

BOARD 2 BOARD

May 2017

NEWS FROM THE ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Message from the Executive Director

The AIU is pleased to announce that Erin Koebel has been hired as the organization's new director of human resources and labor relations. She will be a member of the AIU's Executive Leadership Team and will oversee all of the organization's human resource functions including talent acquisition, employee relations, compliance and health and safety. An experienced leader, Erin has held several positions at multinational engineering and professional services firms throughout the region. Erin holds a master's degree in labor and human resources from The Ohio State University, a bachelor's degree from Miami University and various professional certifications. Please join us as we welcome Erin to our AIU family.



The 2016-17 school year has been outstanding and as it comes to a close, we would like to thank all of our partners and educators for their passion and dedication to education. We wish you a warm and relaxing summer.

Legislative Roundup



As the state's fiscal year starts to wind down, legislation has been moving very quickly through the general assembly. Big ticket items, like charter school reform, could be part of a final school code bill that will accompany the budget, which is expected to be finalized by the beginning of July. With significant revenue shortfalls occurring at the

state level, large funding increases are not expected at this time. However, the house-passed Republican budget included a Basic Education Funding increase of \$100 million and an increase of special education funding of \$25 million. Unfortunately, a \$50 million decrease for school transportation is still part of the budget.

NEWS FROM

ECFCS Early Childhood, Family & Community Services

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

The Fathers Collaborative Council hosted a trauma informed care lecture on May 16 in an effort to teach staff about the critical effects of trauma, and how these factors influence the way clients interpret life around them. George Fleming, Fatherhood Facilitator for Allegheny Family Network, led the training that included ways in which staff can help clients mitigate the effects of trauma.

We, the members of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors, are proud to serve as representatives of the 42 boards in our Allegheny County school districts. By way of this correspondence, we hope to keep you better informed of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's programs and services.

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Executive Director
 Legislative Roundup
 Early Childhood, Family & Community Services
 Special Education and Pupil Services
 Teaching and Learning

DONORSCHOOSE.ORG NOW AVAILABLE

Donorschoose.org is now available to Head Start and Pre-K-K Counts teachers throughout southwestern Pennsylvania through the efforts of PNC, Donors Choose and the National Head Start Association. An online fundraising site dedicated to classroom projects, this resource was previously available only to K-12 teachers. To date, teachers have written great proposals to increase STEM and family engagement and seven have been totally funded. Several early projects are in full swing and include resources for preschool "homework" family engagement backpacks. Check out donorschoose.org today.

SAVE THE DATE

The Fathers Collaborative Council will hold its Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, June 24 at the Central Office. The fair will feature a variety of resources designed to help men be their best selves.



NEWS FROM

Special Education and Pupil Services

SUNRISE SCHOOL A WINNER OF THE "LET IT GROW" CONTEST



We are pleased to announce that the Sunrise School is a winner in the Let It Grow contest and has earned a \$1,000 grant to enhance students' understanding of soil nutrients. Sponsored by Discovery Education and the Nutrients for Life Foundation, the contest was open to middle schools from across the nation. Sunrise was one of 40,000 schools to enter the contest and one of seven schools awarded prizes. The prize money will be used towards a school garden and/or gardening supplies. Congratulations, Sunrise School!

NEWS FROM

Special Education and Pupil Services

ZOO-TACULAR ANIMALS

Last month, the AIU's vision and hearing programs sponsored a student's day out at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium for students and their families. Approximately 40 families attended the event which included interactive activities that taught children about a variety of species. The highlight of the day was a private presentation entitled "Feathers, Fur and Scales" during which students had the opportunity to "meet" and touch several exotic animals.



MON VALLEY, PATHFINDER AND SUNRISE GRADUATION DATES

Mark your calendars! Graduation is right around the corner for students at the AIU's three schools for exceptional children. We hope to see you there!



- Mon Valley – June 7, 2017
- Sunrise – June 6, 2017
- The Pathfinder School – June 6, 2017

SOUTHWESTERN PA SPECIAL NEEDS FAIR AND EXPO A SUCCESS

On April 29 the Pathfinder School hosted another successful Southwestern PA Special Needs Fair and Expo. The event was free and full of activities and information for kids and adults with special needs. Thank you to all of the volunteers and AIU staff members who made the event a success.



SAVE THE DATE



Join us at Mon Valley School on June 3 for the first annual Mon Valley "Dye" Hard Challenge Run/Walk. The race starts at 10:00 am and features a trek through the wooded area behind the

school. Register at www.monvalleyMSCR.eventbrite.com.

SUNRISE SCHOOL ROCKS DURING SUPERHERO 5K



More than 130 runners and walkers turned out for the second annual on May 21 at Monroeville Park. Heroes of all shapes and sizes attended the fun-filled day and more than \$10,000 was raised to benefit students. Congratulations to the winners!

- 1st Place Male Overall – Lukas Dundway
- 1st Place Female Overall – Ava Dzurenda
- 1st Place Male 21 and Under – Dylan McDonough
- 1st Place Female 21 and Under – Ella Zeislofd
- 1st Place Male 22 to 34 – Joe Pisciotta
- 1st Place Female 22 to 34 – Abby Scanlon
- 1st Place Male 35 to 59 – Brian Dzurenda
- 1st Place Female 35 to 59 – Penny Zeislofd
- 1st Place Male 60 and Older – Ricky Monstrola
- 1st Place Female 60 and Older – Janet Hawkins
- 1st Place Kids run – Will Connelly
- 2nd Place Kids Run – Nora Geiselhardt
- Best Costume – Jon Amelio
- Best Group Costume – The Romano Family (Jen, Evan, Hanna and Kim)

LEARNING GARDEN OPENS

Mon Valley School now has its own Learning Garden! Installed with a grant through Grow Pittsburgh, the learning garden allows Mon Valley students to learn about the benefits of healthy eating and nutrition while also exploring the science of gardening. Families were invited to help fill the newly built raised beds with soil and seedlings as well as participate with various cross-curricular activities.



NEWS FROM

Teaching and Learning



WHEN THE ANSWER IS ALWAYS 24

Congratulations to the winners of the local and state 24 Math Challenge competition! On May 11, more than 100 middle school students competed in the AIU's 24 Math Challenge, featuring the popular board game called *24 Game*. Created by Suntex almost 20 years ago, 24 Game focuses on teaching students about the relationships between numbers. To play, students are required to solve mathematical problems where the final answer is always 24. The top three students in each division are invited to compete in Harrisburg on June 14 at the state competition. This year, the winners were from Montour, Mt. Lebanon, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Upper St. Clair and West Jefferson Hills school districts.

MATH & SCIENCE COLLABORATIVE



On April 7, 37 Head Start teachers learned about age-appropriate and fun ways to engage children in STEM concepts related to the sun-earth-moon system with Storytime STEM-packs. This innovative program was developed by the AIU's Math & Science Collaborative, and facilitated by Gabriela Rose, science coordinator. Made possible by the generous financial support of the PPG Foundation, each Head Start educator took home three different Storytime STEM-packs, complete with enough materials to use in their classrooms.

CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS

More than 600 students in grades 3 to 6 attended this year's Children's Choice Awards, held on May 9 and 10 at the Soldiers and Sailors Museum. This annual event, held in partnership with the Allegheny County Library Association, is designed to promote reading at the elementary levels through a variety of reading competitions and activities. National award-winning author, Jack Gantos, was the keynote speaker.



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NEWS FROM THE ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SMITHSONIAN LEARNING LAB PARTNERSHIP

The AIU, in a partnership with the Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access, the Senator John Heinz History Center and the Grable Foundation have completed a two-year project to pilot the Smithsonian's Digital Learning Lab. Through this dynamic collaborative, teachers from area school districts were recruited and trained on the online tool which provides digital access to millions of the Smithsonian's artifacts. Through a series of professional development sessions at the History Center, classroom coaching, and online training with subject matter experts from Smithsonian's 19 museums and research centers, teachers curated museum pieces into rigorous lessons for students. The collections designed by our region's teachers are now permanently housed within the Smithsonian Learning Lab and used as examples for educators across the country and world!



Shown are teachers the from Avonworth, Carlynton, Chartiers Valley, Cornell, Elizabeth Forward, Fox Chapel, Montour, Mt. Lebanon, North Hills, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Riverview, Steel Valley, Moon, Shaler, West Jefferson Hills, West Mifflin, Wilkinsburg and Woodland Hills school districts who participated in this project.



Smithsonian Center for
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