Greetings,

I hope you are enjoying your summer and taking time to rest and relax! June was an exciting month at DCIU with commencements at TCA and MEC, as well as the Head Start Bridge Crossing and DCTS student awards. Staff celebrated as well with end of the year gatherings and barbecues. What a way to end the year and kick off what I hope to be a great summer for all. We look forward to the new school year ahead and more awesome work by our fine staff.

Maria Edelberg, Ed.D
Executive Director, DCIU
Upcoming Events

**Summer Robotics Camp**

August 12-16, 2019

Registration is now OPEN for the LocoSummer Modern Robotics Camp! Click HERE for more information.

**Guest Teacher Program**

August 7 – 8, 2019
September 5 – 6, 2019
DCIU Morton

A Training Program for individuals seeking certification for substitute teaching! Apply at www.dciu.org/GuestTeacher

**Annual Golf Outing**

September 16, 2019
The Springhaven Club

The Golf Outing raises funds for the Education Foundation classroom grants for innovative programs. If you or your organization are interested in participating, please contact Theresa Marsden at tmarsden@dciu.org. Sponsorship and golfer opportunities are available. Please spread the word.
On Wednesday June 5, 2019, DCIU Intensive Learning Support Teacher Jordan Kofsky facilitated a professional development for the entire staff of Ithan Elementary School in Radnor School District on Understanding Behavior.

Jordan has been a teacher with the DCIU Low Incidence Program for two years; her first year was at Marple Education Center as a K-2 Autistic Support Teacher and this school year she worked as the 3-5 Intensive Learning Support Teacher in a satellite classroom. Working in a satellite classroom is a unique experience for any teacher because you are not only a representative of the DCIU but also a representative of the school and district the classroom is located. Throughout the 2018-2019 school year, Jordan worked tirelessly to forge positive relationships between the DCIU and the Ithan Elementary School Staff. She formed relationships with the fourth and fifth grade teachers as well as the building principal. While working with the DCIU and Ithan students, Dr. Tronya Boylan, Ithan Elementary School Principal, recognized Jordan’s expertise in working with students with challenging behaviors and working with teachers in how to support students with challenging behaviors. Dr. Boylan asked Jordan to present to the entire staff a professional development on Understanding Behaviors.

During Jordan’s presentation, she discussed topics such as building rapport with students, barriers to addressing challenging behaviors, how to manage their own behavior, reasons to avoid power struggles, understanding the A-B-C’s of Behavior, how to use reinforcement, differential reinforcement, triggers, responding to triggers, signals of agitation, responding to agitation, intervening on undesirable behaviors, and how to limit prompts. Jordan provided real life examples, made connections during the presentation, and offered to work with any teachers who were interested in coming to look at behavior charts or activities she has in her classroom.

After the presentation, the staff provided positive verbal feedback on how helpful the presentation was and one teacher sent Jordan an email, thanking her for delivering the presentation and stating, “I would like for my colleagues and I to come down and look at the charts, forms and strips you were discussing today.” Thank you Jordan, for continuing to inspire educators!
Graduation

On June 4, students, teachers, and families at Marple Education Center celebrated the commencement of the Class of 2019. Five students graduated; Amir Joseph, Michael Karetsky, Nimrod Haile, Nya Kelty, and Surry Crawford. Teachers and staff gave beautiful speeches highlighting the growth of their students and the special memories they made over the years. Congratulations graduates!

End of Year Celebration

On June 14, Marple Education Center threw an end of year celebration for staff to enjoy food and company as the school year wrapped up. It was a beautiful day for the barbecue with Mr. Joe Flynn acting as grill master, cooking up burgers, hot dogs, and chicken. There were plenty of smiles as educators and administrators enjoyed the food and relaxed after another productive school year. Thank you Joe Flynn for planning this great event!
Disney Prom

On June 7, Head Start classes at the Aston Campus enjoyed a Disney-themed Kiddie Prom. Students dressed up as their favorite characters and danced to classic Disney songs. The kids and staff loved the fun and unique way to end the school year!

Head Start Bridge Crossing

On June 13, students in DCIU Head Start programs across the county participated in the Bridge Crossing to celebrate their commencement into kindergarten. Students sang songs, including "You Are My Sunshine," as parents watched with pride as they crossed the bridge. The ceremony was held at Neumann University in Aston, and the children were filled with excitement as they filled the auditorium to take their next big step. Good luck in kindergarten!
Graduation

On June 6, the County Alternative School held its Commencement Ceremony for the 11 graduates of the Class of 2019. Highlights of the ceremony included a poem by Mrs. Green, graduate Zachary Thomas giving the keynote speech, and students receiving their special awards. Educators and families enjoyed the special moment watching their graduates turn their tassel. Congrats Class of 2019!

A New Summer Addition: Outdoor Umbrella!

A big thank you to Barb Boylan and Josh Fazio for providing Morton staff and visitors with a shaded area to enjoy their lunch and the beautiful weather. We appreciate all that you do for us!
Naomi Best, Head Start Center Leader (nominated by Deneen Mosley)

Naomi Best was promoted to Head Start Center Leader after a successful interview in March of 2019, after having worked as a Family Service Worker for HS since March of 2017. Since assuming her new role, Naomi has handled two very significant scenarios at the Aston Campus in her role as Center Leader that thwarted possible health and safety risks to children and families. Naomi demonstrated leadership in both cases and utilized her skillset as a Family Service Worker who had established solid relationships with her families, she ensured information and expectations were shared with families along with support and guidance to assist families. Naomi’s efforts are to be commended.

Nasser Eggleston, Personal Care Assistant, MEC (nominated by Kelly Comly and Susan Brousseau)

Nasser Eggleston has worked in the Low Incidence Program for four years as a contracted Personal Care Assistant (PCA) and as a contracted teacher assistant (TA). Even though Nasser is employed by Staffing Plus, he has consistently demonstrated his commitment to the DCIU by going wherever he is needed. Nasser has a calming effect on students when intervening during a behavior. Nasser has developed strong positive working relationships with students throughout the program. Most recently, he has helped transition a student back to school who was having difficulty attending school regularly. Nasser is adaptable and dedicated to the DCIU and Low Incidence.
I would like to take this opportunity to nominate Deborah Spuglio for her service and commitment to educating and caring for our students at Delaware County intermediate Unit. She is currently a Teacher Assistant working in Ms. Shoch’s classroom at Marple Education Center. Deborah has been employed by Delaware County Intermediate unit for 30 years. She previously worked at Pennington for several years before being transferred to her present place of employment. Deborah embodies all the qualities that positively represent what the DCIU stands for. She is professional at all times and is able to work with all of her peers without any difficulties. Deborah goes about her work day with a smile as she greets everyone with a hello and wishes them a great work day. Deborah works tirelessly to ensure the students in her care receive the best care possible. Deborah carries out their educational and IEP goals in accordance to their individual needs. She ensures their activities for daily living are taken care of in a timely manner and protects the dignity of each student assigned to her care.

Deborah is generous with assisting her peers in any way possible, such as with lifting, documentation, and encouraging words to help them through their work day. She is such a great person who presents a positive attitude no matter the circumstances.

Deborah is one of the hardest working employees at DCIU and should be recognized for all that she brings to her students and peers on a daily basis.
Shauna Nethery, Teacher Assistant, MEC (nominated by Kelly Comly and Susan Brousseau)

Shauna Nethery is a dedicated teacher assistant with the Low Incidence Program. The teacher Shauna works with was out on maternity leave from the end of October to the end of January. During that time Shauna worked with the substitute to ensure that consistency was present for the students and other staff members in the classroom. Shauna ensured that the systems the teacher set up were consistently implemented even in her absence. Shauna exhibits school spirit and is a positive role model for other staff members throughout the program. As leaders, it's nice to know that there are staff members like Shauna working in our program who are so dedicated to our students.

Dottie DelSordo, Teacher Assistant, MEC (nominated by Kelly Comly and Susan Brousseau)

Dottie DelSordo is a teacher assistant in the Low Incidence Program. The classroom Dottie works in has undergone a number of staff changes this school year, including the teacher getting unexpectedly injured and being out for a few weeks. Dottie has remained a constant for the staff and students. While the classroom teacher was out, Dottie stepped up as a leader in the classroom recognizing how important consistency is for our students. Dottie ensured that data was collected, lesson plans were implemented and that deadlines were still met. Dottie supported the substitute and the teacher during the transition. These activities demonstrate Dottie's commitment to the Low Incidence Program. Dottie's characteristics speak to the spirit of the STARS program.
Hillary Tyson, Teacher Assistant, MEC (nominated by Kelly Comly and Susan Brousseau)

Hillary is new to the DCIU, this year; however, the strong work ethic she exhibits shows her commitment to the DCIU. Hillary is committed to helping the students in the Intensive Learning Support Program at Ithan Elementary School succeed. Hillary is a certified teacher who is employed as a teacher assistant. When the teacher unexpectedly injured herself, Hillary stepped up to be the long term substitute for the classroom. There was a seamless transition, one in which students have continued to demonstrate progress towards IEP goals, while helping to keep behaviors to a minimum. During a conversation with her supervisor, Hillary stated, "I think I found my niche. I really love working here."

STAFF CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Talia Bradley-Cook on the birth of her daughter, Aasha Elizabeth!

Congratulations to Catherine Schillaci on obtaining her CLASS Certification!
Matt White

Matt and his wife Kiersten just celebrated their 10 year anniversary, and they have four children together living in Newtown Square.

Matt White is the supervisor of The County Alternative High School, and the George Hill Prison Education program. Matt just completed his 5th school year as a supervisor of DCIU programs. Matt was the assistant supervisor of the Community School and Delaware County Academy programs for his first two years and part of his third year. Matt is grateful for his time working with Nan Porter. As a new supervisor just out of the classroom, Nan was a mentor to Matt.

Matt grew up in Chester County and graduated from Kutztown University with a Business Degree. He then earned a Master’s degree in Special Education from Immaculate University. He later earned certifications in Special Education Supervision, Curriculum Supervisor, and Principal from Saint Joseph’s University. Matt has worked in the Emotional Support field his entire career. He started at Devereux, then worked in the Philadelphia School District for 4 years, and spent 5 years with the Coatesville School district before joining the DCIU in the fall of 2014.

New Video!

Be sure to check out the new DCIU Spotlight Video on Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning, featuring Dr. Joyce Mundy. Click HERE to watch now!
Health and Wellness

What You Need to Know About Measles

Important Measles Information

As the health and safety of all of our staff, students, and families is our top priority, we found it important to address the measles outbreak.

By now, you have most likely seen the media coverage regarding an outbreak of measles cases around the country (a total of about 1,000 in 22 states to date in 2019), including a handful in the western part of Pennsylvania. While we have absolutely no reason to believe there is a danger of an outbreak in our area, we are taking a proactive approach by providing resources to all staff regarding this virus. Measles is highly contagious but preventable. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself from contracting measles. The way to end what the CDC is referring to as an “outbreak” is to ensure that all children and adults who can get vaccinated, get vaccinated. If you know you have been vaccinated (i.e. received the MMR vaccine) the CDC is encouraging you to locate your vaccination records in the event that documentation is ever needed. If you are not sure whether or not you have been vaccinated, or are unable to locate records of such vaccination, then the CDC suggests a blood test be obtained to confirm the presence of antibodies.

For employees enrolled in one of DCIU’s healthcare plans, we want to remind you that the measles and mumps vaccine are covered as $0 preventive care service. The coverage provided by Independence Blue Cross is in accordance with guidance provided by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Employees can go to their pharmacy or their primary care provider to receive the vaccination. The CDC is encouraging individuals to discuss immunization needs with providers. If you are not covered by the DCIU medical plan, you must check with your medical plan to determine your level of immunization coverage.

Again, we have no reason to believe there is danger of a measles outbreak; however, we encourage everyone to be proactive and the take the recommended steps regarding prevention of contracting or spreading this contagious virus.

Thank you for your attention and best wishes for continued good health to you and your families.