



## Darlene Anderson Receives Physical Education Teacher Award

Pennsylvania State Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (PSAHPERD) selected Darlene E. Anderson as 2008-2009 Pennsylvania Outstanding Adapted Physical Education Teacher. Darlene has been with the MCIU for 21 years.

Nominated by her peers, she has been active with her professional organization, served on the PA Adapted Physical Education Committee for over 15 years and assisted in developing and promoting Adapted Physical Education standards. Darlene has presented at local, state and national conventions, local colleges, and schools. Dr. Engstrom of Kutztown University wrote "I have found Darlene to be an outstanding professional and one of the best adapted physical education teachers in Pennsylvania. She has presented several times in the past to my classes and they have been impressed and inspired by her creative ideas." She is "especially gifted with severely involved children and she brings many fresh examples and ideas for working with this population."

Howard Levy, former APE supervisor reports, "I have never worked with an educator as dedicated to her students and profession. Ms. Anderson has the skill set and knowledge to ensure that every student participates to the fullest extent possible and designs her lessons to not only meet the physical needs of her students, but she also has the ability to concomitantly address the development of skills across all domains, including: communication, sensory processing, social skills, work habits and attitudes."

Over the years, Darlene has received several awards for her dedicated service and teaching including: 1987 MCIU Parents Association Outstanding Teacher Award, 1991 inductee into the Lynchburg College All Sports Hall of Fame, 1996 Glenside Outstanding Community Service Award, 1998 Annie Sullivan Award, 1999 Pennsylvania House of Representatives Citation, 2000 Kiwanis Tablet of Honor Award for dedicated service to Kiwanis initiatives, and 2008 PSAHPERD Presidential Award.

(Pictured) The professional association presented Darlene's award at the PSAPERD State Convention on November 20 at the Valley Forge Convention Center.



## Happy 3rd Birthday Jumping Jack



The prized invitation for the month of November was to Jumping Jack's 3rd birthday party. Students of the MCIU's Hearing Support Class joined their teachers, families and friends to celebrate their class pet's birthday with an African Safari themed party. Held at Shady Grove Elementary on November 20, the students were responsible for planning all aspects of the party such as creating a guest list, designing invitations, planning a menu, choosing party games and making information packets about the pet frog and other African animals they will be studying.

"The party planning helped the students work on skills including language, vocabulary, social skills, problem solving, organization, technology, mathematics and reading," said Barbara Ann Hudrick, Hearing Support Teacher, pictured above leading students in their class presentation. Jumping Jack is pictured in the right corner of the tank.

Guests enjoyed the children's entertaining presentation, which included the story of Jumping Jack's adoption, facts about African animals and "Silly Safari Stand-Up."

Jack's Favorite Joke?

Why is it hard to play cards in the jungle?

There are too many cheetahs!



## 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?

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

## Get in the Holiday Spirit with MCIU SPIRIT Activities

The SPIRIT Committee will be sponsoring two holiday activities, including the Tree Decorating Contest and Cookie Exchange. Any individual or group in the MCIU West Norriton building may participate in decorating their office.

Decorations must be up by December 7th. Judging will take place by MCIU peers the week of December 7th and will end at 4pm on December 15th.

**Judging Process:** Ballot forms will be available at each decorated display area. Every MCIU employee may submit one vote. Place your ballot in the box in the lobby and initial your vote. Votes will be tallied and a winner announced on **December 17th at the Holiday Luncheon. Mark your calendars!**

## Update on MCIU Building Plans

Over the last month, a few articles appeared in the Pottstown Mercury and Times Herald regarding the MCIU's plans to relocate to a more adequate facility. Unfortunately, each article contained inaccurate information about the MCIU's plans as well as the potential impact on school districts. To set the record straight, following is an update on our plans and corrections of misinformation in the newspaper.

- \* The MCIU Board approved the goal of seeking a different facility for MCIU operations after a facility assessment was completed in June 2008. The study showed that the current facility is inadequate to support existing program needs and, due to space and architectural/engineering issues, is not viable to renovate. It was recommended that a more adequate facility would contain 120,000 square feet with 500 parking spaces as opposed to the current 80,000 square foot building with 250 parking spaces.
- \* Since June 2008, the administration has toured several facilities (the facilities committee toured one of those), but none of the facilities have met all of the MCIU's specifications. At this point, no offers have been made on any facility.
- \* The MCIU anticipates creating a funding plan that will have minimal impact on the school districts. The MCIU plans to finance over 30 years through a bond issue, using building reserve funds and revenue from expanded services to cover building and borrowing costs. Service fees will continue to be competitively priced and not inflated to cover extra costs.

The Administration will keep staff apprised of new developments related to the acquisition of a new building as they unfold.

## Flex Plan Enrollment: Tax Savings for Employees

Effective January 1, 2010, the MCIU is again offering to our employees the Security Benefit Group's Security Flex 125 Program. Under the Flex Spending Program, employees can annually set aside funds to pay for eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses and dependent care expenses, and avoid paying taxes on that amount. If you're in the 25% federal tax bracket, this program could save you a total of 36.72% on your qualifying medical out-of-pocket costs and 32.65% of your dependent care expenses.

Beginning December 4th Randy Hartzel, your Kades-Margolis Representative, will be enrolling employees in the program. All eligible employees are asked to schedule an appointment to meet with the enroller and either sign on or out of the program. You can also use this opportunity to discuss your tax shelter account.

You must re-enroll in this program yearly. If you are unable to attend one of these enrollment times and are interested in this benefit, please contact Anita Watson at 610-755-9345 or via email at [awatson@mciu.org](mailto:awatson@mciu.org).

### ENROLLMENT DATES:

December 4th	Anderson	1:30pm – 3:30pm
December 7th	MCIU	12:00pm – 5:00pm (Room C5)
December 9th	PaTTAN	12:00pm – 5:00pm
December 10th	MCIU	12:00pm – 5:00pm (Room C5)



## Cookie Exchange

Join us on Monday, December 14th in C3 at 12pm for a Holiday Cookie Exchange. Bring your lunch and cookies. Guidelines are as follows:

- \* Homemade cookies are preferred.
- \* Please bring 5 dozen total cookies (4 dozen to exchange and 1 dozen for sampling). Do not bring cookies that require refrigeration.
- \* Bring your own large container (i.e., Tupperware) to carry away your cookies.
- \* Bring copies of your recipe to share. (Or you may email it.)
- \* If you don't have time to bake, or have ruined your recipe, but still want to attend, you must go to a real bakery and buy 5 dozen yummy cookies.
- \* RSVP by December 4th to Jackie Krail.