



The bi-weekly newsletter of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

MCIU CONNECTION

www.mciu.org

February 17, 2012

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS



Special Education Offices Receive a New Look

The offices of the Special Education Division are in the process of being reconfigured in order to enhance the lines of communication within the division, as well as within individual teams.

The project is being completed in three phases. Phases one and two consisted of removing the cubicle partitions in the lobby area to create a more open and welcoming space for visitors, and reassigning staff to different work areas. Assistant Special Education Director, Maria DeLuca, and Data Coordinator, Alison Scott, have switched offices. Monica Caccese and Saheed Simms moved out of the lobby area to allow the data management team to work in closer proximity to each other. Robin Boehning, Supervisor, will move into a larger, more accessible office next to Maria. Brittany Lourea-Waddell and Jaime Slonim, MCIU psychologists, have also moved into larger offices.

The third and final phase of this project will involve the reconfiguration of office space used by the Early Intervention team and is expected to be completed over the next several weeks.



The MCIU data collection team, Monica Caccese, Alison Scott, and Saheed Simms now work in close proximity to each other to enhance team communication.



SAP Trainings Help Remove Student Learning Barriers

As a Commonwealth Approved Trainer for Student Assistance Program (SAP) teams, the Nonpublic School Services staff help schools and agencies develop expertise in recognizing issues such as mental health problems and drug/alcohol abuse that may be interfering with a student's ability to learn. Jean Miksch, Nancy Myers and Dr. Mary Rita Cleary, just completed a three-day training session to assist SAP teams. SAP teams, which are required in all public schools statewide, typically include teachers, nurses, administrators, coaches and counselors. At the February training, there were 31 attendees, including 20 teachers, counselors and nurses from Spring-Ford, Norristown, Hatboro-Horsham and Abington school districts, North Montco Technical Center, five counselors/teachers from nonpublic schools including Bishop McDevitt, Germantown Academy, Lansdale Catholic and Pope John Paul II and five counselors/teachers from Agora Cyber Charter School and La Academia: The Partnership Charter School. Abington Hospital also sent a staff member.



Dr. Mary Rita Cleary provides Student Assistance Program (SAP) training to 31 teachers, counselors and nurses from public, nonpublic, charter schools and agencies.



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An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

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**Montgomery County
Intermediate Unit**

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Questions? Comments? Story Ideas?

Contact Kristen Rawlings
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Be Clear, Candid and Caring Teachings from the Jorgensen Learning Center

Dr. Ray Jorgensen teaches us to discuss issues with our co-workers by being:

- Clear - stating clearly what the issues are and why you perceive them to be a problem
- Candid - being open and honest
- Caring - listening for understanding, staying out of judgement and being supportive



Danielle Hey, Assistant Director of Human Resources, along with over thirty MCIU staff members, celebrated at a recent employee Super Bowl party. The festivities were graciously sponsored by the SPIRIT Committee.



Do you need something that will add a little pizzazz to your next presentation?

The MCIU tablecloth, tablecloths and banners are available! Please contact the Communications Division at x197 for more information.

Above: Kristen Rawlings, Director of Communications, poses next to the tablecloth exhibit.

The MCIU SPIRIT Committee is sponsoring a

FOOD DRIVE

to support the work of Philadabundance - the region's largest hunger relief organization. From February 2 through March 2, the MCIU will be collecting nonperishable food items to donate to Philadabundance.

Food contributions may be placed in the containers located in the MCIU lobby, Teacher's Center and the PaTTAN lobby.

Volunteers Also Needed

On March 3, the MCIU needs volunteers to help deliver food donations to Philadabundance, and sort and box the food for distribution to the community. To volunteer, contact Sandy Edling at sedling@mciui.org or 610-755-9410 by February 20th.

Tech Tip: Using Zamzar

Zamzar is a free web-based conversion tool for creating local copies of YouTube videos. It is useful when you want to include a YouTube video in a presentation but you can't guarantee a good internet connection. Since YouTube videos require high bandwidth, popular videos may take a long time to buffer and play. By downloading the video to a local drive, you reduce the risk of having problems with the video stream over the internet.

- Go to www.zamzar.com
- Select the "Download Videos" tab
- Enter the webpage URL for the YouTube video
- Select a format for the video. Use wmv to play with Windows Media Player
- Enter your email address
- Click the "Convert" button
- Check Sendio spam filter if you don't receive an email from Zamzar
- Open the email and click on the link which will take you to a download page
- Click the "Download Now" button
- Find the file on your local computer and open it with Windows Media Player

OTHER TIPS

- When using any video over the internet, don't use the wireless network. Connect an Ethernet cable to the network jack in the room to provide a more stable connection.
- Connect the presenter laptop to external speakers for the best sound. In B3/B4, there is a large external speaker that can be used.
- Inform a tech support person that you will be playing a video with sound so that they can assist.