



# MCIU CONNECTION



## Welcome Back

It is my pleasure to welcome you back to the MCIU for the start of the 2009-2010 school year. I hope that your summer was fun and relaxing, helping to rest and reinvigorate you.

As we start our new school year, I think of the many challenges that lie ahead and the demands of keeping our organization focused on its mission of providing valued, cost-effective, results-oriented services. I know that for many of us in education, it feels like we must constantly provide more or do things differently with fewer resources. The ailing economy has put added pressure on educational organizations.

But, despite these many challenges, I feel fortunate that I have the opportunity to be a part of the organization's evolution. Throughout the year, I anticipate that all of us will be asked to take on new responsibilities and to manage issues with a different perspective. This is healthy and necessary growth that should ultimately benefit the students, families and schools that we serve.

I encourage everyone to keep an open mind and invite you to share your ideas and concerns with the MCIU leadership. These are the principles of the "Learning Conversation", which the Cabinet and Administrators will continue to incorporate this year with the help of Dr. Ray Jorgensen of the Jorgensen Learning Center. In upcoming issues of *Connection*, we will share some of the teachings of Dr. Jorgensen for the benefit of all staff.

Over the summer, several changes were made in leadership of the organization. Beginning July 1, the directors of Special Education; Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development and Nonpublic School Services will report to Jane Mansuy, Assistant Executive Director/Director of Human Resources. This new reporting structure is intended to strengthen the alignment between the three instructional divisions. I am also confident that Jane's significant experience in teaching and learning will lend itself to enhanced programming in these divisions.

The Special Education Division also had the following leadership changes: Robin Boehning will supervise School Age Multi-disabled Support, Life Skills Support & Emotional Support programs while Howard Levy will be part of the Early Intervention team. Nancy Saul will continue to supervise the evaluation teams and Dr. Carol Eten will retire at the end of September 2009.

I look forward to working with all of you this year and hope to see you at the upcoming MCIU Picnic on September 17th.

Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley  
Executive Director/CEO

## MCIU Spearheads 1st Annual Montgomery County Schools Fitness Challenge: Fit in 60 Days Register Now for a Healthier Lifestyle

Looking for the motivation to adopt a healthier lifestyle? Register today for the first annual "Montgomery County Schools Fitness Challenge: Fit in 60 Days" – a new initiative that provides motivation and support for MCIU employees and their families to adopt a healthier lifestyle in 60 days.

The Fitness Challenge also includes the county's 21 public school districts and vocational-technical schools. Combined, the "Fit in 60 Days Challenge" will encourage the more than 16,500 educators and other school employees as well as their family members to accept the challenge of exercising and tracking their progress between September 21 and November 25 via the Fitness Challenge website, <http://fitnesschallenge.mciu.org>.

The MCIU spearheaded the organization of the Challenge following discussions with school district business and human resources managers. As members of the Delaware Valley Health Care Consortium (DVHCC), the schools and MCIU were interested in developing various activities that improve employee wellness and, thereby, help the district meet the criteria for premium discounts with Independence Blue Cross. Sandy Edling, Assistant Director of Management Services, and Kristen Rawlings, Communications Director, worked with Technology and Information Services to create the structure and website for the event. They also convened the Montco Schools Wellness Committee, comprised of an assigned Fitness Coordinators from each district who will help manage the Challenge activities in their district.

"We were pleased to spearhead this county-wide initiative to promote healthy lifestyles to our school staff and their families. The Challenge should be a fun, friendly competition and a rewarding, motivational experience for those who participate," said Rawlings, who will serve as Fitness Coordinator for the MCIU.



## How it Works!

► Register for the challenge beginning August 21 by visiting <http://fitnesschallenge.mciu.org> and clicking the "Enroll Now" icon. You may register at any time before or during the Challenge.



### 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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Executive Director/CEO

**Jane W. Mansuy**  
Asst. Executive Director/  
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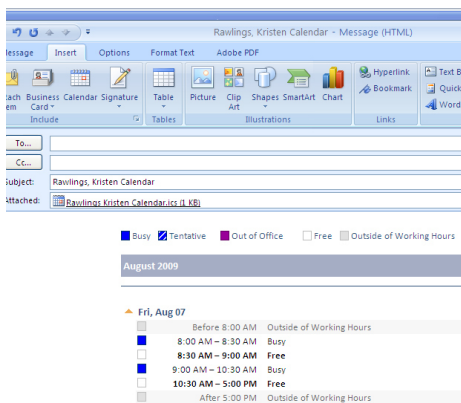
**Stan H. Wisler**  
Chief Financial Officer/  
Director of Management Services

**Kristen Rawlings**  
Director of Communications

**Questions? Comments?  
Story Ideas?**

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

## Tech Tip: Insert Your Calendar



Trying to schedule a meeting with someone? You may consider sending them a snapshot of your calendar to show your availability.

In Microsoft Outlook 2007, from the insert tab, select the Calendar command. Choose the date range and click ok. Your email will then display your calendar with your availability!

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(Fitness Challenge continued....)

## Open Enrollment

Attention all staff members! As part of the open enrollment benefits season, three vendor fairs will be held:

- Tuesday, August 25, 7:30 am to 10 am, King of Prussia Crown Plaza
- Thursday, September 3, 8 to 9 am, MCIU
- Friday, September 4, 12 to 1 pm, MCIU

Representatives from the MCIU 403(b) Tax Shelter Annuity Providers, Delta Dental, Independence Blue Cross, and others will be available to meet with you, answer your questions and provide you with the most up to date information regarding their services. Please make time to meet with these representatives. The benefits open enrollment period will conclude on 09/30/09 and all medical and dental insurance coverage changes MUST be made prior to then

Staff members are reminded that they are eligible to participate in the MCIU 403(b) Tax Shelter Annuity Program. To learn more about this program, specific education sessions will be held in conjunction with Opening Day activities. They will be held at the following times:

- Tuesday, August 25, 10:15 am, Crown Plaza
- Thursday, September 3, 9 am, MCIU
- Friday, September 4, 1:15 pm, MCIU

If you have any questions, please contact Anita Watson at 610-755-9345.

► Begin tracking your physical activity on September 21. You can enter activities for any date at any time by clicking on the "Log my Hours" link. Physical activity includes not only sports, but walking, gardening and house cleaning -- anything that gets your body moving and increases your heart rate!

► Your activity minutes will be included in the MCIU's activity total.

► Watch the MCIU's challenge progress at <http://fitnesschallenge.mciu.org> by clicking the "District Status" link.

► Check your email for tips and updates from the Fitness Coordinator.

► At the end of the Challenge, prizes will be awarded to the district with the highest number of hours based on the per person participant average; the top three staff county-wide with the most hours of activity; and the top staff member from each school district with the most hours of activity.

► Log your activities by November 25 to be included in the MCIU's total!

Contact Kristen Rawlings at [krawlings@mciu.org](mailto:krawlings@mciu.org) or ext. 197 for more information.

## MCIU Snapshots



The MCIU Spirit Garden volunteers have grown and delivered 147 pounds of

vegetables and herbs to Partners for Families, Hawes Avenue Soup Kitchen and Shiloh Full Gospel Baptist Church. Deliveries were made by Roseanne Westerfer, Carolyn Bergman, Anne Draus, Michael Gordon, Joyce Savage and Bonnie Neiman. The Spirit crop included zucchini, squash, cucumbers, green beans, peppers, tomatoes, parsley, chives, and oregano. The group is also working with Willow Creek Orchards to facilitate distribution of the orchard's excess produce and baked goods.

Staff are reminded to bring in any extra produce from their home gardens that they would like to donate.



**Reminder:**  
All Staff are invited to the MCIU Welcome Back Picnic!

Thursday, September, 17, 4:30-7:30 pm,  
East Norriton Park

\$5 per person--Family members welcome  
RSVP: Kristen Rawlings, x197,  
[krawlings@mciu.org](mailto:krawlings@mciu.org)