



The bi-weekly newsletter of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

# MCIU CONNECTION

[www.mciu.org](http://www.mciu.org)

January 20, 2012

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS

## Spotlight on Jimmy Krieger, Anderson School Student



Jimmy Krieger thought he wanted to join the military when he graduated from the Anderson School, but training with the Sanatoga 58 Fire Company changed his mind.

"I started training with the fire company to do community service for my senior project, but now I've become attached to it and this is what I want to do with my life," Krieger said.

As a "probie" (probationary fire fighter), Krieger said he mostly "does grunt work", like helping get tools off the truck, but beginning this March he will begin his training to be certified as a Firefighter 1. This week, he helped extinguish his first fire using a "piercing nozzle" that can pierce a wall in order to get the hose inside a building without endangering the firefighter. "It was really cool," he said, adding that his work with the fire company has taught him discipline and endurance. As part of his senior project, Krieger said he plans to video tape some of the fire calls and will show it at Anderson's senior breakfast.

"I like the feeling of doing something good to help people. The company is like a family too - people who are watching your back."



## MCIU to Offer Online Drivers Education

Beginning March 1, the MCIU Nonpublic School Services Division will be offering a standardized online driver education theory class for high school students through a partnership with the Edward Savioz Driver Training School. The online program, approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, will provide students the opportunity to learn safe driving methods and gain the perceptual experience needed to drive in today's environment.

Successful completion of the 30-hour drivers education theory course will help prepare the student to take the required PA drivers examination. Additionally, students who complete the course will receive a Certificate of Completion which may entitle the student to an automobile insurance discount.

"Students can complete this course from home, school or even the library. This is a convenient and effective way for students to learn a variety of topics, from safe driving skills, road signs, to the dangers of drug and alcohol use," said Dr. Ken Voss, Nonpublic School Services Division.

## Volunteers Needed for Reading Olympics 2012



**Your help is needed!** The annual Reading Olympics, sponsored by the MCIU, would not be successful without the support of nearly 1,000 volunteers who greet and direct guests, man registration tables and moderate the competition. Volunteers are needed from 4:30-8:30 pm on the following dates:

- March 22: Wissahickon High School, high school teams
- March 26: Wissahickon Middle School, middle school teams
- March 27 : Souderton High School, elementary teams

- April 10: Hatboro-Horsham High School, elementary teams
- April 11: Colonial Middle School, elementary teams
- April 30: Welsh Valley Middle School, Lower Merion School District, elementary teams
- May 7: Pottstown Middle School, middle school teams
- May 9: Cheltenham High School, elementary teams
- May 17: Skyview Upper Elementary School, Methacton SD, elementary teams

To volunteer, contact Maria Johns at [mjohns@mciu.org](mailto:mjohns@mciu.org).



**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  
krawlings@mciu.org or 610-755-9313

**Superbowl Party**

**The MCIU SPIRIT Committee**

**invites you to a**

**Superbowl Party**

**Friday, February 3**

**from**

**12 to 1 pm**

**Rooms C3/C4**



**\$7 per person**

**Includes pizza, salad, drinks and**

**dessert plus**

**fun football trivia!**

**Please give your money and toppings**

**choice to Mary Davidheiser, ext 154**

**by Wednesday, February 1st .**

**Developing Personal Discipline  
Teachings from the Jorgensen Learning Center**

**Dr.** Ray Jorgensen teaches that all leadership is about Personal Discipline. When you are practicing the Learning Conversation disciplines, you hear people differently. Be ready to be present. **PRACTICE.** You don't learn it if you don't practice it. Dr. Jorgensen reminds us to do the following:

- Stay present
- Pay attention to the room
- The more you can stay present, the better you can read the room
- Speak to where you are

**Tech Tip: Shiny Happy Emails**

Communication with colleagues, parents, and others has been made simpler through the effective use of email. However, it's always good to remember some basic guidelines for good email communication.

1. The need to know basis for email: Avoid sending a message to a group unless every member of that group actually needs the information you are presenting. Also, when replying to a large group email only use the "Reply to All" button if everyone on the group list needs to know your reply (HINT: they usually don't).
2. No surprises please: Use the Subject line to let people know what your email is about. Using a good subject line also helps people organize and find your email later.
3. DON'T SHOUT AT ME: Using all capital letters in an email is understood to be the same as shouting.
4. There are no secrets: Please keep in mind that you are a representative of an organization when you answer email at work. Every email you send using your work account could be classified as a "public record." If you don't want your slightly off-color happy birthday email to your cousin in Alaska to be published in the local newspaper don't send it using your work email account.
5. Never email when angry or emotional: Once you send an email message you can't take it back. Before you send a fiery response to that parent who just insulted your mother, take a breath, relax and think it through. Here's a rule of thumb: Never email anything to someone that you wouldn't be willing to tell them in person, in a public place, while being scrutinized by 50 newspaper reporters who routinely criticize people in your profession.
6. Check your email regularly: Once you get used to it you'll find email to be very effective communication tool. But it only works when we all participate. Please check your email regularly.

**Secretary of Ed Visits MCIU**



Secretary of Education Ron Tomalis (pictured on left with Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, MCIU Executive Director/CEO) attended the monthly Superintendents' Council Meeting at the MCIU this January. He updated the superintendents on the priorities and initiatives of the Department of Education and answered questions about hot topics such as school funding and the Keystone Exams.