



# MCIU Connection

The bi-weekly newsletter of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

March 24, 2008

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

## Philadelphia Soul Providing Added Support for Reading Olympics

Joe Krause, Director of Sales for the Philadelphia Soul, LOVES the Reading Olympics and wants to do more to support the popular IU event. Like last year, the Soul, Philadelphia's indoor football league, will be providing Golden Tickets (free passes) to all participating students. But this year, Krause decided to enhance the Soul's support by contributing \$3 per additional ticket sold via the Reading Olympics (i.e. tickets bought by a student's family or friends) back to the MCIU.

"I love the Reading Olympics Program. It represents the foundation of who these kids will become in life and it doesn't revolve around sports. On behalf of our team and our ownership group, I am thrilled to be a part of this meaningful experience and excited to give money back to the IU for this event," said Krause, who has both of his sons participating in the Reading Olympics this year.

Students who redeem their Golden Tickets will also get their name electrified up on the Jumbotron at the game and will receive a Soul keepsake. Last year, Krause said that about 1,000 students redeemed their tickets, which can be used for a seat anywhere in the stadium, including the front row!

This year, more than 500 teams and 6,072 children will be participating in the Reading Olympics which kicks off at Norristown High School on March 25th.



Joe Krause, Philadelphia Soul Sales Director (left), and Maria Johns, CIPD, will be working together on this year's Reading Olympics.

## Staff Enjoy the Fragrance of Spring Spring Fling Walk Postponed a Week



Staff including (TOP—Melissa George, Kristen Rawlings, and Holley Moyer —BOTTOM—Dawn Harrington) enjoyed the aroma of spring flowers at the Spring Fling brown bag luncheon March 20th. The event, organized by the IU's Spirit Committee, included a plant sale with plants provided by students and staff from the Western Center for Technical Studies. Staff purchased dozens of tulips, hyacinths, lilies, and other spring flowers. The proceeds which totaled \$161 will benefit the Spirit Committee's future activities.

**Due to inclement weather, the Spring Fling walk around the MCIU neighborhood was postponed until Thursday, March 27th at 12 pm.** Interested staff should plan to meet in Rooms B3/B4 with walking shoes on!

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### Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

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### Questions? Comments? Story Ideas?

Contact Kristen Rawlings  
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## Music & Story telling a Highlight of MCIU Auditory/Oral Preschool Class

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, the children in the MCIU Auditory/Oral Preschool Hearing Support Classroom had a surprise. Dr. Jeanmarie Mason (top left photo), MCIU Director of Special Education, visited the class as "Guest Storyteller". Dr. Mason arrived as the children participated in an inclusion activity with typical peers during Choice Time. During the course of the activity, Dr. Mason chatted with several of the children in the housekeeping area as they cooked and served her "breakfast". Next, she looked on as all of the children sang the Clean Up song and sat down for Circle Time. Then, all eyes were on Dr. Mason and her furry mouse hand puppet as she read the illustrated story *Mouse Mess*, complete with edible props. The visit ended with Dr. Joan Evans, Supervisor, (bottom left) playing guitar for the children as they sang, played instruments, and hopped around the room to the Mr. Bunny Song.

The Guest Storyteller Program is a special feature of the MCIU Auditory/Oral Preschool Class, which enables the children to learn about new people, listen to different speech patterns, and practice social/communication skills. Another special feature is its music program, which is designed to enhance the development of audition, speech and language through songs, musical listening activities, and rhythmic activities.

The Auditory/Oral Preschool Class, which opened its doors almost two years ago, is designed for children with hearing impairment age 3 to age of beginners. Located at the Audubon YMCA, there are a variety of inclusion opportunities with typically developing children in other YMCA classes, which provide language models and social/communication skill development.

Because it is difficult for children with hearing loss to listen in an environment which is noisy or echoes, the MCIU classroom was acoustically evaluated and meets national standards for background noise and reverberation. All of the children communicate through listening and speaking, and use hearing aids or cochlear implants to access auditory information. Classroom soundfield FM systems and personal FM systems also help the children to hear optimally in the classroom.

The classroom staff includes a teacher of the hearing impaired, teacher assistant, speech/language pathologist, educational audiologist, and cochlear implant consultant. The classroom provides an enriching, literature-based approach to learning, aligned with the PA Learning Standards for Early Childhood. Of critical importance for these children is the auditory, speech and language skill development that is emphasized in each and every activity throughout the classroom day.

The Auditory/Oral Preschool Class is part of MCIU's Hearing Support Program, which provides a full array of comprehensive services to children with hearing loss, birth to age 21, and includes both Total Communication and Auditory/Oral options. For further information, please contact Dr. Joan Evans, Supervisor, at 610-755-9416 or [jevans@mciu.org](mailto:jevans@mciu.org).

As Dr. Mason ended her visit to the Auditory/Oral Preschool Class as Guest Storyteller, she waved goodbye to a group of happy, engaged children who, despite their significant hearing impairment, were listening....speaking....learning.



## MCIU on eBay

How do you find MCIU items listed for sale on eBay? Glad you asked. There is a considerable amount of furniture and office equipment that might be of interest to some of our staff members. Some items currently listed on eBay include iMac computers, printer ink, digital cameras, a desk chair, zip disk drives and a TV. **The added bonus of buying an MCIU product is NO SHIPPING FEES!!** The instructions are below:

**To find **mciu23** items for sale (with or without an eBay account):**

1. Go to [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)
  2. Click on "Community" on the top right.
  3. Enter **mciu23** and click "Find a Member".
  4. Enter security code.
- Click "Seller's Items" to view.

**To save a new seller as a favorite (must have an eBay account):**

5. From the left column of My eBay, click the "Sellers" link under All Favorites.
6. On the My Favorite Sellers page, click the "Add Seller or Store" link.
7. On the Add to My Favorite Sellers and Stores page, enter **mciu23**.
8. Click the **Continue** button.
9. Optional: You can add a note about the seller or Store that will be visible only to you.
10. Optional: To receive an email summary of items available from the seller, select the **Favorite Sellers Top Picks** email check box.
11. Optional: To receive email newsletters from the seller, select the General Interest check box. (Not available for all sellers)
12. Click the **Save Seller/Store** button to save the seller or Store.

Since the MCIU starting using eBay to dispose of unwanted furniture and equipment, it has made \$20,571.60 in sales. "It really makes sense to use eBay to sell the items that we would otherwise just throw away," said Stan Wisler, CFO. "It's amazing what people will buy!"

One of the most interesting sales the IU made was an old copy machine that no longer worked. A man paid \$50 for the machine and drove from Ohio to pick it up. He was using it as a prop in a school play.

**The IU can also assist school districts with disposing of obsolete equipment through the eBay auction service.** TIS will manage the listing and auction and return sale proceeds to the district. For questions, contact Jackie Krail at X 238.

## Sparks Attracts 99 Educators



Dennis Sparks, (left) known as the guru of professional development, spoke to an audience of 99 educators at the MCIU as part of the 2008 Professional Learning Series. Attendees raved about his presentation entitled "Leading for Results: Transforming Teaching, Learning, and Relationships in Schools." "This was one of the best conferences I've ever been to! Thanks so much for offering this great development opportunity. I really enjoyed it!" wrote an attendee.



## MCIU In the News

John McBride, TIS, was interviewed on KYW News Radio about the new video streaming and data storage technology offered by the IU. The Philadelphia Inquirer Neighbors section also picked up the story.

## Welcome New Staff

The following individuals joined the IU staff over the past couple of months. Welcome to the organization!

- Marie Astad – LTS Teacher Assistant, Special Education, Early Intervention
- Mary Ann McBrien – 1:1 Temporary Teacher Assistant, Special Education, Autistic Support
- Yin Young – 1:1 Temporary Teacher Assistant, Special Education, Speech and Language Support

## Upcoming Events

The annual Pennsylvania High School Computer Fair Regional Competition, hosted by Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, will be held April 3rd. Eleven high school teams are participating this year in the competition that tests students' application skills, creativity and computer knowledge. The competition categories include Animation, Computer Fair Logo, Curriculum-Based Web Page Design, Digital Movie, Graphic Design, Information-Based Web Page Design, Multimedia Presentations and Text-Based Desktop Publishing. The winning teams advance to the state competition held May 20 at Dickinson College.