



MCIU CONNECTION

The bi-weekly newsletter of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

June 27, 2008

Online: www.mciu.org

Farewell Good Friends



A fond farewell to the staff retiring this summer, including Gerry Rotondo (20 years of service) top left; Dawn Harrington (35 years) and Linda Kraft (29 years) top right; Tommy Diffenbaugh (40 years) bottom left; and Charlie Rossiter (15 years) bottom right.

Two Nonpublic Teachers Recognized by Kennedy-Kerrick



Congratulations to Helen McIlvaine and Ellen Rondinaro, Nonpublic School Services Reading Specialists, who were honored at the Kennedy-Kerrick Catholic High School commencement ceremony for their many years of service and dedication to students. Principal Judy Owen's remarks were as follows:

"I would like to recognize two individuals who have dedicated their wisdom, patience and determination to help many of our students succeed. It is amazing to think that these two individuals have been working with our students for a combined total of 60 years of service. Daily, members of the administration and faculty see them work above and beyond their call of duty. They have developed the study skills program that has been presented to many students in many high schools across Montgomery County. They have also implemented a program called Reading Apprenticeship which involves working with our teachers, and presenting the opportunity for professional development. Through this program, they have assisted our teachers in incorporating new methods & teaching strategies so that our students benefit. To me, they are the epitome of true educators – always learning and always working for the best interest of the students.

At this time I'd like to recognize Helen McIlvaine and Ellen Rondinaro for their dedication to the Kennedy-Kerrick community."

Nonpublic Raises more than \$1,200



During its end-of-year meeting and fundraiser on June 13, the Nonpublic School Services Division raised \$1,252 which was donated to Children's Hospital and MCIU Education Foundation.



Tom Hehmeyer and Roseanne Westerfer were two of the happy winners from the Nonpublic School Division raffle. Tom took home a gift card tree while Roseanne snagged the money tree.



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**Montgomery County
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Story Ideas?

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Division Spotlight: Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development

Did you know that the Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Division provided continuing professional education courses and workshops to more than 6,500 educators last year? This is just one of many valuable services CIPD provides to schools. Their services can most easily be described under the following four program categories. Included in each category is a Service in the Works that will be rolled out next year.

Curriculum

- CIPD organizes meetings of 13 Curriculum Councils that provide a meaningful way for educators to network, present problems, seek solutions and receive information relevant to specialized content areas and/or roles.
- Strategic planning support including training on the PDE developed rules and guidelines and assistance with the eStrategic Planning Tool.
- School Improvement Planning including training on the use and implementation of the Assessment Anchors and their related tools; guidance with the use of required Department of Education planning documents and content specific professional development activities.
- Service in the Works: Leadership Academy for Administrators, including principals, assistant principals, special ed directors and business managers.

Instruction

- Coaching services designed to narrow the gap between research-based best practices and the practical implementation needed for improved teaching and student learning
- Differentiated Instruction Trainer of Trainers Academy prepares participants to lead DI initiatives in their districts.
- PSSA services including training on the development of PSSA like Math, Science and Language Arts items.
- Service in the Works: Response to Intervention—assisting districts with a four-pronged approach of workshops, networks, on-site professional development and consortium services.

Professional Development

- The professional learning series provides educators access to distinguished experts in an affordable, convenient venue.
- Continuing Professional Education courses and workshops
- The receipt of a \$988,500 Teaching American History grant will fund the creation of The George Washington Valley Forge Freedom Institute, a 36 month professional development project that will provide training for staff from every district and result in increased student achievement
- Service in the Works: Online programs for educators that prefer the convenience of on-line learning

Student Focused Services:

- Reading Olympics, which promotes reading at all levels, involved more than 6,000 students this year and 1,000 adult volunteers
- CIPD conducts the regional judging for the county-wide event of the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts offering a five-week, intensive summer program for high school sophomores and juniors.
- Virtual High School --collaborative online education and professional development. Sixteen districts are currently enrolled in VHS.
- Service in the Works: Entrepreneurship Challenge providing students an opportunity to develop 21st century skills by harnessing their multiple intelligences.



Jamie Pancoast (middle) participated in CIPD's mentor program with mentor Michelle Paglia (right). Mentors assist new teachers in their transition from sitting in a classroom to leading a classroom. The mentor new teacher relationship is one that requires mentors to be good listeners, educators, coaches, supporters and cheerleaders," said CIPD Director Pete Grande (pictured left).



Marketing materials including a new MCIU table cover have been ordered and are available to the IU Divisions for use as an exhibitor or for other special events. Staff may reserve the table cover by contacting the Communications Director, Kristen Rawlings (x197) (pictured above) or the Communications Assistant, Maureen Quinn (x328). A tabletop exhibit and brochures will be available by this August. The Communications Division also has ordered mission statement posters to display throughout the MCIU to promote our mission, vision and values to our many visitors.

Early Intervention Team Satisfying Parents

The MCIU Early Intervention team is doing a good job satisfying its customers according to a survey mailed this spring. Out of 153 parents with children entering the preschool program, 84% responded that they were very pleased with staff courtesy and service. Altogether, 500 surveys were mailed. The surveys included 5 statements with a possibility of 5 responses (Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, and No Response). The 5 statements include:

1. The Early Intervention staff at the MCIU was courteous.
2. The evaluating staff was sensitive to the needs of my child and family.
3. The MCIU 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.

Of the 765 possible responses:

- 84% responded "strongly agree or agree"
- 11% responded "strongly disagree or disagree."
- 1% responded no response.

Welcome New P.V. Superintendent

The MCIU welcomes Dr. Cliff Rogers as the new superintendent of Perkiomen Valley School District effective July 1, 2008. Dr. Rogers previously served as Assistant Superintendent at Norristown School District.

We Make a Difference

The MCIU received the following emails or letters complimenting our staff for their quality customer care and provision of beneficial services.

"Over the past five weeks I have coordinated the facilitation of three different PA Inspired Leadership units to three different cohorts and the MCIU. On behalf of those cohort members and their facilitators I want to thank you for the wonderful service which we received at the IU. The room was set-up, ready and equipped as requested and everything possible was done to meet our needs for productivity and comfort. But it is not just a matter of what was done for us, but how it was done. The warm, friendly and gracious manner of all the IU staff is noteworthy.

I would call special attention to two individuals who were especially helpful, Linda Bean and Mike Whisted. Linda and Mike went beyond competent service. They anticipated what we might need before we even knew we needed it! And they were always checking in with us to insure that all went well. Their level of investment in our success was noticed by all and I commend them to you.

The staff of the MCIU certainly conveys, though their actions and manner a commitment to service excellence. I know that you must be proud of them."

Joseph W. Rodgers

PA Inspired Leadership Initiative Region
1 Site Coordinator

"I just wanted to take the time to let you know how wonderful it has been to work with Maureen Morrell Transition Services Teacher She was just here for an IEP meeting for {a student}. She is such a great resource to the district and has such a great way with parents and students."

Michele Glennon, M.Ed.
Director of Special Education & Student Services, Jenkintown School District

MCIU Snapshots



This past month...

Anne Draus (TIS) provided Moodle trainings to

eight teachers in Upper Moreland Township School District. Anne also created a screencast for Wissahickon School District teachers on how to clone courses in Moodle.

Sharon Richardson, Director of Legislative Services, drafted a letter to the US Department of Education on behalf of the 22 school districts stating objections to the proposed regulations for Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.