



MCIU CONNECTION

The bi-weekly newsletter of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

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Online: www.mciu.org

New Social Skills & Remediation Summer Camps for Nonpub Schools

A new and exciting camp will be held the week of June 15-19, 2009 designed for students entering 1st and 2nd grades in nonpublic schools who exhibit difficulties with social interactions. A variety of whole and small group activities are planned to facilitate the development of social communication, group behavior and self-regulation strategies. Learning will take place with the use of social stories, movement activities, literature, arts and crafts, and games under the guidance of a team of speech therapists, occupational therapists and counselors. "Each day a different social interaction goal will be stressed, including how to be a part of a group, self-awareness, learning how to observe others, and self-monitoring behaviors," said Dr. Kenneth Voss, Director of Nonpublic School Services

This free camp will begin at 9 am and close at noon with snacks provided daily. While the camp's site has not been determined, brochures will be available early in 2009 announcing details and registration information.

Remediation Camps

In June, 2009, the Nonpublic School Services Division also will provide three first grade camps and a ninth grade high school camp. The focus of the first grade camps will enable incoming first grade students to gain a variety of "educational" experiences prior to their entrance into first grade. The focus will be on reading and math literacy skills and understandings coupled with opportunities to engage in social skill development strategies. Since a student's background of experience and exposure to a variety of hands-on experiences foster and enhance future learning, these camps will provide learning yet fun activities around foundational math, reading, and social skills.

The ninth grade camp will address the needs of incoming freshmen. The transition from elementary to high school can be a very difficult adjustment period for students. This camp will provide a variety of learning activities that will give the students "learning tools" that they can utilize throughout their high school experience.

See Summer Camps on page 2...

Special Education Summer Academy

More than 200 school age special education staff, supervisors and support staff began the new school year with a 3-day professional development program, called Summer Academy. The theme of this year's Academy was "A Wish to Learn", focusing on the numerous ways the staff positively impact student learning and quality of life. "Through all of our collective efforts, we become the people who touch the lives of children with special needs who "wish to learn". Likewise, all of us work towards the vision of educating children with special needs who will graduate and become productive and independent citizens of our community," said Dr. Jeanmarie Mason, Director of Special Education.

Held August 19th through August 21st at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia, staff attended presentations on topics ranging from transition programs for children with hearing and vision needs to a legal perspective of new special education regulations. Staff were also provided an overview of all IU divisions and the MCIU Education Foundation--a request that developed from the Division's strategic planning process to help staff promote and market the IU overall. The Board President, Joseph Chmielewski and Executive Director/CEO Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, provided welcoming remarks. Vendors, including Blue Cross, PSERS and Freedom Credit Union were also on hand to provide information during breaks.



(left to right) Joan Feige-Mueller, Howard Levy and Britney Lourea-Waddell chat during Summer Academy



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**Montgomery County
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MCIU Snapshots



**The Special
 Education Division staffed
 11 Early Inter-
 vention and**

**44 School Age
 classrooms last school year,
 providing educational sup-
 port to 1,896 EI students and
 981 School Age.**

**CIPD is offering a variety of
 training dates to assist schools
 in the school improvement
 process. Detailed informa-
 tion and registration can be
 found on the MCIU website
 at MCIU→CIPD→School Im-
 provement.**



What a busy summer for PaTTAN!

Non-educators often think that summer is an easy time for educators. However, the opposite is very true. Since this is the

ideal time to provide sustained and targeted professional development to school staff, PaTTAN is extremely busy with a wide-variety of training and professional development. From June through August, PaTTAN is organizing 13 major professional training sessions.

More than 1200 educators participated in the Chapters 14 and 711 – What’s New Train the Trainer Videoconference held this June. More than 250 people participated in the 2008 Special Education Leadership Achieving Balance: Managing Compliance, Leading Improvement workshop. About 1500 people attended the Governor’s Institute for Data-Driven Instructional Practices for School Improvement. And, 1,100 signed up to attend the Special Education Paraprofessional Summer Training Series this August.



Classrooms of the Future Recipients

Congratulations to the 20 Montgomery County school districts that were selected to participate in year three of Governor Edward G. Rendell’s landmark high school reform program, Classrooms for the Future. There will be a total of 543 schools participating in the Classrooms for the Future program in 2008-09 affecting approximately 500,000 students throughout the Commonwealth.

Summer Camps continued...

The activities will focus on study skills, research and writing, as well as organizational and time management strategies. Art and cultural activities will be included as part of the daily activities.

These camps were developed during the summer of 2008. Thirteen elementary remediation staff collaborated with two colleagues in speech pathology in the creation of the three first grade camps. Three high school remediation staff members along with two speech therapists planned the ninth grade camp that will be in the Norristown area.



Book Bag Drive

The Homeless Children’s Initiative is holding the eleventh annual book bag drive and we need your help! MCIU’s Site Coordinator collaborates with school districts, family shelters and other agencies to support the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Please consider donating the following new, unopened supplies:

- book bags large enough for 6 text books
 - spiral notebooks
 - binders (at least 2”) and filler paper (wide rule)
 - pens, pencils, crayons (24 count)
 - colored pencils and markers
 - sturdy pencil boxes
 - rulers (with metric)
 - safety scissors
 - glue sticks
 - hygiene supplies – wipes, tooth brushes and paste, shampoo (Please do not include food items.)
- Please bring your donations to the Nonpublic School Services offices labelled with your name and division. Questions? Contact Joyce Savage at 610-755-9323 or Jane Pigott at jpigott@mciu.org.