

What's Happening at the MCSESC

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Moon, Mars & Beyond

Jacinda Yonker, Gifted Coordinator, and Eric Jackson, CIS Assitant Principal, worked to secure a Martha Holden Jennings grant of \$5,000. Wheeling Jesuit University and NASA Learning Center matched the grant. The \$10,000 will be used to create a hands-on eMission entitled, "Moon, Mars, and Beyond." Science teachers involved in this project include Cyn Stough, Cheryl Bareiter, Donna Nelisse, Ruth Giacconi, and Chris Roberts.

e-Missions™ are simulated, problem-based, learning adventures delivered right into the classroom via distance learning technology. With the use of the internet and video conferencing equipment,

these "live" scenarios are conducted in your classroom by a Flight Director at Mission Control from the Challenger Learning Center at Wheeling Jesuit University.



The e-Mission is a student-centered, team-based, interactive educational experience that uses scientifically accurate data to solve problems. Central Intermediate fifth grad-

ers were assembled as an emergency response team and then connected via technology (Skype) to the Flight Director at Mission Control. All teams worked together with Mission Control to handle the problem situation as the scenario unfolded.



Every few minutes, new data was received in the classroom via satellite and teams performed calculations, created graphs, and assessed the situation. The expert teams in class then made recommendations to Mission Control based on their analysis.

Astronaut Mike Foreman addressed CIS students Wednesday, March 9, on the role of space flight for NASA.

Math 24

The 4th Annual Medina County Math 24 Competition was held at the Cloverleaf



Recreation Center on Thursday, February 24, 2011. The event was sponsored by the Medina County Schools' ESC and coordinated by gifted coordinators, Jacinda Yonker, Michele Wargo and Brenda Magier. Students from Cloverleaf Local School District and Wadsworth City School District have been playing this math game over the last few months in preparation for this competition each district selected the top 24, fourth grade students to represent their district.

Math 24 is a card game where students find a way to add, subtract, multiple, and divide one or two digit numbers to form the number 24. A student wins a card when he or she is first to tap the card

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Medina County Schools' ESC

124 W. Washington St.
 Medina, Ohio 44256
 Phone: 330-723-6393
 Fax: 330-723-0573
www.medina-esc.org

William J. Koran
 Superintendent

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What's Happening at the MCSESC

MCSESC Substitute Teacher Training Classes

As described in a previous issue of "What's Happening," the Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center (MCSESC) is in its first year of providing a collaborative substitute teacher service to school districts in Medina County. Substitute Services operates as a part of the Personnel Department at the MCSESC. The comprehensive service package includes all pre-employment processes, hiring, training, supervision in the field, re-training and disciplinary proceedings if needed, and all payroll functions.

An important component of the Substitute Services package is a one-day substitute teacher orientation program taught by MCSESC staff members. This year, the class was required for all Medina County substitutes who hold a "sub only" license; for the upcoming year, the training will also be required of subs who are fully licensed as educators but who have not had full-time employment experience as teachers.

Members of the MCSESC staff became concerned about the varying levels of knowledge and skills with which guest teachers, especially those who have not been trained and licensed as educators, enter the classroom. Knowing that research indicates that as much as a full year of a child's elementary and secondary education may be delivered by substitute teachers, and that just ten days of instruction by someone other than the regular classroom teacher has the

potential to have a negative impact on a student's achievement, the ESC staff began to explore ways to prepare substitute teachers with the knowledge and skills needed to meet the goal of providing consistent, seamless delivery of quality instruction in a productive learning environment during the absence of a regular classroom teacher.

The resulting one-day training is based on proven practices from the Education Service Center, Region 12, in Waco, Texas, and on principles espoused by the Substitute Teaching Institute at Utah State University. During the class, instructors model and provide participants with practice in using a variety of classroom management and instructional techniques. They also provide information on guest teachers' roles and responsibilities, expectations for professionalism, information on special education and current legal issues in education, and first aid and safety procedures. The substitutes leave the training with a "substitute bag" containing needed supplies for their first few assignments as guest teachers. They may also choose to purchase a copy of the Substitute Teacher Handbook (Substitute Teaching Division, STEDI, 2009) which is used as the text during the class.

The class has helped to establish common expectations for guest teachers and has promoted specific preferred teaching and management strategies for substitutes who work in the schools in Medina County. The program instructors hope to develop follow-up opportunities for guest teachers to network with each other while acquiring additional training in use of technology and other skills necessary for success in today's classrooms.

Mission Statement

The Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center will be the leader in providing services and products that promotes excellence in education.

Kim Tomaschefski,
Personnel/Substitutor Coordinator



What's Happening at the MCSESC

MCSESC Growing Tree Preschool

The Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center provides a comprehensive Preschool Program for students of the six Medina County school districts. The preschool classroom is staffed with a licensed teacher, Christina Combs, and a certificated aide, Michelle Brenner, who will serve up to eight students with disabilities and eight typical students in each half day program, which will meet Monday through Thursday during the 2011-2012 school year.



Our preschool program follows the Ohio Department of Education Early Learning content Standards in language arts, math, social studies, and science. The curriculum provides a balance of child-centered and teacher facilitated activities that encourage children to investigate, manipulate and experiment as they construct their own knowledge. Teachers, in partnership with families guide, expand, and stimulate children through that process of growth and development. The preschool curriculum provides the foundation for future academic success by building upon previous knowledge and skills; aligning with the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards; and by providing individualized and integrated approaches to assessment, curriculum and instruction. The curriculum addresses key areas of child development including aesthetic and artistic development, emotional and social development, intellectual development, physical development and well being development of responsibility.

We are now accepting applications for the 2011/2012 school year. There will be a non-refundable one time registration fee of \$30 required with registration forms. There will not be a tuition increase for the 2011/2012 school year. Tuition will be a total of \$1,440, to be paid in nine payments of \$160 a month starting September 1, 2011 with the last payment on May 1, 2012. Multiple children discount will be as follows: Two children at \$2,160 (\$240 per month) and three children at \$2,880 (\$320 per month). Families can chose to pay the total tuition up front to the monthly payment program. A physical will need to be done no sooner than 30 days before the start date September 6, 2011.



If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Nimmo, Director of Special Needs Initiatives, at (330) 723-6393, ext. 116.

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and provides a correct solution using all four numbers. The round is won by the student with the most points after all cards are played.

All 48 competitors play the first three rounds of the game. The top 16 semi-finalists compete against each other in the fourth round using double digit cards while the remaining competitors play a fourth round using single digit cards to determine the winners of their final table round. The winners of the semi-finalist competition go on to compete in the final round.

This year's finalist includes Secilia Ho from Wadsworth and Landon Morris, Luke Peiris, and Jacob Stump from Cloverleaf. Luke Peiris finished in first place and Jacob Stump placed second in this years competition.

Thank you

We appreciate the opportunity to share with you the events and the latest services 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 distribute to everyone.