

MoCo Monday Minute

Monday, October 9, 2017

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ATC Carpentry students applied the Pythagorean Theorem and the 3-4-5 method to square the Habitat for Humanity House.

Quote of the Week – “Some kids go an entire day without anyone saying their name. Be the teacher who speaks to each student by name every day.” – Dr. Justin Tarte

Fall Break – School will not be in session October 13-16. Best wishes for an enjoyable fall break and Court Day.

Blast Off to Reading – Camargo Elementary held its 4th annual Reading Extravaganza. This night is designed to showcase student’s love for reading while initiating a creative way to highlight their individual learning. Students were asked to read a book and design a tri-fold poster board emphasizing all the important elements of the story that they chose. To make things interesting, boards were judged and the top three winners received a prize.





MCIS Helps Others – Members of MCIS' Student Leadership and Black and Hispanic Achievers groups recently completed a service-learning project. The groups combined forces to collect items for Sugarloaf Elementary School in the Florida Keys. The school was devastated by Hurricane Irma and serves 625 students' enrolled grades K-8. Many of the students and staff lost their homes and all their belongings.

Elementary Career Day – Third and fourth grade students from all three elementary schools participated in Career Day held this past Friday in the MCHS Arena. Students were able to visit many different stations highlighting possible career paths.



Homecoming – The MCHS Football Team came up short against Madison Southern at Friday night's Homecoming game. Congratulations to senior, Kimberly Lopez, who was crowned Homecoming Queen. Students and staff celebrated a week of themed school spirit days and the Homecoming parade was held Thursday night.

Student Attendance – Camargo earned the highest one-day attendance and weekly student attendance, with 96.38% and 95.04%, respectively. This is the third week in a row that Camargo has earned the highest one-day attendance. Way to go!

National School Lunch Week – To recognize the National School Lunch Program and the 30 million children it serves every day, we will recognize National School Lunch Week from October 9-12, 2017. The theme, "School Lunch Recipes for Success," which was designed to help you tell your school lunch story, including the 'secret ingredients' to your success!

Your 2018 Open Enrollment Guide
Benefits Selection Guide for the Kentucky Employees' Health Plan and Kentucky Group Life Insurance

2018 Open Enrollment Oct. 9 – Oct. 20
Benefit Fairs begin Oct. 2
Health Insurance Open Enrollment is MANDATORY
Life Insurance Open Enrollment is VOLUNTARY

Living Well Promise for 2018
Take the 2018 Health Assessment
OR complete a Biometric Screening

Mandatory Health Insurance Open Enrollment – Open Enrollment began today and will go through Friday, October 20th. It will be **mandatory** for every employee who wishes to have health insurance in 2018 to enroll this year. Benefit Selection Guides



were sent to the front office of each school last week. A digital copy of the guide is available by clicking on the photo to the left.

Employee Benefits Fairs – The first two employee benefits fairs were held at Mapleton and the high school on October 4th. Please take advantage of the opportunity to learn of the benefits available to school employees. Starting a savings program early in your career can literally change the way you spend your retirement. The remaining fairs are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, October 18th

9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Camargo • 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., MCIS

Wednesday, October 25th

9 a.m. to 12 p.m., MSE • 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., McNabb



Regina Whitaker, School Nutrition Secretary, won a \$25 Walmart gift card from Transcend Credit Union.

Loan Forgiveness – Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative, in partnership with ISLoan Solutions, will educate you and provide options for forgiveness* and refinancing, that may help lower, or even eliminate, your student loan payment. Join your colleagues who are saving an average of **90%** on their monthly payments and are projected to receive an average of **\$80,976** in tax-free loan forgiveness.

Visit: <https://ckec.myisls.com/register>

Enter code: CKEC to learn more

If loan forgiveness makes sense, you will be able to:

- Immediately lower your monthly student loan payment
- Reduce your student loan obligation
- Significantly lower your cost to earn additional degrees
- Receive a personalized 10-year loan forgiveness plan outlining your projected tax free savings

*In 2007, Congress established Public Service Loan Forgiveness to help full-time employees reduce their student loan burden and incentivize them to stay in public service. PSLF is available to **all full-time employees** regardless of position. PSLF is not Teacher Loan Forgiveness.

Questions, or trouble logging in? Call **1.513.645.5400**, [email](#) or visit their website at isloansolutions.com for more information and success stories.

Dates:

- Oct. 9-12 – National School Lunch Week
- Oct. 9 – Camargo PTO Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Oct. 10 – MSU Representatives Meet Seniors, 11:00 a.m., Clay Center
- Oct. 10 – Mapleton SBDM Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Oct. 11 – MSE SBDM Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 12 – Fire Prevention Day (K-3 Grades), Mapleton
- Oct. 12 – Parent University “Bullying”, 6:30-7:30 p.m., MCIS
- **Oct. 13 – No School – Court Day/Fall Break**
- **Oct. 16 – No School – Court Day/Fall Break**
- Oct. 18 – Benefits Fair, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Camargo
- Oct. 18 – Benefits Fair, 1:30-4:30 p.m., MCIS
- Oct. 18 – Mapleton PTO Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Oct. 19 – Fire Prevention Day (K-3 Grades), Camargo
- Oct. 19 – MCHS SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 23 – Born Learning Parent Workshop, 5:30 p.m., ELC
- Oct. 24-25 – Operation Preparation for MCHS Sophomores
- Oct. 24 – Camargo Parent Conference Night, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 24 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- Oct. 25 – Benefits Fair, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., MSE
- Oct. 25 – Benefits Fair, 1:30-4:30 p.m., McNabb
- Oct. 26 – ELC Fall Parties
- Oct. 26 – Family Dinner Night, Health Fair, and Student Spotlight Conference Night, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Mapleton
- Oct. 27 – Mapleton Fall Parties
- Oct. 31 – ELC Preschoolers Visit Sterling Meadow
- Oct. 31 – MSE Fall Parties



KPrep Testing Celebrations were held for last year's third and fourth grade students.

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

Continuous Learning through Professional Literature

Dealing with the “Eager Beaver” Dynamic in Class Discussions

In this *Cult of Pedagogy* article, Jennifer Gonzalez describes a history teacher’s elation after an animated discussion about the Holocaust that she had planned for ten minutes and lasted the whole class. “Days like this rock,” thought the teacher. But she was missing some important details:

- Haley had a lot of questions but never found the right moment to ask them. A few times, she almost raised her hand, but someone else would start talking and she didn’t want to interrupt.
- Robert felt like an idiot the whole period because he wasn’t 100 percent sure what the Third Reich was and definitely didn’t want to ask.
- Nadia thought the discussion was dumb – people were really oversimplifying the whole tragedy. But she didn’t want to start trouble.
- Becky and Kyle, super-shy students, were silent during the discussion.
- Three other students were secretly texting the whole time.

In fact, only nine of the 28 students in the class contributed to the discussion – four were really into it, five commenting once. The other 19 were passive observers.

This teacher had the “fisheye syndrome,” says Gonzalez, as if she were looking at her class through a peephole lens that made the talkative students look larger and pushed the quiet ones to the periphery. “I’ve been guilty of fisheye teaching,” says Gonzalez. “A lot. Recently, even. And I’ve seen many other teachers, good teachers, do it too... You pose a question, and one of your sharp, verbal kids pipes up right away with an answer. It’s a good answer, one that takes the class in the direction you were hoping they’d go, demonstrating a solid grasp of the material. *Wow, you think, they’re really learning!* (and, if we’re being honest: *You like me! You really like me!*). Then it happens with another student, another extrovert, and then one more. Things are hopping now, a bona fide ‘class’ discussion, but really, you’re just volleying with three or four students. Most of the others have already checked out. You don’t realize because you’re high on the whole thing, the nice rhythm we’ve got going with those three or four, that we lie to ourselves just a little.”

But can’t a student get just as much from listening to a good discussion as from taking part? No, says Gonzalez. Here’s what’s going on in an eager-beaver-dominated discussion:

- Unless quiet students speak, the teacher can’t really tell if they’re understanding or even tuned in (especially if they are “compliant pretenders”).
- The passive students aren’t getting practice at verbal communication and thinking on their feet – skills that employers always mention in surveys of what they’re looking for in employees.
- No amount of listening compares with the cognitive and social challenge of framing and expressing ideas. Students who actively participate in class are getting far more bang for their buck than passive observers.
- Quiet introverts especially need to speak. “Although our painfully shy students will resist,” says Gonzalez, “and our compassion will make us want to protect them, we do them no favors by letting them avoid this practice.”

In addition, the extroverts must learn to listen, not be the center of attention, let someone else take the stage. “In school, in their careers, and in their most important relationships, listening

skills are hugely important,” says Gonzalez. “Chances are, your big talkers don’t have a lot of practice in skills like paraphrasing another person’s ideas, asking thoughtful follow-up questions, or thinking quietly before they speak. By making a concerted effort to balance the participation in our classes, we are also giving those extroverts a chance to grow in ways that could have a powerful impact on their quality of life.”

“Some students are naturally going to be more active, more talkative, livelier than others,” Gonzalez concludes. “We’re not trying to make them all be the same, just better, stronger, more balanced versions of the people that showed up on day one.” The shift may happen in baby steps – quiet students making just one contribution a day. Here are several ways to help the process along:

- Video several class discussions and view them afterward, monitoring the number of students who participate.
- Make a laminated seating chart and use a dry-erase marker to check off students when they speak.
- Be explicit with students about the importance of broad student participation in discussions.
- Have sidebar conversations with over-participators about limiting their comments and sometimes paraphrasing a classmate’s thoughts.
- Pull aside quiet students before class and prime them with a question you might ask or contribution they might make.
- Increase wait time. Ask a question and have a “no hands raised” period of at least three seconds to give more reflective students time to process. These simple steps are especially helpful in getting girls to participate more.
- Vary discussion formats, using think-pair-share in groups of 2-4 students, or sometimes having all students write about your question before discussing it.
- Use icons to call on students. An English language teacher in Malaysia printed out four sets of icons (a duck and three others) and distributed them randomly around the classroom. When an icon appeared on the screen with a discussion question, the students who had that icon had to come to the front of the class and answer the question or perform a task. “The looks on their faces every time they saw an icon appear was just a classic!” said this teacher.

“The Fisheye Syndrome: Is Every Student Really Participating?” by Jennifer Gonzalez in *The Cult of Pedagogy*, September 25, 2013, <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/fisheye/>

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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.