



Seeing the Year Ahead

Through the Eyes of Visually Impaired Children

The MCIU Early Intervention Vision Support Program has quite a number of budding student artists. Although these children are only preschoolers, they had the opportunity to provide artwork for a 2009 calendar entitled "Seeing the Year Ahead Through the Eyes of Visually Impaired Children." A publisher of optometry and ophthalmology journals partnered with Bausch & Lomb to develop this calendar, which was then offered as a holiday gift to their subscribers.

The artwork provided by the MCIU visually impaired preschoolers encompasses different types of art media incorporating a variety of textures for these children to feel and experience. Their efforts, guided by EI Vision Support Teachers Carol Boudwin and Lisha Yochimowitz, resulted in a delightful blend of colors, textures and forms. Each child's name and age is printed on the calendar next to the photograph of their artwork, and a description of the MCIU Special Education Division and the Vision Support Program is printed on the back cover.

Each child's family received several calendars prior to the holidays, to give as gifts. The MCIU Early Intervention Vision Support Program will also receive an honorarium for their efforts in producing the artwork for this memorable calendar.



The MCIU Celebrates Board Recognition Month this February

Authorization for the opening of the new facility for the Anderson School is one of many accomplishments credited to the MCIU Board of Directors during Board Recognition Month this February.

"We are so fortunate to have such an outstanding Board of Directors. Being an effective board member for an intermediate unit or school district is no easy task, particularly in today's climate of change and challenge. Our members devote countless hours of their time and talent, without compensation, to provide high-quality educational opportunities for students and responsive, cost-efficient and effective services to school districts and nonpublic schools. I applaud their vision and voice to help lead the MCIU and those we serve," said Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, MCIU Executive Director/CEO.

- Approval and opening of the new facility for the Anderson School. Nearly 200 people attended the dedication ceremony last February. The Board also approved the pursuit of a financing plan to purchase the building which will save the MCIU significant revenues.
 - Authorization of PAIUnet contracts and funding for the MCIU Regional Network Project, which will enable all participating intermediate units, school districts and other educational entities to share educational content over a virtual private broadband network.
 - Filled 140 staff positions at the MCIU since July 2008
 - Approval of a building feasibility study to determine if the current MCIU facility should be upgraded or relocated
 - Approval of a \$988,500 Teaching American History Grant from the US Department of Education to fund the creation of The George Washington Valley Forge Freedom Institute designed to help strengthen the student citizenry in our community. The 36-month Institute will support a consortium of American history teachers from 21 Montgomery County school districts and will eventually support some 109,194 students county-wide.
 - Board participation in the MCIU Policy Committee that is reviewing policies for the operation of the MCIU
- The Board will be formally recognized at the February Board meeting since the January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.



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
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(left to right) Donna D'Emilio, Jim Zurek and Kay Hetrick enjoyed pizza, drinks and good company at a Super Bowl party sponsored by the SPIRIT Committee on January 30th.



Help Conserve Energy

In order to help
the MCIU

conserve energy, please turn your office lights off when you leave for lunch, meetings and at the end of the work day.

MCIU Snapshots



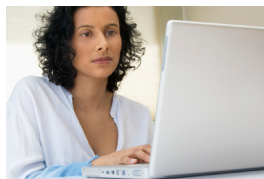
A photo display of the MCIU Board of Directors, Executive Director/CEO and Montgomery County

superintendents was completed this month to recognize the contributions of these dedicated individuals and raise the public's awareness of the decision makers for the MCIU and county's schools. Stop by the second floor of the MCIU to view the display.

Last chance for staff to sign up for Marilyn Friend's "Co-Teaching" presentation to be held at Westover Country Club on February 27th. To register, go to <http://tinyurl.com/friend-2009>.

TIS Training Videos now on the Web

If you missed one of the trainings by the Technology and Information Services Division, don't fret: you can now watch the training via the MCIU website. John Steyer has started videotaping all of the TIS technology trainings so that they can be made available on-line. "TIS continues to explore ways to share technology resources and to provide multiple options for learning technology skills," said Gail Kennedy, Director of TIS.



Inclement Weather Reminder



When those snowflakes start falling, the quickest way to determine if the

MCIU will be closed or delayed is to watch or listen to KYW or log on to the MCIU website, mciu.org. The website is updated as soon as a decision is made to close. If you are watching or listening to KYW, keep the MCIU closing numbers handy. They are as follows:

MCIU Staff: #432 (all staff unless announced as office staff only)

Montgomery County School: #394

Anderson School: #1237

For other information related to weather emergencies, refer to the Fast Facts section of your employee manual and review the pages entitled *Weather Emergencies* and *Shortened Work Hours-Office Based Staff*.

If you have any questions about closings or shortened work hours, contact your supervisor or Jane Mansuy.



Reminder!

Nominate Excellent MCIU Teachers for Voices of Inspiration

Don't forget to submit your nominations for excellent MCIU teachers for the 2009 Voices of Inspiration Award for Teaching Excellence. The award, sponsored by Freedom Credit Union in partnership with the MCIU, will honor 23 finalists, including one teacher from each of the 21 Montgomery County public school districts, one teacher from the MCIU and one teacher from a Montgomery County nonpublic school. Each will receive \$500. From these 23 finalists, three winners will be awarded an additional \$1500. Nominations are open now through March 11, 2009. **You must submit an online nomination by visiting www.freedom-cu.org or www.mciu.org and clicking on the Voices of Inspiration links.**