



# MCIU CONNECTION

## Scenes from NPSS Summer Camps



Top photo, top row, left to right: Nonpublic School Services staff Terri Williams, Joanne Riehl, Sandy Calobrisi, (bottom row) Kathy Geschke, Janet Selber, and Karen Durante developed and ran the new "Jump Start

to First Grade" camp. Jen Sherzer, mathematics remediation teacher, pictured with Jump Start campers. Bottom picture, top row, left to right: Maria McDermott, Tom Wuerstle, Diana Jones, (bottom row) Tom Schillow, and John McGranaghan ran the popular "Boys Leadership Camp" for middle school boys. More than 225 nonpublic students attended the 3 new summer camps developed by NPSS and the popular Camp Ophelia and Boys Leadership Camp--all held this June. Next year, NPSS will explore offering additional summer camps.

## MCIU SPIRIT is Growing!

Tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, squash and beans are growing at the MCIU -- fresh produce which will soon be donated to assist needy families in the Norristown area. The inspiration of Bonnie Neiman, CIPD, the charitable effort was embraced by the SPIRIT Committee and Administration this spring. A number of staff members (and their families!) joined the gardening team and have volunteered their time developing and tending to the garden, which is located near the playground at the Administration Building. The staff removed the sod, tilled the ground, planted seeds and is now weeding the area. The staff and students at the Anderson School even created beautiful ceramic garden signs!

The MCIU is working with Partners for Families in Norristown ([www.partnersforfamilies.com](http://www.partnersforfamilies.com)) to distribute the food to families in need. The first crop of zucchini is expected shortly. "The staff was inspired to help people right here in the Norristown area especially during these troubled economic times. There are people who are hungry every day that we can help," said Neiman.

"We are hoping that this many inspire other businesses and staff members to contribute as well."

Staff who have extra produce from their home gardens are encouraged to bring it in for the MCIU to donate.



Spirit Garden volunteers include Michael Gordon, Carolyn Bergman, Bonnie Neiman (pictured left to right) and (not pictured) Linda Bealer, Linda Bean, Melanie Conrad, Anne Draus, Meg Fagan, Jean Miksch, Holley Moyer, Kathy Piazza, Joyce Savage, Nancy Stevenson, Roseanne Westerfer and Lois Winton.





## 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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*Director of Communications*

#### **Questions? Comments? Story Ideas?**

Contact Kristen Rawlings  
krawlings@mciu.org or 610-755-9313

## High Satisfaction with Early Intervention

Parents of new preschool children entering the MCIU preschool program during the 2008-2009 school year gave high satisfaction scores to the early intervention staff via a quality assurance survey. Out of the 93 completed surveys, 91% of parents responded "strongly agree or agree" to the following five statements:

1. The Early Intervention staff at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit was courteous.
  2. The evaluating staff was sensitive to the needs of my child and family.
  3. The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit provided appropriate program options to meet the needs of my child.
  4. Opportunity was provided to exchange information with the team during the IEP Team Meeting.
  5. My child's program placement was completed in a timely manner.
- Congratulations to the staff on a job well done!

## Hold the Date: MCIU Welcome Back Picnic

Help celebrate the start of the school year, socialize with your co-workers, and welcome the new staff at the "MCIU Picnic" scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 4:30 to 7 pm, at the East Norriton Township Park Pavilion. Sponsored by the SPIRIT Committee, the picnic will feature a catered meal from Apple Spice Junction (hamburgers, hotdogs, salads and dessert). Recreational activities include horseshoes, ladder golf and ping pong. The picturesque 21-acre picnic area also features a lighted softball field, playground, 1-mile walking trail, basketball court, soccer field and sand volleyball court.

The price is \$5 per person. The rest of the expenses will be covered by the proceeds of SPIRIT fund raising activities held over the past year. Family members are welcome to attend!

RSVP to Kristen Rawlings at  
krawlings@mciu.org

## MCIU Snapshots



John McGranaghan and Mary Sheets, NPSS counselors, submitted a proposal and were invited to present at the 35th Annual Family Involvement Conference, October 25-28, in the Poconos. The theme of the conference is: "Catch the Spirit of Family, School & Community Involvement." John and Mary's presentation is entitled: "School, Home, and Community: Teaching Students How to Handle Conflict."

Kristen Rawlings, Communications Director, presented at the National School Public Relations Association annual conference on the topic: "Who are You? Creating One Style, One Message, One Brand."

## End of an Era: Hearing Support Class Graduates



The MCIU Hearing Support High School Class, located at Wissahickon High School, had a bittersweet moment this spring. The four seniors from this class (pictured left) have completed all graduation requirements and will be the last graduating class of this program.

The Hearing Support High School Class has been in existence since the 1970's. How-

ever, with the advent of newborn hearing screening, cochlear implants, and digital hearing aids, middle and high school students who are deaf or hard of hearing are now able to be mainstreamed in their home school districts.

We wish the graduating students well in their future endeavors. Thank you to the teacher of this wonderful program, Glenna Shire (who retired this June); the interpreters, Neity Garbutt (retired) and Janice Gorenflo; the C-Print Captionists, Patti Lombardi and Susan Resch who have inspired and taught so many students through this program for so many years.

(Pictured left to right) MinWoo Lee, Kasey Mascitti, Jessica Hill and Gini Moos