



# What's Happening at the MCSESC!

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- Mission Statement: The Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center will be the leader in providing services and products that promote excellence in education.

## Fifth-Grade Environmental Retreat



On Tuesday, May 5, the fifth-grade gifted students from Buckeye, Cloverleaf, Highland, and Wadsworth spent the day at the Buffalo Creek Retreat learning about the environment. John Hurt, the "Bugman," met with the students and discussed topics such as the insect life cycle, camouflage, mimicry, rainforest conservation, and butterfly farming during his presentation. He also gave students the opportunity to explore the extensive collection of butterflies and other insects he brought with him as part of his display. During the event, students also had the opportunity to plant trees and shrubs on-site, create seed art and write poetry and

letters in honor of Mother's Day, and graph the amount and type of garbage produced in the students' homes.

Each year the fifth-graders take on the "can creation challenge" and build a model of a living thing using only empty pop cans and duct tape. This year's team winners came from Highland with their model penguin and from Wadsworth with their scorpion entry.

*Michele Wargo, Gifted/Talented Coordinator and Education Specialist*  
[mwargo@medina-esc.org](mailto:mwargo@medina-esc.org)

## Alternative High School Update

The Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) and the Alternative High School programs both experienced success in the 2008-2009 school year. Twenty students from three high schools (Cloverleaf, Highland, and Buckeye) participated in the Alternative High School program, with eight students taking advantage of courses offered by the VLA. Eight students will earn enough high school credits to graduate this year.

At the Alternative School/VLA, the curriculum is online and available 24 hours a day. Teachers receive students' work quickly and provide timely feedback to questions and ideas. Physical education credit may also be obtained through such activities as basketball, bowling, hiking, and Frisbee golf. Student referrals are made through the home school with the assistance of a counselor or principal.

Next year's schedule (2009-2010) will be a four-hour morning session. Students will be able to use the afternoons to work at part-time jobs and earn work-study credit.

*Ken Rinehart, Alternative School Director*  
[krinehart@medina-esc.org](mailto:krinehart@medina-esc.org)

## "Catch a Glimpse of a Culture"

Understanding and appreciating people from different cultures is a great skill to develop in our students. During the first few weeks of May, over 20 culture presentations were given in the Wadsworth and Medina City school systems.

Mrs. Sheryl Menke, the English as a Second Language Instructor, began with a short introduction to cultural appreciation using Tongan costume, customs, and language. Bilingual students each had a short talk about their home country and taught their classmates basic language phrases and words (numbers and colors). The languages represented were German (Austria), Telegu (India), Arabic (Yemen), Chinese, Russian, Punjabi (India), Spanish (Mexico and Puerto Rico), Gujurati (India), Italian, Serbian, and Bosnian. Many of the parents came to assist with the language presentation. Many also brought native foods from their home countries. The classroom teachers and students were highly motivated and participated enthusiastically in the presentations.

Special thanks to the many teachers and administrators who were good sports in donning traditional costumes for that day. It added a sense of festivity and showed the students that participation in other cultures' traditions can be fun. Our school systems are enriched by our bilingual population, as shown by these presentations that gave our students a unique lesson at the end of this school year.



Mexico



India, Yemen, and Austria



China



Bosnia

Sheryl Menke, ESL Instructor  
[smenke@medina-esc.org](mailto:smenke@medina-esc.org)

## June 2009 Events/Workshops

June 1	IEP Training for Transition Coordinators
June 1	Pre-Service Bus Driving Class (Brecksville-Broadview Heights Bus Garage)
June 5	Special Education Paraprofessional Staff CPR/CPI Refresher Training
June 7	Brunswick HS and Highland HS Graduation
June 8	MCSESC Staff Meeting
June 8-9	Word 2007 Introductory Concepts and Techniques Workshop
June 9-12	Parapro Workshop
June 10	Individualized Education Program Training – Elementary
June 10	Safe Sitter Class
June 10-11	Ohio Advanced Bus Driver Training (Mason Middle School)
June 10-11	SmartBoard Interactive Whiteboard
June 11	Summer Book Talks Workshop
June 11	Heart Saver CPR and AED Workshop
June 12	Medina County School Bus Driver In-Service (Medina County Fairgrounds)
June 15	Compact Meeting
June 15-18	Inclusion Strategies That Work for Students With Special Needs
June 17	Countywide Special Education Directors' Meeting
June 17	Online courses start (6/17/09-7/31/09)
June 17	Transportation Supervisors' Meeting
June 17-18	Ohio Advanced Bus Driver Training (Penta Career Center)
June 18	Parapro Testing
June 18	Summer Book Talks Workshop
June 22	MCSESC Governing Board Meeting
June 22-23	Writing to OAT Prompts Is All About "I"
June 23-24	Ohio Advanced Bus Driver Training (Liberty High School)
June 24	Individualized Education Program Training – MS/HS
June 24-25	Podcasting for Teachers
June 25-26	Oh No, Not Another Story: Math Strategies for Grades 5-9 Workshop

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## "Technology Today"



Hello everyone and welcome to "Technology Today." This will be our last article until September. Here we go!

### **A Final Summer Maintenance Program Update**

- Your school will receive a schedule for our program.
- If you have not sent your equipment lists to me, please do so now.
- Our program will begin on June 8.

### **Summer Maintenance Program Equipment Centralization**

Where possible, we are asking our customers to centralize their AV equipment to be cleaned through our Summer Maintenance Program.

- This will mainly be for the overheads used in your classrooms.
- TVs and DVD/VCR's located in the classrooms on carts can also be moved to a centralized area.
- All other equipment, such as computers, ceiling video projectors, and TV's/VCR's/DVD's attached to a wall mount, will need to be cleaned in the classrooms.

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Volume 8, Number 32  
May 29, 2009  
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**Newsletter staff:**

**Ed Knowles**  
**William Koran**  
**Michelle McNeely**  
**Gloria Schultz**  
**Denise Valerio**  
**Dan Vincent, Ph.D.**  
**Brenda Zacharias**

Medina County  
Schools' ESC  
124 West Washington  
Medina, OH 44256

Phone:  
(330) 723-6393

Fax:  
(330) 723-0573

E-mail:  
bzacharias@medina-  
esc.org

We're on the Web!  
www.medina-esc.org

Please contact me if you have any questions. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to seeing you this summer!

### **Thank You, Everyone!**

I would like to say "**Thank You**" to all my customers who have used the audiovisual service department this past school year. We appreciate your business and look forward to serving you again in the future.

Thank you all for reading "Technology Today." I enjoy writing these articles to you each week. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

### **Special Note**

Look for "Technology Today" to be published on our Web site in September. You can visit our Web site at [www.medina-esc.org](http://www.medina-esc.org). I will have a page on the site that you can visit each week and see my articles.

Please have a safe and enjoyable summer break. Goodbye until September!

*Ed Knowles, Sr. Technician/AV*  
[eknowles@medina-esc.org](mailto:eknowles@medina-esc.org)

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## **Thank You**

We appreciate the opportunity to share with you the events and the latest services that our ESC offers. Through this newsletter, you are learning about our ESC and what type of services we can provide to you, our customers.

***What's Happening at the MCSESC!*** is a service of the Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center and may be copied and distributed to everyone.