



MCIU CONNECTION

Annual Student Competitions offer Fun, Academic Opportunities

There was a whirlwind of student competitions the week of March 15, including the popular Reading Olympics, Pennsylvania Computer Fair and Academic Competition -- all offering students a fun, friendly competition and academic opportunities. Organized and hosted by the MCIU, the regional competition for the Pennsylvania Computer Fair attracted 4 school districts and one nonpublic school, each of which had students qualify for the state competition at Dickinson College on May 25 and 26. TIS staff member John McBride organized the event and MCIU staff members Dale Roberts, Kristen Rawlings, Troy Sosnovick, Karthik Ganesh and retiree, Phil Rothenberg served as judges.

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Top Photo: Channel 6 filmed both the Pennsylvania Computer Fair at the MCIU and the kick-off event for the Reading Olympics, which was held at Welsh Valley Middle School on March 15th. Bottom photo (right to left) : John McBride, Technology and Information Services, awards North Penn High School students, Spencer Hill and Rebecca Fitzer, as finalists in the regional Pennsylvania Computer Fair.

Spring into Spring: Montgomery County Schools Fitness Challenge April 1 - May 20, 2010

All MCIU staff are invited to accept the challenge to live a healthier lifestyle and help the MCIU earn the title of "Montgomery County Schools Fitness Challenge Winner." The Fitness Challenge, organized by the MCIU and the Montco School District Wellness Committee, will include motivation and support to help you meet your goals! All 21 public school districts and the four career/technical centers are participating.

The MCIU spearheaded the first annual Fitness Challenge in the fall 2009 attracting more than 3,000 school employees!

How it Works!

- ▶ Register for the challenge beginning March 15 by visiting <http://fitnesschallenge.mciu.org> and clicking the "Enroll Now" icon. You may register at any time before or during the Challenge.
- ▶ Track your physical activity from April 1 through May 20. You can enter activities for any date at any time by clicking on the "Log my Hours" link.
- ▶ Your activity minutes will be included in the MCIU's activity total. Watch the MCIU's status and your personal progress by clicking the "District Status" link.
- ▶ At the end of the Challenge, a prize will be awarded to the district with the highest number of hours based on the per person participant average.

NEW!

The Spring Fitness Challenge includes 3 competition levels based on your current activity levels and goals for the Fitness Challenge.

"Fitness Jumpstart": Just getting started with a fitness routine or trying to increase your weekly physical activity? This competition tier is for individuals who are currently exercising less than 2 hours a week.

"Getting Fit": If you are currently working out between 2 and 5 hours a week, this level is for you! Motivate yourself to increase your exercise regimen or meet new fitness goals.

"Extreme Challenge": Want to ramp up your workout? This competition tier is for individuals who are currently exercising 5 or more hours a week.

Log on to <http://fitnesschallenge.mciu.org> to enroll today!



**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?**

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Context, Purpose and Outcome

A Continuing Series on Teachings from the Jorgensen Learning Center

To facilitate the most effective meetings, Dr. Ray Jorgensen teaches the importance of using a CPO or Context, Purpose, Outcome for each agenda item.

Context describes why this agenda item was chosen.

Purpose describes what the participants will commonly understand after the agenda item is completed.

Outcomes are specific responsibilities and associated actions that each person has who is participating in the conversation surrounding the agenda item.

Once the meeting CPOs are designed, each agenda item is facilitated in a “CPO way.”

Examples:

Context: An incident involving student rights has occurred that needs our attention.

Purpose: I want to share the details of the incident and build consensus for a response.

Outcome: At the close of this meeting, each of us will know the Board’s position and how we can support it.

Context: We are three months out from a major training involving all of our school districts.

Purpose: Today we’ll look at our timeline and make course corrections.

Outcome: By the end of the meeting, we’ll have identified a handful of target areas and the steps we’ll take, collectively and individually, to meet our deadlines.

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Competitions continued....

County Community College. Each team answered questions about Literature, American History, Contemporary Events, World History, Potpourri, and Science covering all time periods.

CIPD organizes the regional competition each year. On May 7, the winning regional teams from all over the state will compete in the Pennsylvania State Academic Competition at the state Capital in Harrisburg. The championship team will receive a \$2,000 scholarship for their high school and will have the opportunity to participate in the Panasonic Academic Challenge at Disney World in June.



The Annual Reading Olympics, which kicked off March 15, attracted 507 teams this year or close to 7,000 students. There will be 8 competitions between now and May 19th.

“We are thrilled to have one of the most successful and growing programs in the county that supports reading. In 11 years, we have more than quadrupled the number of participating students,” said Maria Johns, who organizes the event for the MCIU’s Division of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development (CIPD). Maria is pictured above with Linda Bean, CIPD.



The Academic Competition moderator lobs questions at finalist teams from Cheltenham, Upper Merion and Upper Dublin School Districts. Cheltenham was victorious.

Tech Tip: Windows Keyboard Shortcuts

Use shortcut keys as an alternative to the mouse when working in Windows.

Press This	To Do This
CTRL + SHIFT + SPACEBAR	Create non breaking space
CTRL + HYPHEN	Create a non breaking hyphen
CTRL + B	Make letters bold
CTRL + I	Make letters italic
CTRL + U	Make letters underline
CTRL + SHIFT =<	Decrease font size
CTRL + SHIFT +>	Increase font size
CTRL + SPACEBAR	Remove paragraph or character formatting