



The bi-weekly newsletter of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

MCIU CONNECTION

www.mciu.org

October 31, 2008

Students Get in Touch with the “Story of Science”



When author Dr. Fred Bortz gave a session at the Keystone Reading Association Annual Conference in October, he had an audience of educators as well as middle school students who were eager to listen to how his ideas become published books. “Dr. Fred” invited the small group students who participate in the MCIU Reading Olympics to be part of the audience in a simulation of the program he offers to schools. The middle schoolers also had an opportunity to discuss their favorite science fiction books with Dr. Fred informally over a pizza lunch.

Librarian Janet Maguire and reading teacher, Denise Marr of Colonial Middle School brought team members for a morning at the KSRA Conference held at the Valley Forge Convention Center. As the young readers made their way through Authors Alley they were surprised and excited to meet famous local author, Gerry Spinelli. As the students lined up for autographs, they enthusiastically bombarded Mr. Spinelli with comments about their favorite Spinelli characters!

The students enjoyed the special experience and added bonus of being involved in the MCIU Reading Olympics!

Buy your MCIU Shirt

Polo shirts (\$20), denim oxfords (\$22) and jackets (\$30) with the MCIU logo will be available for sale beginning November 13th at the MCIU Education Foundation fundraiser. Shirts may also be purchased through any SPIRIT Committee member up until December 4th. Samples of shirt sizes and colors will be available in the office of Kristen Rawlings, Communications Director.

Giving Options

MCIU Education Foundation & United Way Campaign Kick-off

If you're looking for a good cause for your charitable contributions, consider the MCIU Education Foundation (MCIUEF). Your donations could help the Foundation support MCIU program opportunities including the Reading Olympics program, camps for children with special needs, post secondary scholarships for children with special needs and cultural diversity initiatives.

There are a number of ways to support the Education Foundation:
Attend the Harvest Social & Fundraiser: Thursday, Nov. 13 from 4:30-7:30 at the Lower Providence Fire Hall. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased by emailing cwaters@mciu.org

Direct Donations are accepted at any time during the year. All checks should be made payable to the “MCIUEF” and mailed to the Foundation at Montgomery County IU Education Foundation, Attn: Stan H. Wisler, Treasurer, 1605 West Main Street, Norristown, PA 19403

Payroll Deduction: You can elect to contribute as little as \$1 per pay to the MCIUEF through payroll deduction. Contact the Payroll department for a deduction form.

E-scrip Program (otherwise known as the Genuardi Community Cash Back Program): This program contributes a percentage of the amount spent by a Genuardi's Club Card patron to a chosen charity. There is no charge to the patron to participate in this program. Your card can be enrolled on-line at www.escrip.com. The MCIUEF's Group identification number is 6539110

United Way: Through the United Way payroll deduction program, you can have your donation directed to the MCIUEF. Our number is #12979.

The MCIU Administration also supports giving to the United Way for its many other valuable programs. Donors may choose to give to one of the United Way's focus areas or designate their contribution to one or more of 4,800 organizations that participate. The full list of organizations is on their website at www.uwsepa.org.

With October 31 paychecks, staff will receive a pledge form for the United Way. If you are interested in giving, please return your pledge form to Kristen Rawlings, Communications Director, by November 14th.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

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**Montgomery County
Intermediate Unit**
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Questions? Comments? Story Ideas?

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

MCIU Snapshots



At the invitation of the Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development Division (CIPD), Dr. Steven Dear joined with science teachers, curriculum coordinators and administrators to analyze the PSSA results countywide and discuss best practices related to meeting the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Science & Technology.

Upcoming Event: School Districts and Human Service Systems as Partners
Date: Friday, November 21, 2008
Time: 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Room Number: MCIU- B3/B4
Join this workshop to learn how school districts can access services for children and collaborate with the county human services systems and schools.

Barnes & Noble Support for Reading Olympics Fundraiser & Book Drive Nov. 15

Barnes and Noble has joined the MCIU as a friend of the Reading Olympics. This year, the store's Plymouth Meeting location (Chemical Road) will organize their holiday book drive to benefit schools that participate in the MCIU Reading Olympics.

From Nov 15 through Jan 1, customers are asked by cashiers if they would like to purchase a book to donate to a Reading Olympics child. The customer can select the book and school if they choose. Last year, the Plymouth Meeting store had nearly 2,000 books donated. On **Saturday, November 15 (9 am-11pm)**, Barnes and Noble will host a kick-off event and fundraiser for the book drive. For all items (including drinks, CDs, games, etc) purchased on the 15th, a percentage ranging between 10 and 20% is donated to the MCIU. Other activities on the 15th include:

- Story time at 10:30 a.m.
- Book signing with Cecil Mosenson, local author of "It All Began with Wilt" 2-4 pm
- Maria Johns, Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development, will be organizing a mock Reading Olympics that day as well. More information to follow.



At a SPIRIT Committee Lunch & Learn on October 21, Susan Shiveley provided a Quilt Making presentation to staff. About 25 employees enjoyed seeing Susan's assortment of quilts for which she designed and wrote patterns.

Are You Thinking of Retiring this Year?

A representative from the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) will conduct a special Exit Counseling session at the MCIU for any employee who is thinking of retiring this school year. The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2009, at 4 p.m. in C-3. Pre-registration is required to attend this meeting. Please e-mail cwaters@mciu.org or call (610) 755-9344 by Friday, December 12 to sign up. You must have an estimate for June 2009 prepared by PSERS staff within the last 18 months for this meeting. If you do not have that estimate, please submit a Request for Retirement Estimate (PSRS 151) to PSERS. The PSRS 151 is available by going to the Forms section of PSERS website www.psers.state.pa.us or by calling the toll-free number at 1-888-773-7748.

PSERS will be mailing pre-planning packets to your home prior to the Exit Counseling session. Please review the packet and bring the completed documents along with your current Retirement Estimate (prepared by the PSERS staff) with you to the session. This information is required to complete your Application for Retirement which will be provided at the Exit Counseling session. If you already have another exit counseling session scheduled and would prefer to attend this session, please call the Warminster office at 215-443-3495 and cancel that appointment in order to open up space for others. If you are retiring at the end of the school year and this date is not convenient, please contact the Warminster office to schedule an appointment.

Welcome New Staff

- Michael Green, Technical Support Specialist, PaTTAN
- Shannon Brown, Autistic Program Support Teacher
- Michelle Woodcock, Remedial Teacher, Non-Public School Services
- Sharyn Gallino, 1:1 Temporary Teacher Assistant, Autistic Support Program
- Gail Haynes, 1:1 Temporary Teacher Assistant, Autistic Support Program
- Gerard Hine, 1:1 Temporary Teacher