

MoCo Monday Minute

Monday, November 28, 2016

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MCIS held their KPREP Carnival last week.

Quote of the Week – “Creativity is intelligence having fun.” Albert Einstein, quoted in “At the Intersection of Creativity and Civic Engagement: Adolescents’ Literacies in Action” by Thomas Bean and Judith Dunkerly-Bean in *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, Nov./Dec. 2016 (Vol. 60, #3, p. 248)

Countdown to Christmas Break – I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving break and enjoyed time with family and friends. After today, there are 16 more school days until Christmas Break! Let’s make sure that every single moment of time we have with our students is focused on instruction and ensuring they are learning lots during the time left before the break! Routines and procedures still need to be taught like it is the first week of school. We have LOTS of instructional time before the winter break.

STLP Regional Projects Qualify for State Competition – Congratulations to our STLP students, coaches, judges and parents on their outstanding performance at the STLP Regional Competition held Thursday, November 17th at Morehead State University. Sixteen projects were judged in eight categories. A project had to score at least 85 out of 100 possible

points to move on to state. Montgomery County Schools has the following 12 projects moving on to the STLP State Competition that will be held April 12, 2017 at the Lexington Convention Center and Rupp Arena.

Students and coaches will spend the time between now and then improving their projects and completing the tasks they have mapped out in an effort to be the Best in the State.

Visit <http://stlp.education.ky.gov/> to learn more about STLP.

Camargo	Mapleton	MSE	MCIS	McNabb	MCHS
<i>Bullying (Changed it to Kindness: Be Proactive, Not Reactive) 87/100</i>	<i>Citizenship 86/100</i>	<i>Jeans in Case 89/100</i>	<i>MCIS Pays it Forward 91/100</i>	<i>Build a Computer 88/100</i>	<i>NDR 89/100</i>
	<i>Service Through the Seasons 85/100</i>	<i>Chromebook 101 85/100</i>	<i>Pho-tastic 97/100</i>	<i>Love of Paws, Jr. 89/100</i>	<i>Voyage 92/100</i>
		<i>Keep Calm and Recycle 94/100</i>			



District-Wide Menu Food Tasting – It’s that time of the year for the School Nutrition Department to plan for next school year’s menu. Earlier this month, school nutrition invited students from each school to a district food tasting. Students sampled a variety of foods and were then asked to evaluate on what they tasted.



Student Attendance – MSE claimed the daily and weekly-high attendance titles for the second week in a row with 94.52% on Monday and 93.55% for the week. Congratulations!

Educational Research Survey Assistance: Teacher and Principal Retention – Two Doctoral Candidates, from Morehead State University request your participation in an optional survey. They are conducting an investigation on the factors that impact teacher and principal retention. No identifying personal or district information will be obtained by the survey. The responses received will be completely anonymous. The survey is only looking for factors that cause certified employees to leave a district. This information will be used to offer suggestions on what might be done to retain teachers and principals. While optional, please consider completion if possible. [Click here](#) for the survey link.

Dates:

- Nov. 28 – Born Learning Parent Workshop, Dinner at 5:30 p.m., ELC
- Nov. 28 – McNabb Boys’ Basketball VS LCA
- Dec. 1-9 – MCHS Senior Beta Club Toy Drive
- Dec. 6 – Reading/Writing Wonderland, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., MSE
- Dec. 6 – Mapleton Family Literacy Event “Doughnut and a Good Book”, 5:15 – 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 6 – MCIS Orchestra Concert, 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 7 – Camargo SBDM Meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- Dec. 8 – MSE Donuts with Dad
- Dec. 8 – Christmas Theater Performance, 6:00 p.m. Camargo Elementary
- Dec. 8 – MCIS Band Concert, 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 9 – HOSA Blood Drive, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., MCHS Room 408
- Dec. 9 – MCIS Musical Aladdin Jr., 8:00 p.m.
- Dec. 10 – ACT Test, 8:00 a.m., MCHS
- Dec. 10 – MCIS Musical Aladdin Jr., 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
- Dec. 12 – Camargo PTO Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Dec. 12 – Mapleton Special Called SBDM Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Dec. 12 – Creative Writing Showcase, 5:30 p.m., MCHS Auditorium
- Dec. 12 – MSE Treblemakers Choir Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13 – McNabb Winter Band Concert, 6:30 p.m., McNabb Auditorium
- Dec. 13 – MCHS Orchestra Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m., MCHS Auditorium
- Dec. 15 – Camargo Holiday Celebration, 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 15 – McNabb Choir Concert, 6:00 p.m., McNabb Auditorium
- Dec. 15 – Vocal Music Concert, 7:30 p.m., MCHS Auditorium
- Dec. 15 – MCHS SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 19 – MCIS SBDM Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 19 – McNabb SBDM Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 20 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria (review session at 5:00 p.m.)
- **Dec. 21-30 – No School – Christmas Break**

- Dec. 27-29 – Gateway Holiday Classic, MCHS Arena and Barn

Also, [click here](#) to review a list of holiday events taking place in our community.

Continuous Learning through Professional Literature

Opening Classroom Doors

In her *Kappan* editor's note, Joan Richardson recalls visiting the classroom of a highly regarded fourth-grade teacher named Katie. "As she taught," says Richardson, "she seemed to be tapping into multiple brains simultaneously, quickly analyzing what different students needed and responding in the moment to meet those needs. Add to that her warmth and humor, and her classroom was alive with learning."

As Richardson left Katie's classroom, two other teachers accosted her and shyly asked what made this teacher so effective. It turned out that they had never watched her teach. "I was dumbstruck," says Richardson. "This trio had been colleagues for years. One teacher had worked in the classroom next to Katie's for seven years; the other teacher had worked on the other side of Katie for nine years and in two different schools. Not once had either of them ever been in Katie's classroom while she was teaching... As I drove away from Katie's school, I thought about how demoralized her colleagues must have felt about being excluded from the knowledge that Katie could have shared and that might have helped make them better teachers. So near and yet so far." And what about all the other students in that school and district who could have benefited from sharing the specific techniques of that classroom?

"Keeping an exemplary teacher's knowledge isolated inside a classroom isn't just poor practice," Richardson concludes, "it's almost malpractice. If you want to be an agent for change in your school or your district, work now to ensure that no teacher works in such isolation. Be an advocate for sharing what you know. Ask to observe another teacher teach because of what you will learn. Invite others to observe you and offer you feedback on how you can improve. Write articles and make presentations about what you're learning from your work. By opening doors to their practice, teachers demonstrate the value they place on their own learning and their belief that they have much to share with others."

"Getting Better at Learning" by Joan Richardson in *Phi Delta Kappan*, November 2016 (Vol. 98, #3, p. 4), www.kappanmagazine.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.