

# Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative Newsletter



Hi, I'm Lenny. Who are you? I'm Sinjin and I have no strings. Here, you can have mine. For your Generosity, you can have these [wings].

## February, 2014

### Notes from the Executive Director

I just thought this message from one of the New Directions students, said what it's all about! What a wonderful statement that demonstrates the exceptional learning experiences these students are having at MJC. The students made cartoon strips and took pictures of them on the floor. Hence the feet!

I'm writing this newsletter on the day when they are predicting more snow. What a winter it has been! We appreciate all of your patience as we reschedule meetings and take care of the students during difficult weather. Please remember to inform all of your team and your coordinators if changes have been made to schedules.

### End of the Year Celebration: May 5<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendars for May 5<sup>th</sup> for our End of the Year Celebration! We will be honoring our retirees, new staff (and their mentors) and staff who have achieved milestone years of service. If you would like to help with the arrangements, please come to the Sunshine Committee planning meeting at 3:00-4:00 on February 19<sup>th</sup> at the administration center. Just let Linda Koch know that you will attend and would like to help. I hope to see all of you at the celebration!

### Bowling on March 16<sup>th</sup>

Please join us for the Bowling Party on March 16<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) from 1:00-4:00 at St. Charles Bowl. We will be providing pizza, soft drinks and dessert. Families are welcome to join us at this event and/or come with your colleagues as a team! There will be prizes and high expectations for outrageous bowling outfits! There is a new raffle too. It is a family fun basket with all proceeds going to the giving fund. Please RSVP to Bonnie.

### IAA training

The IAA training is scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> OR 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00 at the administration offices. This is a mandatory training for those who are administering the IAA this year.

### Spring Testing

Remember that the testing window for students taking the ISATs is March 3-March 14. And, the window for IAA is from February 17 through March 28.

### Upcoming Culver's Nights

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Mid-Valley Culver's nights on East Main Street, St. Charles (across from Pheasant Run), from 5:00-7:00:

- February 13 (New Directions)
- March 13 (Transition)
- May 5<sup>th</sup> (Transition)

You, your friends, neighbors and colleagues just need to mention Mid-Valley and 10% of the proceeds for the evening are forwarded to us. It even works in the drive-through! We received \$150 for the last Culvers Night in December when there was really bad weather. Please come out to support the students and the programs.

### Think Summer! ESY!

ESY will be from July 7 – July 31<sup>st</sup>, from 8:00-12:00. ***Referrals for ESY are due to your coordinator by March 14. Parent registration packets are due to your coordinator by April 14.***

We will be starting to notify staff about positions in late-March. If you are interested in applying, the application is under the ESY tab on the website.

### Parent Forum

On February 27, from 7:00-8:30, at the Administration Center, there will be a parent forum, "***How to Navigate the Illinois Disability System***". The speaker is a parent of a child with a disability and a lawyer. He has wonderful resources for parents. This session should be very helpful and we will be offering babysitting. Please send the flyer once again to your parents and come yourself! Thanks again to the social workers for making these arrangements and to Kiwanis for funding the babysitting.

### Needs Assessment

Thanks for completing the needs assessment. Results will be compiled soon and will help contribute to the annual comprehensive professional development plan.

### Donors Choose

Meg Bingham has been awarded another grant funded from Donors Choose in less than 24 hours! Her class will be receiving a new document camera!! Check out her classroom project! And, apply for one your class! <http://www.donorschoose.org/Beehive-Projects>

### Institute Day: February 28

February 28 will be an exciting Institute Day. A table listing all of the activities is included with this newsletter. Please contact your coordinator if you have any questions. This year, the teaching assistants will be attending sessions in the morning. They are welcome to stay in the afternoon to continue your learning, but you are not required. Don't forget to wear your spirit wear!

### SAIL Productions Micro-Business

Students have been hard at work making cards and mugs for Valentine's Day. Supplies are limited, so stop by the Shelby building or Mid-Valley lobby to purchase. We have also added some new items to our inventory, knotted scarves and neck warmers. Stop by the Shelby building to purchase these or any of our other items (silk scarves, coasters, trivets, greeting cards, photography note cards, memo pads & dog biscuits)

Sail Productions will also have a table at Geneva High School on February 28th at Institute Day with all of our items available for purchase. Happy shopping!

### Wellness

The Wellness Screening Program registration is open right now. Screening is free to employees on the BCBS health insurance plan and \$76 for all others. Testing takes place a various St. Charles buildings in the mornings from 6:00-9:00 am between February 19- March 20.

Brochures were sent via interoffice mail two weeks ago. Contact [866-935-5462](tel:866-935-5462) for registration or Karin Alber for questions.

### Young Athletes Award

Congratulations again to Paulette Ollie, who recently won a \$500 award to purchase additional materials and supplies for the Young Athletes Program. The students are working hard on their foundational Special Olympic skills and will have a special day on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Thanks so much, Paulette, for her advocacy and persistence!

### Workboxes

Thanks to Sandy Gearhart, Amy Rogers, and Nicole Claeson who have worked diligently to organize the workboxes and a checkout system. Remember that we are looking for new ideas to create new boxes. We will need your suggestions by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Technology Inventory Confirmation

I think one of the most difficult tasks we have over here at administration is keeping track of an accurate inventory of technology and equipment. We are grateful to Bonnie and Rona (and the coordinators and Nia) who are trying to keep it all straight. Right now, it looks pretty good, but we want to make sure. So, you will be receiving an inventory sheet with the information we have so you can confirm it. Please respond by the end of this month.

We believe that we're going to be able to have a pretty aggressive computer replacement cycle. In order to do that with the finance committee and Board, we feel that it is extremely important to have our current information as accurate as possible. Thank you all for your help.

### Difficult to Test Clinic

On March 19, there will be the first of two Difficult to Test Clinics. These clinics are for students whose vision abilities cannot be screened in a typical fashion. If you have questions or would like to schedule a student for this clinic, please contact Mary Jo Zampa, our Certified School Nurse.

### Thinking Ahead to Next Year!

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

- August 18 First Institute Day
- August 11 New Staff Orientation Week
- August 13 Netchemia Training for New Staff/Refresher for All Staff

All of the CPI training will be in the summer so that it does not interfere with the programming. You will be compensated for these dates and more information will be coming out soon.

### Purchasing Deadlines

The last day to submit purchase orders for expenses for the remainder of this school year will be March 28, the day before spring break. Please submit your orders to your coordinator prior to this date. Exceptions to this date will be rare.

After the Board approves the final budget (anticipated in May or June), you will be notified and you can work with your coordinator to submit purchase orders for items that need to be purchased over the summer for the upcoming school year.

### Move Requests

For this month, our next move date will be Thursday, February 27. So, that means you should turn in any move requests to **Bonnie Carlson** by **Monday, February 24** so we can organize the work requests. If you have large furniture, equipment or large boxes to move, please fill out the form and clearly label the items to be moved. The forms are on the web-site.

### New Staff for February

Believe it or not, there were no new staff hired for this month!

### IMPORTANT Deadlines

Several important deadlines are fast approaching. If any of the following apply to you, please notify Nancy IN WRITING in the Human Resources Department, by the appropriate deadline.

- Mar. 1: Educators must notify MVSEC of interest in receiving payment in full the balance of their salary (no summer pay) (MVSEA)
- Mar. 1: Any certified employee who is interested in a transfer for the upcoming school year should notify MVSEC of their intent (MVSEA)
- Mar. 1: Employees must file an irrevocable notice of retirement (MVSEA & TASC)

### Birthdays!

Happy January birthday wishes to: Maryann Domaracki (10), Tricia Sabathne (13), Josie Wallace (13), Martha Egan (17), Stacey Krenning (19), Melissa Mills (21), Mark Wallin (22), Rudy Via (23), and Linda Moran (24). Happy Birthday!

### Thoughts and Prayers...Get Well Wishes

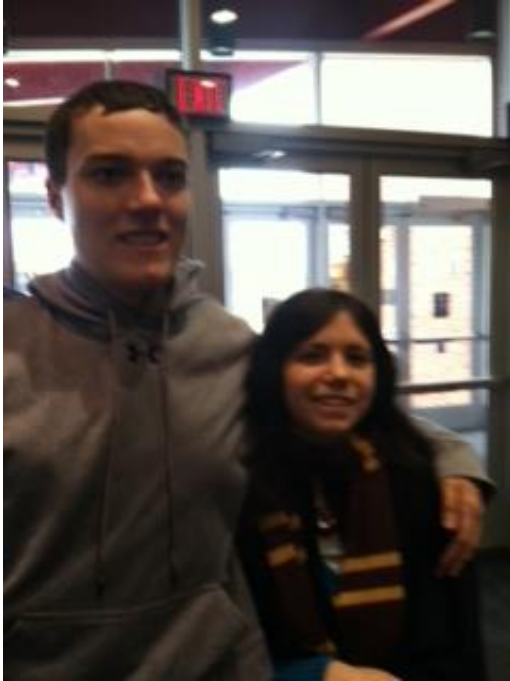
- Elizabeth Brown had neck surgery on January 6 and has recuperating for quite a while.
- Anne Santagelo was in the hospital, and is out now and improving!

### People News

Mindy Kaplan's daughter, Sarah, was a January Kane County Chronicle Student of the Month! Students are nominated by their high schools for academic achievement and service.

Congratulations to Rona Henne who has successfully met the requirements and is certified by the Professional Standards Board as an Assistive Technology Professional through the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America. We always knew she was good, but now she has the paper to prove it!!!

## Program News



We will be saying goodbye & good luck to Matthew & Chelsie as they turn 22 years old. Matthew's last day is Feb. 27th and Chelsie's last day will be March 21st.

**Look what we have...thanks to YOU!!!**



Thanks for all of your support for the hearing itinerant teachers in the Walk4Hearing. The Walk4Hearing raises funds for the Hearing Loss Association of America and a portion of the funds goes to the Mid-Valley Hearing Itinerant Program. With the funds we were able to purchase new materials for students. The new materials include phonemic awareness, figurative

language and understanding idioms, non-fiction reading comprehension, inference and category card games, sign language, and a hotel kit that includes a lending library of assistive devices necessary for travel for a deaf or hard of hearing individual.

We are so grateful to everyone who supported us in the Walk4Hearing.

(Below) The students in Jeanne Schultz's vocational experiences class made wooden yard figures for their families as holiday gifts. This is the one they presented to Ms. McNulty for her family.





(Below) The girls in the New Directions Program are knitting hats to sell with the funds from a recent ICCBD grant. They decided to use the money raised to host a party at a nursing home.

We took the girls on a field trip to Michaels before the break to pick out yarn. Our goal was to have them knit over the break.



(Below) The students in the SAIL Shelby Program We celebrated the Chinese New Year (January 31st) which is one of Chelsie's favorite holidays! Her step-father treated them to Gen Hoe for lunch. Yum!







Chelsie and Mrs. Lee at Gen Ho.

Professional Development Opportunities

*Mid-Valley Offerings:*

- ADOS II Scoring and Practice, February 7 and/or April 11, 8:00-10:00 Batavia D101 Board Room

*The following are some professional development opportunities you may want to explore. Just let Carla know if you'd like more information.*

- Assessment of Students with Vision Loss, Olaya Landa-Vialard, May 5, DeKalb
- Social-Emotional Intervention Showcase, February 25, Normal, IL

#### Final Thought

I have made this letter longer than usual,  
because I lacked the time to make it short.

--Blaise Pascal

I don't know...I just think that quote is funny. Actually, I like a really long newsletter, because then it means that it's full of news about the students and all of the great work of the faculty and staff of Mid-Valley. I don't tell you all often enough how appreciated and valued each of you are.

I hope you have a wonderful Valentine's Day and are appreciated by more than just me!

C.