

MoCo Monday Minute

Monday, November 14, 2016

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Artwork completed by Mr. Spencer's Art and Humanities Classes at McNabb.

Quote of the Week – “Digital literacy is the ability to find, evaluate, utilize, share, and create content using information technologies on the Internet.”

Cornell University’s definition, quoted in “Blogging to Build Digital Literacy and Community Awareness” (item #7), full text at <https://digitalliteracy.cornell.edu>

Veterans Day – Thank you to everyone involved with planning and producing the great Veterans programs that were held in the schools last week. The demonstration of respect and recognition for our country, veterans, and elders is invaluable to our students and important to our community.



Hoops Madness – “Meet the Indians” Blue/White Game provides an opportunity to see all of the basketball teams in action. The event will be held on November 17th in the Arena, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Admission is free, but the booster organizations are asking for donations of supply items for the boys’ and girls’ basketball teams or a nonperishable food item. Supplies for teams include items such as laundry detergent, dry erase markers, towels, etc.



Dear Santa,
Define "Good".

Letters to Santa – The Mt. Sterling Advocate will once again publish Letters to Santa. Submissions will be accepted through noon on Monday, December 5th. Letters must be typed and emailed to news@msadvocate.com. Please leave contact information should the Advocate have any questions.

Student Attendance – Mapleton clinched the daily and weekly-high attendance titles with 95.55% on Friday and 95.36% for the week. Congratulations!

Local Planning Committee Meeting – The Montgomery County Schools’ Local Planning Committee will conduct a meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the Clay Community Center. This meeting is an orientation meeting for the committee and is one of a series of meetings to develop a District Facilities Plan for the Montgomery County Schools. The public is invited. Immediately following the orientation meeting, a public forum will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the Clay Community Center. The forum is an informal gathering to encourage local participation through community suggestions relative to future utilization of existing school facilities and construction of new school facilities. These community suggestions or recommendations will be closely monitored by the Local Planning Committee.

Dates:

- Nov. 14 – Camargo PTO Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Nov. 14 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- Nov. 15 – MCIS SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 15 – McNabb Volleyball VS Campbell County
- Nov. 16 - Mapleton PTO Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Nov. 17 –MSE Family Dinner Night
- Nov. 17 – MCHS SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 17 – Blue/White Scrimmage, 6:00-8:00 p.m., MCHS Arena
- Nov. 17 – McNabb Boys’ Basketball VS Bourbon County



- Nov. 21 – McNabb SBDM Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- Nov. 21 – MCIS PTO Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 22 – Mapleton Literacy Fair
- **Nov. 23-25 – No School – Thanksgiving Break**
- Nov. 28 – Born Learning Parent Workshop, Dinner at 5:30 p.m., ELC
- Nov. 28 – McNabb Boys' Basketball VS LCA



Continuous Learning through Professional Literature

Fate Control 101

(Originally titled “Flip the Switch on Fate Control”)

In this *Educational Leadership* article, Bryan Goodwin (McREL International) notes that a little-known segment of the 1966 Coleman Report said that a single “student attitude factor” had a stronger relationship to achievement than all the school factors combined. The Coleman researchers got this insight from questions they asked students, among them:

- *When I try, somebody or something stops me.*
- *Luck is more important than work.*
- *People like me don't have much of a chance.*

Non-white students were more likely to agree with these statements, but those who disagreed – who felt they could control their destinies – did much better in school than white students who were fatalistic.

Subsequent research has found that students’ “locus of control” falls along a continuum from believing they can shape future outcomes to believing that what happens to them is shaped by forces beyond their control. There’s a strong correlation with school achievement, with internal locus of control counteracting the detrimental effects of stereotype threat. A 2012 meta-analysis found that feeling in control of one’s fate, along with academic self-efficacy and goal orientation, accounted for 20 percent of the differences in the grade-point averages of university students.

What’s disturbing, Goodwin reports, is that the percent of college students with a fatalistic mindset has increased over the last 40 years. This may come from increased cynicism about the American Dream and a sense that large organizations, unpredictable outside forces (terrorism), and genetic endowments are more powerful than our own will.

But it’s possible to help students, especially those living in adverse conditions, to switch from a fatalistic to a more positive mindset. Goodwin summarizes some research findings:

- Small wins – Giving students opportunities to set and achieve limited goals helps them link effort with results, which nurtures a more internal locus of control.
- Providing students with “proximal” learning goals (like completing six pages of work each class) helps them achieve at higher levels than more distant goals or no goals at all, and also helps them develop fate control and the ability to overcome challenges with effort.

“Flip the Script on Fate Control” by Bryan Goodwin in *Educational Leadership*, November 2016 (Vol. 74, #3, p. 83-84), available for purchase at <http://bit.ly/2fj6Vi4>; Goodwin can be reached at bgoodwin@mcrel.org.

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.