



MCIU CONNECTION

Summer Academy Planning Underway

The MCIU Special Education Division is gearing up again for the Summer Academy, provided each year to welcome back special education staff members and prepare them for the upcoming school year. This year's Summer Academy, held the week of August 23, will feature a number of presenters who will cover hot topics in special education.

One of the workshops, featuring an internationally known pioneer in the field of simplified technology for children with severe challenges, will also be open to the school districts this year.

On August 25 and 26th, the MCIU will host Linda Burkhart on the topic, "Developing Communication Skills for Children Who Face Severe Physical and Multiple Challenges: Partner-Assisted Communication with PODD". Burkhart will present from 8:30 to 11:30 and 1:00 to 3:30 daily at PaTTAN. She will focus on creating Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) communication books.

Interested in Losing Weight?

Interested in joining Weight Watchers? The MCIU Wellness Committee is surveying staff for interest in joining the program in order to offer meetings at the MCIU. Twenty (20) people are needed to commit in order for the program to run. The cost is \$135 for a 10 week session. Each session includes a

Did you know that through the Blue Cross Healthy Lifestyle programs, MCIU employees are eligible to receive up to \$200 reimbursement for joining an approved weight loss program?

one-hour meeting led by a Weight Watchers leader who will provide experienced guidance to participants.

It's been proven that attending meetings leads to successful weight loss. Research shows that people who attend Weight Watchers meetings lose three times more weight than people dieting on their own (Heshka S, et al. *Weight*

Loss With Self-help Compared With a Structured Commercial Program: A Randomized Trial. JAMA. 2003). In addition to the professional guidance at the Weight Watchers meetings, you'll benefit from the support and encouragement of co-workers you meet and work with every day. It's a total team effort that can lead to very satisfying results.

Interested employees, friends and family members, are encouraged to contact Diane Ambler at dambler@mciu.org.



The SPIRIT Garden has been growing strong this year, with staff volunteers distributing more than 100 pounds of vegetables to area food kitchens. Bonnie Nieman, pictured above left with Holley Moyer, said "the chicken manure worked wonders. The garden started producing earlier and is expected to have a higher yield by the end of the growing season." The following letter was received from one of the grateful food kitchens.

Dear Spirit Garden Friends,

Thank you so much for sharing your garden harvest with Calvary Baptist Monday Soup Kitchen. The salad we concocted was yummy and it was nice to have a healthy addition to our lunch menu. We appreciate you thinking of us!

Your Friends at the Calvary Soup Kitchen



There was no way for Monica Cacesse to keep her 50th birthday a secret! Thanks to the devilment of her co-workers, when she came in to the office on Monday, August 2, her desk area was filled with streamers declaring her big day.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

MCIU Connection

The bi-weekly newsletter of the
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Intermediate Unit**

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Questions? Comments?

Story Ideas?

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

Talk like a Techie

Do you know the meaning of these tech terms?

Secure Sockets Layer (SSL): SSL is a secure protocol developed for sending information securely over the Internet. It is often used for entering payment information into online shopping cart sites.

Synchronous learning environment: Online tools that provide real-time interaction. An example would be a chat room in which people need to be present at the same time in order to communicate.

Teleconference: Two or more sites that can communicate through audio. Although it can refer to a telephone connection, it is often used to refer to satellite programs. When a satellite is involved, the video is downlinked from a satellite receiver and any interactivity is handled by telephone. There is no two-way video.

Learning Disabilities

A Continuing Series on Teachings from the Jorgensen Learning Center

Dr. Ray Jorgensen shares the following learning quote: "Trying to be right is a learning disability."

Believing that we already know the "right" answer when we enter a conversation prevents us from learning. It is more beneficial to put your position to the side and encourage differing opinions in conversation. Leadership language is all about inclusiveness, rather than using "right/wrong" language. A good leader will stay in inquiry mode, asking others to share their feelings, thoughts and ideas. Supportive statements foster creativity and engender trust. These might include:

- "You make an interesting point."
- "I see what you're thinking."
- "I'm glad to hear your perspective."

When stating his/her own opinion, a leader will avoid definitive language, and may respond as follows:

- "As I see it...."
- "In my view...."

Video Game Camp a Big Success

High school students interested in designing their own video games found their niche at a new summer camp offered through the Technology and Information Services Division this August. At the week-long camp, students learned the fundamentals of animation, character design, story development, and game design. Upon completion, the students had produced their very own, personally designed and developed video game to play.

"The camp was really a great success. It helped students move from playing games to designing games," said TIS Supervisor, Troy Sosnovik. "The world of video games is a fast-growing, multi-billion dollar industry. This course was the first step into the world of video game design."

Pictured below: Josh Gelenberg, a camp participant, learns video game development from instructor, Elbert Sadler.



Upcoming Tech Trainings

Staff are reminded that technology workshops offered by the Technology and Information Services Division are free and can help you develop new skills that will enhance your personal and professional use of the computer. Upcoming workshops include:

*Windows OS Tune-up & Maintenance
August 12*

This hands-on workshop will show you how to manage what programs are starting up, how to create a restore point in the event of a computer boot up failure, how to maintain your computer using Windows Disk Cleanup and Defragmenter applications, how to access and understand Task Manager, customize tool bars and Start Menu, and review the most common Control Panel applications.

Getting Started on Facebook: August 12

This workshop for beginners will walk you through creating an account, privacy settings, navigating, searching for friends, uploading and tagging photos, chatting, joining groups, and messaging.

Wikis, Blogs and Forums: August 16

Participants will learn what the differences are among wikis, blogs and forums. We will review and try some of the most common educational websites for wikis, blogs and forums, such as WikiSpaces, Ning, and Twitter.

To register, click on the Workshops/ Course link on at www.mciu.org.