
Times [e.g., latest, past 24 hours, past week]



Click "nearby" to limit results to pages that are nearby. You can choose to see results either near your default location or near a custom location. You can also narrow results to the city, region, or state level.

If you click on "Timeline", it will show you the historical results for your search terms.

You can also use Google's search options to restrict your results to Q&A sites like Yahoo Answers, Stack Overflow, or Askville. Turn on 'Show options' then click 'Discussions' and then 'Q&As.'