



The bi-weekly newsletter of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

MCIU CONNECTION

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February 20 , 2009

350+ Attend Paraeducator Training

Nearly 400 paraeducators attended a training organized by the Special Education Division's Training and Consulting Team (TAC). The day-long training, held at the Crowne Plaza on February 13, covered a wide variety of topics to enhance teaching skills, including "Behavior Management in the Classroom" and "Current Trends in Drug Use and Abuse". The event was the second training this school year designed to help area educators comply with a new special education regulation requiring paraeducators to receive 20 hours of pertinent staff development annually. Presenters included TAC specialists, Janet Wright, Gail Katch, Leann Weinberger, Kari Kessler and Sue Alderfer; new PaTTAN consultant, Dennis Cullen; and Ed Bachert, a guest speaker. Transition teachers, Sally Bishop and Jackie Lyster, also held sessions.



Gail Katch MCIU Training and Consulting specialist (pictured top) provided a presentation on "Strategies to Support Students in Inclusive Settings."



(Bottom picture) Lucy Bateman, MCIU job coach, worked with Angela Richie, vocational evaluator, in a cooperative activity tying spaghetti sticks together during a session called "The Paraeducators in Reading and Language Arts Instruction" taught by TAC specialist Leann Weinberger.

Physical Ed Teachers Hip-Hop, Tai Chi and Wii at 2nd Health Symposium



Health and physical education (HPE) instructors had to stay loose at the MCIU's 2nd Annual Health and Physical Education Symposium, held February 13. The day's instructional

activities, which included hip-hop dancing, Tai Chi, Wii fitness games, and sports in the pool, kept educators on their toes with hands in the air for much of the day. Nurses participated in sessions including "Teaching Activities for Sex Education." The HPE sessions included both activity and classroom sessions with presenters from West Chester College, Ursinus College, Rutgers University, District Attorneys office, DEA office and other HPE professionals. Ten vendors provided give-a-ways. The event attracted nearly 280 professionals from Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia school districts as well as a number of nonpublic schools.

"Word has spread about the excellence of this symposium so we successfully attracted educators from near and far. It also speaks to the need for this type of professional development activity," said Darlene Anderson, MCIU adaptive physical education teacher. Congratulations to Anderson and Dan Deegan, adaptive physical education teacher, who organized the event with the support of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development staff, Kendall Glouner and Linda Bean, and school district representatives.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

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**Montgomery County
Intermediate Unit**
1605 W. Main Street
Norristown, PA 19403
610-539-8550

Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley

Executive Director/CEO

Jane W. Mansuy

Asst. Executive Director/
Director of Human Resources

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

MCIU Snapshots



Congratulations to Tina Lawson, of PaTTAN, who co-authored an article in the Winter 2009

volume of the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania on School-wide Behavior Support.

Hold the Date

Support Staff Breakfast

Sponsored by the Spirit Committee
Wednesday April 29, 2009
8:30 am at MCIU
Catering by O'Neill's
Bill Bainbridge Award
More details to follow

Valentine's Bake-Off Raises Funds for All IU Picnic



Thank you to all staff who baked and/or bought sweets at the 2nd Annual Valentine's Bake-off. Roseanne Westerfer, Assistant to the Executive Director, walked away with the blue ribbon for the second year in a row for

her delectable chocolate Irish cream cheesecake. Dr. Ken Voss, Director of Nonpublic School Services, enjoyed spending time with the IU ladies in red (pictured). The Spirit Committee raised \$162 which will be applied to an All-IU End of Year Picnic. The committee's goal is to raise enough revenue to support a low-cost All-IU Picnic at the end of the school year. This event is scheduled for May 20th at Norristown Farm Park from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Mark your calendars!

Speech/Language Class Finds a New Home

Inclusion opportunities for students in the MCIU Speech and Language Class have been abundant thanks to the hospitality of its new host, Whitmarsh Elementary School.

The program, which moved to Whitmarsh at the beginning of this school year, has been welcomed into the regular education classrooms for learning activities, specials, lunch, recess and school parties/events. "Being in such an inclusive school has made our program even more special and effective," said Tammy Bertel, the MCIU speech and language teacher (right side in photo with Sally Jeffries, Assistant). "Our school has stressed the importance of respecting differences. Having the MCIU class here has helped the children a great deal with their language skills and helped our general education students to be good role models," said Donna Drizen, Whitmarsh principal. Nine students are currently enrolled in the class, designed for students 5-7 years of age who exhibit speech and language



difficulties. It is the only IU program in the county. Students participate in a challenging academic program that enhances their expressive and receptive language skills, including weekly speech and language therapy from Julie Adinolfi. Bertel, who has her masters in Instructional Technology Support, has incorporated technology into the programming, including the use of a new Interwrite board made possible through a donation from the MCIU Educational Foundation. The whiteboard that uses a pen is especially helpful for students with disabilities, she said.