



What's Happening at the MCSESC!

December 10, 2008

Volume 8, Number 13

➤ 2008 OESCA Award

➤ Leadership Academy

➤ "The Nutcracker"

➤ "Technology Today"

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

2008 OESCA Award



Superintendent William Koran
and Dr. Vincent DeGeorge

The Medina County Schools' ESC and the Ohio Educational Service Center Association (OESCA) named **Dr. Vincent DeGeorge** as the 2008 recipient of the "Outstanding Leadership Award" for community service. This award was presented at OESCA's Annual Recognition Brunch held on Monday, November 10.

The "Outstanding Leadership Award" recognizes a community leader who has personally rendered a specific leadership service which has significantly benefited all of the local school districts in the county school system, or educational service center office in general, or both.

Dr. Vincent DeGeorge has served as the Executive Director of the Medina County Family First Council since 1996. During that 12-year span, he has been instrumental in the building of a coalition of over 40 service professionals and family representatives who take proactive measures to strengthen the lives of all members of the Medina County community.

Dr. DeGeorge first worked in the area of Family First initiatives by being a member of Governor George Voinovich's Task Force that created the Family First Council concept. Since moving into Medina County's Family First Council directorship, Dr. DeGeorge has expanded the focus of the council to include services for children, families, and seniors.

Of significant importance to the schools of Medina County, he was a driving force in writing the grant and then implementing programs in the Medina City Schools and the Wadsworth City Schools for CARE teams. These teams are a combination of school and social service professionals that come together to provide an integrated approach to mental health issues for students in need in those districts. Dr. DeGeorge also is the administrator in charge of cluster team programming, where countywide officials discuss and find the best method of intervention and treatment for children who touch more than one agency at any one time for coordination of services and the provision of follow-up for these children. The goal of the Medina County Family First Council is to provide cradle-to-grave services for all members of the community and to put in place tracking mechanisms to avoid any of the clients from "falling through the cracks." Dr. DeGeorge has been the guiding force in making sure that this does not happen. The schools of Medina County have benefited from his expertise and his leadership of the cluster program, the CARE teams, the early intervention support services, and the Help Me Grow Program.

William J. Koran, Superintendent
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Leadership Academy

We have had two excellent meetings for the 2008-2009 Leadership Academy. Our special thanks to Angie Morman for a job well done on her November 12 presentation on Autism. The second half of the program was led by Larry Taylor and his wonderful team from Buckeye. Their presentation was about the "Response to Intervention" program. If you were not present, you missed an interesting and educational morning.

We will take a break over the holidays and the winter weather, so our next meeting will be **March 11**. *Dr. Stanley Heffner, Associate Superintendent, Center for Curriculum and Assessment*, will be the 8 a.m. speaker. His subject will be "International Bench-Marking Project." During the second session (9:45 a.m.), *Mrs. Stacie Rastok, Principal of Hinckley Elementary School in Highland*, will bring us up to date with "What's New in Staff Development."

And last but not least, on **April 15** we will be bringing back *Dr. Terry Brooks* to talk to us once more on "Leadership."

Remember, these are stand-alone meetings, and you are welcome to attend all or just the ones that are of interest to you. We are still encouraging you to bring anyone in your district who you feel can benefit from the topics. Also, we will continue to provide a full breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m. at Williams on the Lake. Questions may be directed to Janelle Sailer at 330-723-6393, Ext.134.

Happy Holidays. SEE YOU IN 2009!

Carol Glickhause, Special Projects Coordinator
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"The Nutcracker"

Northeast Ohio Dance, Inc., a youth ballet company founded in 1986 in Wadsworth, presented an abridged production of Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" on Friday, December 5, at the Wadsworth O. J. Work Auditorium. Over 250 students from Westfield Upper Elementary School attended this presentation, which was part of the Medina County Schools' Fine Arts Tours.



The production retains both acts of the ballet with some abbreviation. Study guide materials were provided, and students were exposed to classical mime (first act) in addition to classical ballet movement.

Former Ohio Ballet dancers Brenda and Christopher Stygar are the co-artistic directors of Northeast Ohio Dance. Since its inception, Northeast Ohio Dance has toured throughout Ohio, presenting a program of lecture-demonstration and performance to thousands of audience members. Each year the company presents full-length concerts. The company garners its support from numerous fund-raising events, as well as from individuals, local corporations, area foundations, Ohio Arts Council, and the Medina Arts Council—all of whom value promoting this liveliest of the performing arts in the Northeast Ohio area.

Marcus L. Neiman, Director of Fine Arts Tours and Festivals
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"Technology Today"



Hello everyone and welcome to another edition of "Technology Today." This week we will research our holiday purchases, give you an update on the U.S. caller register, remind you to make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working, and talk about the lithium battery. Here we go!

Researching Your Holiday Purchases

I want to share with you some Web sites that will help you find many of your holiday purchases. These sites provide product information and prices for just about everything!

www.mysimon.com
www.shopping.com
www.pricewatch.com
www.pricegrabber.com

National Do-Not-Call Directory Update

Your registration will not expire. Telephone numbers placed on the National Do-Not-Call Registry will remain on it permanently due to the Do-Not-Call Improvement Act of 2007, which became law in February 2008. Read more about it at <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2008/04/dncfyi.shtm>.

Check Out Your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors at Home

As a rule, all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home should be checked for proper operation.

- If your smoke detector is battery operated, change the battery periodically. Most smoke detectors will beep or indicate somehow when the battery is low.
- Carbon monoxide detectors will have a test button. It is very important to have both kinds of these detectors working properly every minute.

Please check these detectors out at home today.

The Lithium Type Battery!

I was asked recently about lithium batteries and their extended life. For the past year I have been using this type of battery. They last longer and are very dependable. Prices are slowly coming down too. Here are some facts regarding the lithium battery.

- Depending on certain types of applications, this type of battery can last up to three years.
- Lithium batteries will out-perform regular and alkaline batteries in other demanding applications.
- They will last three to ten times longer than other types of batteries depending on your application and workload.
- Lithium batteries are 100 percent free of mercury, lead, and cadmium.
- Lithium batteries are recommended for all smoke alarms that are operated with a battery.
- Other devices that are recommended for lithium battery usage are baby monitors, garage door openers, security alarms, clock radios, remote controls, and carbon monoxide alarms.

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- Lithium batteries will cost more than regular batteries.
- Using a 9-volt lithium battery, I will save money and not have to purchase all those replacement batteries for my radio microphone.
- My two AA batteries will last seven to ten times longer than regular batteries depending on application. My scanner will work longer on this type of battery.
- Our environment will benefit from using lithium batteries too! Our landfills will have less of the other types of batteries.
- Lithium batteries will last longer and out-perform alkaline batteries in digital cameras. Because of the application and workload, you will not get three years out of these batteries, but they will last longer than regular batteries in your camera.

Have a great week and thank you for reading our weekly Internet newsletter.

Ed Knowles, Sr. Technician/AV
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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.

"The only things that stand between a person and what they want in life are the will to try it, and the faith to believe it's possible." – Rich Devos