



The bi-weekly newsletter of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

MCIU CONNECTION

www.mciu.org

January 23, 2009

MCIU Hosts & Judges Governor's School for the Arts

The MCIU conference rooms were transformed in to an art gallery Tuesday, January 20, filled with the artistic expressions of 140 Montgomery County students. The students submitted their artwork as entries for the Governor's School for the Arts which is judged at the county level each year at the MCIU. The MCIU organizes and hosts this event to choose the semifinalists for the Arts -- one of nine programs included in the Governor's Schools of Excellence. Maria Johns, Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development (CIPD), recruits and organizes judges for each category, including MCIU staff members and outside professionals in various fields of writing, acting and creative arts. "It is very prestigious to be judged in Montgomery County because we select highly qualified judges. Our judges also are honored to take part in this wonderful program and be a witness to the tremendous talent that our students exhibit," said Maria Johns, CIPD. Forty students submitted entries of drawing, painting, and sculpture. Twenty-four students submitted creative writing manuscripts of poetry or fiction. In addition, performances of music, dance and theater were submitted on tape.



From my past experience, this was one of the most outstanding displays of artwork that I have judged," said

Dale Roberts, Warehouse Facilitator and an accomplished artist, who has judged painting, sculpture and painting for the past 6 years. "The quality was consistently high. It was a real pleasure." The semifinalists who are selected Tuesday evening will advance to the state committee for in-person interviews and performances to determine finalists. Finalists are accepted to attend a tuition-free, highly intensive and competitive, residential program held at Mercyhurst College in Erie for five weeks over the summer.

Thanks to the other staff who volunteered to judge in the following areas: Mary Louise Huganir, NPSS- Art; Elizabeth Girshick, NPSS- Theater; Jesse Gluckman, Anderson- Art; Kristen Rawlings, Communications- Creative Writing; Darlene Anderson, Spec Ed- Dance; Barbarann Probst, NPSS- Dance; Michael Gordon, TIS- Music; Caroline D'Ippolito, PaTTAN- Photography; John Steyer, TIS-Music; Cathy Pregman, PaTTAN- Theater; Mark Granier, Anderson School- Art; Katie Clements, Spec Ed- Music.

Anderson School Welcomes New Principal



The MCIU is pleased to welcome Mr. David A. Jagger as the new Principal of the Anderson School effective January 12, 2009.

Mr. Jagger most recently served as an administrator at the Bellefonte High School in Bellefonte, PA. His background involves working with the alternative education program to align with PDE regulations and expectations. In addition, Mr. Jagger's Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction will assist the school with high expectations and success for all our students. "We look forward to Mr. Jagger's addition to the MCIU and the Special Education Division. I have confidence that Mr. Jagger will provide the vision and leadership to fulfill our mission of providing services for students in an integrated approach to meet their academic, work/career and personal goals," said Dr. Jeanmarie Mason, Director of Special Education.

"I am looking forward to building on the recent success of the Anderson's schools capital improvement project and continuing to serve the school districts in the fine tradition that it always has," said Mr. Jagger. "I am also excited about the challenges of working on the academic program to be in line with current trends and best practices in secondary education."

A big thank you to Mrs. Carole Chasen for her service to the Anderson School as the interim administrator since September.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

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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Employee Health and Wellness Survey Your Feedback is Needed!

The MCIU Employee Wellness Committee would like your feedback to learn more about your health needs and interests. The goal of this newly formed committee, which will meet quarterly, is to encourage and promote good employee health and wellness. Members include:

- * Sandy Edling
- * Eileen Cianciulli
- * Jack Miller
- * Jane Mansuy
- * Anita Watson
- * Darlene Anderson
- * Katherine Goloff
- * Jane Pigott
- * Mary Sheets
- * Perry Baer

You can help the committee by taking a few minutes to fill out the survey available at:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228P4GCTY5M>

Please respond by Monday, January 26th. Your responses will help plan future wellness activities for employees.



Mark your calendars

Volunteer for Reading Olympics

Volunteers are needed to support the 11th annual Reading Olympics held this spring. Volunteers help greet and direct students and guests; man the registration tables and help with other organizational tasks. This year, more than 5,000 students are scheduled to participate. Volunteer requests will be sent out to staff shortly.

Mark your calendars for the following dates you are available to volunteer:

- » March 9, 2009 – Elementary Teams
Hatboro-Horsham High School
- » March 24, 2009 – Elementary/Middle Teams-
Pottstown Middle School
- » March 30, 2009 – Elementary Teams
Welsh Valley Middle School
- » April 20, 2009 – Elementary Teams
Colonial Middle School
- » April 21, 2009 – Elementary Teams
Norristown High School
- » April 28, 2009 – Middle/High Teams
Wissahickon Middle and High Schools
- » May 5, 2009 – Elementary Teams
Cheltenham High School

MCIU Snapshots



During its annual book drive held in November and December, patrons of Barnes

& Noble, Plymouth Meeting, donated 1,359 books to support the Reading Olympics. Students in about 45 different public and private schools will receive the books.

Keep an eye out for a Communications Survey which will be e-mailed to all staff the first week of February. Your feedback on MCIU publications and other communications strategies is important!

Video Library Closing: Materials now Available

Staff who are interested in media library materials have the opportunity to permanently borrow these materials. The MCIU Media Lending Library has now been replaced by a digital format, Discovery Education Streaming. As part of this transition, Technology and Information Services will eventually be distributing video materials to all interested staff, school district staff, libraries and other intermediate units.

The first phase of this distribution will begin on February 2 and will be open to all MCIU employees only. Staff may reserve the materials by logging on to our website (www.mciu.org) and then clicking on "Media Video Library" which is listed under Popular Links. You will be asked to read the borrowing procedures, terms and conditions, and then initial. Next, enter your location, list your telephone number and click "I Agree". This will take you to the reservation page

where you can select the video titles. After completing your request, you will be notified by email to pick up your materials at the MCIU Teacher Center.

The second phase of distribution begins February 16, 2009 when requests will be open to Montgomery County School Districts. The procedures will remain the same with the exception of material delivery. Videos will be delivered by the MCIU van to the district's designated drop off area.

The third phase begins March 2, 2009 when the invitation will be directed to all of our Montgomery County Nonpublic Schools. Finally, on March 9, 2009 the site will be open to other intermediate units as well as local libraries.

For information on the new Digital Video Content Streaming, contact Michael Gordon at mgordon@mciu.org.