

AHEAD eNewsletter

“Leadership, Support, & Service to Prepare All Students for Success”

August 21, 2009

Monterey County
Office of Education

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Footnote On This E-newsletter.

This newsletter is to reach all MCOE staff. A link to access the AHEAD Newsletter will be sent to all MCOE staff by email. The newsletter will continue to evolve with your help.

Your help is appreciated. Please print copies and give to those who do not have MCOE email or web access. Please post copies in offices and staff rooms.

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Communications Officer

Please send your items for
publication, comments, and
suggestions to Linda Sweet at
lsweet@monterey.k12.ca.us

We're on the Web:!
See us at:
www.monterey.k12.ca.us



Anahi Quintero and Claudia Alcantar make a clean sweep to Migrant Education's new landscaping

*The eNewsletter
is for the Staff of the*

*Monterey County
Office of Education*



Brandy Acevedo proudly displays her NSTA Award from July 19, 2009

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Superintendent of Schools**
Nancy Kotowski, Ph.D.

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Important Upcoming Dates

For a complete listing of MCOE and school districts' calendars, visit
<http://www.monterey.k12.ca.us>

August 2009

Day	Event
3-7	CSEA Annual State Conference
5	County Board of Education meeting
19	County Board of Education meeting
26	Women's Equality Day

September 2009

Day	Event
	LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH
	NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH (September 15–October 15)
	NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH
2	County Board of Education meeting
7	Labor Day (California Education Code Section 37220) (MCOE Closed)
8	International Literacy Day
9	Admission Day
11	Patriots Day
16	County Board of Education meeting
17	Constitution Day (California Education Code Section 37221)
17-23	Constitution Week
25	Native American Day (California Education Code Section 37220.7)

October 2009

Day	Event
	CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH
	CHARACTER EDUCATION MONTH
	CRIME PREVENTION MONTH
	FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH
	NATIONAL ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH
1	National Child Health Day (36 United States Code Section 105)
4-10	National 4-H Week
4-10	National Fire Prevention Week
7	County Board of Education meeting
16	World Food Day
18-24	America's Safe Schools Week
19-23	National School Bus Safety Week
21	County Board of Education meeting
23-31	National Red Ribbon Week
24	Make a Difference Day
24	United Nations Day

November 2009

Day	Event
	NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH
4	County Board of Education meeting
9-13	School Psychology Awareness Week
11	Veterans Day (California Education Code Section 37220) (MCOE Closed)
15-21	American Education Week (always observed the week before Thanksgiving)
17	National Education Support Professionals Day
18	County Board of Education meeting
22-28	National Family Week
26	Thanksgiving Day (California Education Code Section 37220) (MCOE Closed)
27	Thanksgiving Holiday (California Education Code Section 37220) (MCOE Closed)

New Teachers Get a Helping Hand

Every school year begins with new teachers nervously standing before their own classroom for the first time. They are excited, optimistic and filled with ideas. But as the weeks go by, often a new set of emotions fill the new teachers. They become discouraged, disenchanted and worn down by the problems of curriculum confusion, personality conflicts with other staff and parents, student discipline and classroom behavior, and the challenges of reaching disinterested students who do not really want to learn or even be in school.

The Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Induction Program provides a system of support that is invaluable to a novice or less experienced teacher.

“New teachers need the support and mentoring of others who have been in their shoes, faced the same obstacles, and successfully navigated the same waters that are now drowning them,” said Anna Weidhofer, Ed.D., Program Director, of the BTSA Program at the Monterey County Office of Education.

BTSA provides formative assessment, individualized support and advanced content for newly-credentialed, beginning teachers, generally under the tutorage of senior and experienced educators. It is the preferred pathway to a California Clear Teaching Credential.

“Last year, Monterey County had over 300 teachers from 20 different school districts participate in the program,” according to Dr. Weidhofer. “They were supported by a team of Program Advisors who act as liaisons between the district and County Office of Education. In addition, 17 facilitators run seminars and trainings classes at seven locations throughout the Monterey and San Benito counties.

“The core of the program are the support providers who are trained to mentor, coach, and collaborate with new teachers on all aspects of teaching, including lesson plans, classroom management, differentiated instruction, and parent relations,” Dr. Weidhofer added.

Based in research from the California New Teacher Project, the BTSA provides beginning teachers with focused induction support. The support is at a level of intensity to make a difference in the performance, retention, and satisfaction of beginning teachers.

The BTSA cluster administered by the Monterey County Office of Education encourages collaboration between school districts, MCOE, and local colleges and universities to organize and deliver professional development for beginning teachers.

According to Dr. Weidhofer, “BTSA is a data driven program that results in teachers who are more likely to stay in the profession produce better results in the classroom.”

BTSA is a requirement for all beginning teachers. New teachers (K-12) participate for two years in the program in order to clear their credential. During this process they are paired with a trained support provider who supports and mentors them through the induction process. This process includes uses the Formative Assessment for California Teachers (FACT) system that guides the teachers through professional reflection and action research.

Special Education teachers, under recently adopted legislation, are required to participate in BTSA to clear their credential. This hands-on approach is in lieu of an additional year of college or university training.

“I would say our facilitators exemplify the purpose and success of BTSA as most of them have come full circle – from participant, to support provider, to facilitator or, as a director,” Dr. Weidhofer concluded.

Article By: Anna Weidhofer, Ed.D.
BTSA Program Director

Brandy Acevedo Wins NSTA Again



Brandy Acevedo, Clancy D'Angelo, Judy Pennycook, Board President & Nancy Kotowski, County Superintendent of Schools

(Salinas, CA) Brandy Acevedo, a 13-year employee with the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE), has been selected as the United States' and Canada's best driver of small school buses in the 39th annual International Safety Competition sponsored by the National School Transportation Association.

Held July 18 and 19, in Greensboro, North Carolina the competition challenges school bus drivers in a number of areas. They maneuver their vehicles through a challenging driving course; demonstrate skills including parallel parking, diminishing clearance and right turns. A lengthy written exam tests their knowledge of operational and safety standards.

The National School Transportation Association holds the international competition to highlight safe driving practices and skills.

Brandy competed against 106 drivers from around the United States and Canada. Brandy and her achievement will be honored by the Monterey County Board of Education at its Wednesday, August 5 meeting. The time will be 11 a.m. in the Dr. Ray Charlson Chambers at the Monterey County Office of Education located at 901 Blanco Circle, Salinas.

Brandy is the Assistant Supervisor of Routing, Training and Fleet for the Monterey County Office of Education's 44-driver transportation department. She began her career in 1996 at the urging of her mother, who was retiring after her own career as a school bus driver.

Brandy was invited to the international competition after winning the local, Northern California and California Bus Road-eo Competitions. This was her third International Safety Competition.

Bus Road-eo Competitions are held throughout the United States to test the skills and knowledge of the people who transport an estimated 25 million children to school every day.

The MCOE Road-eo Team has a rich history of capturing first place in local, regional and statewide competitions. The Department's office in Salinas is a gallery of plaques, trophies and awards testifying to the skills and dedication of these driving professionals.

MCOE drivers transport special education students throughout Monterey County. The Department's drivers annually travel an estimated 1.25 million miles. Each driver must pass a comprehensive background check, substance screening, physical exam, and 40 hours of classroom and behind-the-wheel training before becoming a certified bus driver. The drivers must also complete additional annual training to remain certified.

The 40th Annual International School Bus Driver Safety Competition will be held next summer in St. Louis. For more information, contact Ron Eastwood, Communications Officer by telephone at (831) 755-0396 and (831) 455-5711.

Article By: Ron Eastwood
Communications Officer

Harvests of Hope



Norayma Mata and Gustavo Lopez

"Harvests of Hope" is the slogan of the Migrant Education Program, and when students, parents and staff gathered to landscape the entryway of the Migrant Education office it was more than a symbolic action.

In celebration of the conclusion of another successful summer program, and to give back in small way to the Migrant Program, the students who participated in the summer residential programs reunited and planted flowers in front of the Migrant Education Office. Parents and staff helped with the activity.

The local companies McShane's Nursery, Bokay Nursery, Color Spot Nurseries and Home Depot donated all the plants and materials that were used in beautifying the front of the Migrant Education building.

The activity took place on August 14 at the Monterey County Office of Education's main offices in Salinas.

Migrant Education is founded on the principle stated in the Improving America's Schools Act (TASA) of 1994 (P.L. 103-3 82): "All children can master challenging content and complex problem-solving skills. Research clearly shows that children, including low-achieving children, can succeed when expectations are high and all children are given the opportunity to learn challenging material."

For more information, contact Constantino Silva, Coordinator Administrator or Jorge Morales, Secondary School Advisor at (831) 755-6401.

Article By: Jorge Morales
Migrant Education

Speaking of Winners

1st Place Team



Salinas High School, Migrant Education's English Debate Team members and Coach

Monterey County's Migrant Education Students Stand Out at Speech and Debate Tournament in Oxnard

Over 900 students from Migrant Education programs across California gathered at Oxnard High School in Ventura to compete in the seventh annual Migrant Education Invitational Speech and Debate tournament. The event, held on May 2, included students from fifth-grade to high school seniors.

Fifty-eight participants from eight Monterey County schools participated and won First Place in High School English Debate, Middle School English Debate, and Middle School Spanish Debate. The Monterey County participants also took Third Place in Middle School English Debate.

The students competed by grade level in categories including Prepared Speech, Extemporaneous Speech, and Debate in both the English and Spanish categories. The teams prepared for both the affirmative and the negative position on each topic.

Please see [Debate Team page 6](#)

Debate Team (Continued from page 5)

Migrant Education, begun in 1965, is a federally funded program to provide educational services to families who move at least once every three years in search of seasonal agricultural jobs. The Program ensures that students learn English and graduate from high school, with the ultimate goal that they enter college. The speech and debate tournament is organized to challenge and motivate them.

California has the Nation's largest migrant student population, with about 350,000 from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Monterey County, the second largest Migrant program in California, has an identified population of more than 28,000 eligible migrant children. Sixteen districts that have an agreement with the Monterey County Office of Education to operate project sites. These sites provide services to migrant children throughout the school year or summer, depending on the needs of the children.

In the first tournament, seven years ago, 15 students from three teams competed at Santa Paula High School. This year, almost 900 students representing 56 teams competed.

Migrant Education, Region XVI, Speech and Debate Tournament Student Roster, May 1-3, 2009

Chualar School - English Debate

Liliana Gil-Ramirez, Coach

1. Jesus Ortega
2. Deziree Manriquez
3. Daniel Sanchez
4. Diana Rodriguez
5. Adrian Valdez

Greenfield High School - English Speech

Robin Cohen, Coach

1. Jose Arias
2. Nayeli Gallardo
3. Juan Sanchez
4. Ezequiel Morales

King City High School - English Speech

Sandra Bruschi, Coach

1. Carlos Salas
2. Jorge Amezcuca

North County Middle School - English Debate (2 teams)

Cindy Rustler, Coach

Alma Rocha, Coach

1. Silvia Maciel
2. Christina Tinoco
3. Ulysses Chavarin
4. Maria Porras
5. Maria Gaytan
6. Julina Ornelas - speech

Irma Vega-Moreno, Coach

7. Denise Loyola
8. Irandi Ramirez
9. Daisy Gomez
10. Angilete Rocha
11. Antonia Almanza

North Salinas High - English Debate

Antonio Rivas, Coach

1. Yvette Gonzalez
2. Alejandra Gonzalez
3. Gabriela Gonzalez
4. Yarelin Silva
5. Jaime De Anda

Salinas High School - English Debate

Antonio Rivas, Coach

1. Mayra Zamora
2. Brenda Coronel
3. Celia Alcala
4. Sandra Barron
5. Karina Barajas

Soledad High School

Mayra Amador, Coach

English Debate

1. Laura Gasca
2. Griselda Aguilar
3. Areli Almarz
4. Yara Valdez

English Debate

5. Christina Chavez
6. Claudia Lara
7. Mayra Guzman
8. Fatima Rodriguez

Spanish Debate

9. Eunice Valdez 1.
10. Felicitas Ruiz 2.
11. Karla Reyes
12. Paola Ruiz
13. Maria Valdez

Vista Verde Middle School

Maria Corralero and Jerry Mares, Coaches

English Debate

1. Ma. Del Rosario Aguilar
2. Araceli Martinez
3. Monica Perez
4. Kimberly Herrera
5. Maria Del Carmen Resendiz

Spanish Debate

7. Jesús Sánchez
8. Enrique Medina
9. Liliana Gaytan
10. Maria Garcia
11. Ariana Garcia

Article By: Jorge Morales
Migrant Education

English Speech

12. Julio Aguilar



For Your Safety

- Wash your hands often with soap and water and use hand sanitizer.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or into your elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.

MCOE ~ Blood Drive

The Monterey County Office of Education Mobile Blood Center will be in the MCOE Main Parking Lot, 901 Blanco Circle parking lot on Friday, September 11, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Sooner or later, virtually all of us will face a time when we will need blood. And that time is usually unexpected.

Neighbors rise to the occasion and help their neighbors during accidents, earthquakes, floods, fires, and storms. But the time for neighbors to come forward to help with a donation of blood is now.

Blood must be collected, prepared and stored on a regular basis. This cannot wait until an emergency exists.

Please consider making a donation during the annual M.C.O.E. blood drive. For information, and to schedule your appointment, call Denise Lang at 755-6458

Those who donate blood will receive a free lunch from the MCOE Social Committee that day.

Article By: Denise Lang
Administrative Assistant, Alternative Programs

TB Skin & Hepatitis B Testing ~ August

TB Skin Testing is **mandatory every 4 years** & the Hepatitis B Vaccination is **optional**, a series of 3 injections.

The Monthly Clinic is for **MCOE EMPLOYEES ONLY** of Monterey County Office of Education at 901 Blanco Circle, Salinas.

TB / Hepatitis B Injection will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 from 1:00 – 4:30pm at West Campus 7.

TB Reading / Hepatitis B Injection will be held on Thursday, August 27, 2009 from 1:30 – 4:30pm at West Campus 7.

Bi-national Teachers Exchange Cultural Event

On the evening of July 28, 2009 teachers from Mexico performed during the annual Bi-national Cultural Event at Cesar Chavez Elementary in Salinas. The 10 teachers have been participating in the exchange program since June 21, working with students and parents in 10 school districts from San Lucas to Castroville. Monterey County Office of Education's Migrant Education Program conducts the exchange. The teachers returned home on July 31, 2009.

Link to the pictures from Scott MacDonald, The Salinas Californian web site:

<http://www.thecalifornian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=J2&Dato=20090728&Kategori=NEWS01&Lopenr=907280801&Ref=PH>