

MCo Monday Minute

Monday, August 15, 2016

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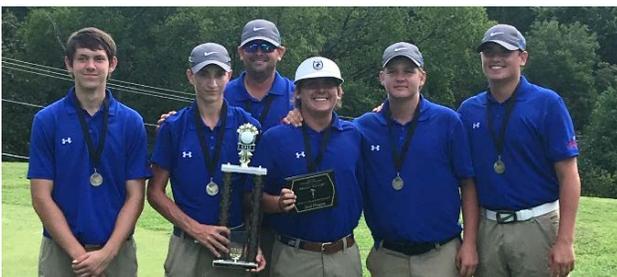


Welcome Back! – The 2016-17 school year has begun! I hope everyone enjoyed the Opening Day breakfast. Thank you to all who had a role in making it happen and please join me in thanking our community table sponsors. [Click here](#) to view a list of sponsors who generously and willingly participated.

Distinguished Young Women – Montgomery County's Distinguished Young Woman Program was held on August 13th, the 16 contestants represented our school district and county well. The winners were: Victoria Toy, 4th runner-up; Sydney Greene, 3rd runner-up; Abigail Dotson, 2nd runner-up; Carly Walker, 1st runner-up; and Summer Taylor, winner. Madison Cline was the scholastic winner, and Sydney Greene won the interview award and was the scholastic runner-up. Talent winners were Abigail Dotson and Victoria Toy. Lake Williamson claimed the self-expression and friends association awards. Hayden Gooding received the spirit of Distinguished Young Women award. Carly Walker and Summer Taylor were the fitness winners. Summer also won the interview and self-expression awards. Congratulations to all these young women!



(Photo courtesy of
Mike Hanson/Sycamore Photography)



Golf is in Full Swing – The MCHS boys' golf team and Coach Kevin Lawson won the 2016 Powell County Invitational! This is their third tournament win of the year. The girls' team hosted the Montgomery County Invitational Tournament this past weekend with 104 ladies in the field.

Web Pages – Please ensure that teacher, department, and school web pages, and school and district calendar events are updated and maintained. Contact [Amy Mullins](#) or [Debbie Goldy](#) if pages need to be added, deleted or corrected, or if assistance/training is needed.

Dates:

- Aug. 15 – Preschool Begins
- Aug. 15 – Mapleton Spirit Card Sales – Kick Off
- Aug. 17 – Mapleton PTO Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Aug. 18 – Camargo PTO Meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- Aug. 18-28 – Kentucky State Fair
- Aug. 20 – Recreation Bowl
- Aug. 22 – Camargo Volunteer Orientation, 6:30-7:30 p.m.,
- Aug. 23 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- Aug. 25 – Mapleton Volunteer Orientation, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 31 – MCIS Volunteer Orientation, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- **Sept. 5 – No School – Labor Day**
- Sept. 8 – McNabb Volunteer Orientation, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 13 – MSE Volunteer Orientation, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 24 – MCHS Volunteer Orientation, 9:00-10:00 a.m.



Continuous Learning through Professional Literature

How Should Teachers Assign Students for Group Work?

In this article in *The Journal of the Learning Sciences*, Miwa Aoki Takeuchi (University of Calgary) investigated classroom dynamics as newly arrived English language learners learned math in a Canadian elementary school. Takeuchi was particularly interested in whether students did better in groups that were assigned by the teacher or in groups where they were able to sit with their friends. The teacher assumed that ELLs would do better if they were assigned to groups with students who were more mathematically competent, had leadership qualities, and were “caring” – but she experimented with friendship groups some of the time.

It turned out that when ELLs sat in teacher-assigned groups, they tended to be more passive and dependent on others to solve problems. Other students offered more suggestions, took the lead, and had more air time discussing ideas. Interactions were more authoritative and ELLs’ contributions tended to be rejected or neglected without justification.

When ELLs sat with friends (students they played with at recess), the learning dynamics were much more positive. ELLs were occasionally positioned as experts and had more opportunities to raise questions and offer ideas.

“In group work,” concludes Takeuchi, “students not only discuss the content or tasks but also engage in relationship building. As a significant part of school life, friendships can affect students’ classroom learning and identities in school. In a group that adopts authoritative work practices, the inferior position assigned to ELLs can be further reinforced. Because learning involves the development of participant identities in communities of practice, it is important to design cooperative group work that helps all students develop identities as significant and competent contributors to a classroom community.”

“Friendships and Group Work in Linguistically Diverse Mathematics Classrooms: Opportunities to Learn for English Language Learners” by Miwa Aoki Takeuchi in *The Journal of the Learning Sciences*, July-September 2016 (Vol. 25, #3, p. 411-437), available for purchase at <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/10508406.2016.1169422>; Takeuchi can be reached at miwa.takeuchi@ucalgary.ca.

Be sure to notify the designated person at your school if you have calendar information that should be added to your website calendar.

Thank you so much for your effort and commitment to children. If you have questions about any of the information contained in this issue of *The MoCo Monday Minute*, please contact me at matthew.thompson@montgomery.kyschools.us.