

# Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative Newsletter



## October, 2012

### Notes from the Executive Director

It seems that I always start these newsletters with a statement about how I can't believe it is whatever month it is! Well, that's the case again! I can't believe it's almost the middle of October already! It seems that time is just zooming by. I saw a UPS member today and he said that the holiday delivery season is well on its way. Make it stop!

It's so good to know that all is going well in the classrooms and with the services for students. I hope you are taking the time to enjoy the passage of time!

### Progress Monitoring Cohorts

*If you haven't already, certified staff members should choose from one of 4 cohorts. Each cohort will meet two times.*

Cohort One will meet on October 16 and November 14. **PLEASE NOTE: THE LAST NEWSLETTER HAD OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, BUT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE 16<sup>TH</sup>. PLEASE CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT DATES AND SUBSTITUTES IF YOU SIGNED UP FOR COHORT ONE.**

Cohort Two will meet on October 24 and November 29. Cohort Three will meet on November 1 and December 4. Cohort Four will meet on November 6 and December 12. Please choose dates and mark your calendar. Sign up with [Phaedra.McLaughlin@d303.org](mailto:Phaedra.McLaughlin@d303.org).

*OTs and PTs will have their own training session on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.*

### Parent Forum

The next Parent Forum is coming right up on October 15<sup>th</sup>. A flyer will be coming your way very soon from Natalie. The topic will be Behavior Management and will be presented by our own

Natalie and MaryAnn. There will only be one session in the evening, so please make sure your parents know about this event.

### Speaking of Parents

If you haven't already, please forward the email addresses of your parents to Bonnie Carlson who will be entering them in our parent group email lists.

### Speaking of Bonnie

She's here at last! Bonnie has joined the MV team and is a very friendly face at the front desk. She is busily learning all the new tasks in front of her. We are trying hard not to overwhelm her! The best thing you can do is come over to meet her and welcome her. We are so happy she is here.

### Save the dates for the Sunshine Committee Activities

The Sunshine Committee has been very productive and have already planned some fun activities for the holidays. So, mark your calendars for the **Cookie Exchange (One day only at the Shelby building on December 6<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) from 3:30-5:00**. Also mark your calendars for **December 13<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) for the Annual Holiday Party**. More details will be coming soon, but just schedule everything else around these two dates!

### FFS Training

We are trying to schedule a Fee for Service (My Service Tracker) training update for late October. As soon as I hear from Steve Karuna, we will be sending a notice. Right now, the tentative dates are October 23 and 24.

### Educator of the Year Nominees

Start thinking about the spring awards banquet! We are looking for nominees for Kane County Educator of the Year. It could also be an administrator, or both! Please let me know if you have someone in mind.

### Program Name Voting

Staff have submitted some great name ideas for the PALS/VIP and Multi Programs. I will be sending a separate ballot for voting very soon.

### New Staff in September

New staff who joined us in September are: Kimberly Kirby, TA at PALS Blackberry Creek and Vicki Gaddis, a temporary OT who is helping us with a maternity leave at various locations. Welcome!

### Book Study

Book study will be starting soon. Sandy G. is busy selecting an inspirational title. It is a little delayed due to her father's health. (See below.)

### Open Enrollment for Insurance Starting November 1

Keep watching your email for a notice from Sue Caddy's office regarding Insurance Open Enrollment.

### IMRF Meeting

An information meeting about the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund for IMRF members will be on Wednesday, October 10 from 5:00-6:30 at St. Charles North High School Auditorium. No reservations are required.

### Land Purchase

MVSEC recently purchased the land on which the administrative center and MJC sits. The cooperative owns the building, but didn't own the land. In a very gracious move, the District 303 Board of Education virtually donated the land and the parking lot to MVSEC. We are very grateful.

### Zones of Regulation—October 5

Thanks so much to Kathy Wieringa and Maria Betler who suggested the Zones of Regulation training. And, a giant thanks to Natalie Assell who made all the arrangements to make it happen! We are very excited about looking at students with the same eyes and using the same language.

### Move Requests

As you know, we are trying to limit the number of equipment moves to one time a month. Our next move date will be Thursday, October 25. So, that means you should turn in any move requests to your coordinator (for this month) by **Monday, October 22** so we can organize the work request. 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.

### Kiwanis Peanut Day Fundraiser

A BIG thank you to students from the SAIL Program (and staff) who completed shifts at Blue Goose to raise funds through the peanut sales. The total for our day of fund-raising was \$313! Thanks so much.

### October Birthdays!

Happy birthday wishes to: Paige McNulty, Bethany Akers, Jennifer Best, Justin Opsahl, Jeanne Schultz, Nina Campos, Heather Winter, Diane Berg, Julia Mraz, Angela LoPiccolo, David Munson, Judy Boer, Laura Clark, Elsa Reyes, Stephanie McSweeney, Craig Brueske, Mary Langan, Denise Anthenat, and Monica Silkatis. Happy Birthdays to you all!

### Thoughts and Prayers

Our best wishes go out to Paige's son, Lucas and the whole family as they travel to Michigan to live in the Ronald McDonald House to undergo treatment. Our wishes are with Sandy G. as her father has been recently hospitalized (also in Michigan). Our thoughts are with Linda Koch as she helps her parents transition to additional care. Some of you know Ron Knapic, who retired as

the D303 administrative liaison several years ago. He is very ill with cancer. Also, John Baird, our D303 facilities wizard is undergoing surgery and treatment this week. Phyllis Markovic is home from the hospital and recuperating at home. Chris Rachford, the Executive secretary to Dr. Schlomann has been home with west Nile. She has been so helpful and kind to us. Please keep all of these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

#### Staff News

With the help of Tom Rogers, GHS Principal and Lions Club member, Sharon Jenkins submitted a proposal to the Geneva Lions Club a few weeks ago. The proposal included information, without the student's name, regarding his hearing loss, family financial situation, and a request for a year's supply of hearing aid batteries to alleviate the burden of that expense. Sharon is happy to tell you that they approved the proposal for a year's supply of hearing aid batteries. In addition, they are willing to supply the batteries again next year upon request.

Sharon will be working with our NIA audiologist on purchasing the batteries and I will deliver them to David when they arrive. I am so happy the Geneva Lions Club is willing to support David and his family.

Geneva Hearing Services has also been kind enough to help us with the hearing aid battery order? It is so heartwarming when so many people come together to help a student. Thanks to everyone for such a great effort.

Congratulations to Ami Burgess and Jen Haney, who finished the Fox Valley Half-Marathon on September 16th!



September 26<sup>th</sup> Autism conference Melissa Jackson, Nicole Claeson and Amy Rogers with Temple Grandin.

On Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, the entire HI Itinerant department will be walking to raise money for the Hearing Loss Association of America and OUR itinerant hearing program! 40% of the money raised will be going back to the hearing program to fund special events for the students. If you'd like to help, you can write a check to Walk4Hearing and mail it to the itinerant office at Davis Elementary, 1125 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St., St. Charles, IL 60174. Or, you can make a donation on line by going to <http://hlaa.convio.net/goto/MVHIT>. The final option is to "join the team" and have friends and family donate as well. If you have questions, contact [Jennifer.haney@d303.org](mailto:Jennifer.haney@d303.org).

#### Student and Program News



Melissa Mills' New Pathways students enjoyed their visit from Fireman Jim on October 3rd- all the students enjoyed it! Some even got to try out his equipment!



Geneva High School students Krissy Althersohn and Tom Broviak aren't the prototypical high school homecoming queen and king. (VIP Program!) But rarely has the selection of a homecoming royal couple, in Geneva or elsewhere, engendered such a reaction of goodwill from much of an entire school body and the community.

### Professional Development Opportunities

#### *Mid-Valley Sessions*

October 17: iPad by Program  
 October 25: iPad by Program  
 November 2: Boardmaker and Intellitools  
 November 8: Autism Training (changed from November 7<sup>th</sup>)  
 November 9: BoardMaker and Intellitools  
 November 13: iPad after school

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

Strategies that Work: Social Skills and Behavior Solutions for the Student/Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Dr. Tony Attwood, October 23-24, Elmhurst.

8th Annual Illinois Statewide Transition Conference: October 24-25, Pheasant Run, St. Charles

Illinois Council for Exceptional Children Conference: The Best of Special Education, November 1-3, Lisle

Assessment in Augmentative and alternative communication, Kathleen Post, November 12, Kishwaukee College, Malta, Illinois (near DeKalb)

Champs: Proactive and Positive Approach to Classroom Management, Dr. Randy Sprick, November 13, Chicago \*\*\*Highly Recommended\*\*\*

Explicit Instruction: Effective and Efficient Teaching, Dr. Anita Archer, November 14, Chicago \*\*\*Highly Recommended\*\*\*

The tough Kid—Practical Behavior Management, Dr. Bill Jenson, November 15, Chicago \*\*\*Highly Recommended\*\*\*

Activity-Based Instruction for Students with Severe Intellectual Disabilities, Gail Van Tatenhove, December 6, Tinley Park

Illinois Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders Conference, February 1-2, Lisle

### Final Thought

*One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done.*

*Marie Curie*

Remember the “Happiness Project” I wrote about last time?? Well, I’m still stuck in month #1: Declutter and Do Something that is Nagging You. I know this will take a while, but she’s right, you do feel better when you address things that have been postponed. So, I’m sort of stuck with the phrase above...I hope you all are getting things done and are working on your happiness as well.