

# AHEAD: The E-newsletter for the Staff of the Monterey County Office of Education

Looking **AHEAD** to keep MCOE informed  
April 23, 2010

"Leadership, Support and Service to Prepare All Students for Success"

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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being accepted for the "**Light the Fire Within Award.**" This "Unsung Hero Award" is designed to recognize MCOE employees who have made significant contributions to others outside of their employment. It is presented to deserving individuals who have given unselfishly of themselves to the benefit of others.

All certificated, classified and management employees, who are employed by the MCOE at the time of their nomination, are eligible for the award.

For **nomination forms**, email [eastwood@monterey.k12.ca.us](mailto:eastwood@monterey.k12.ca.us) or telephone 831-755-0396.

## CONGRATULATIONS

The MCOE **Transportation Department** once again proved themselves the best in the state. At competition in Watsonville on April 10, the **Road-eo team won First Place** in the "Best Represented" category. This is the fourth time the team has taken that honor.

In the other categories, the MCOE team swept all first, second and third place finishes!

In individual competitions, **Christina Caldeira** won first place, **Brandy Acevedo** took second, and **Eleanor Taylor** placed third.

In team competition, **Christina Caldeira, Brandy Acevedo and Eleanor Taylor** took first place. The team of **Carmen Placenia, Diana Ledesma and Mary Gonzales** finished second. The third place title went to the MCOE team of **Elsa Luna, Lucia Luna and Wilmer Ugaz.**

The MCOE team next competes at the Northern California Sectional on May 1 in Galt. They will return to Galt on May 30 for the State Championship Competition.

In **late July**, the team will travel to St. Louis, Missouri for the **International School Bus Safety Competition**.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 28:** The **Monterey County Home Charter School** (MCHCS) is hosting an Open House in Rooms A/B. The event will run 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This event will highlight the work of MCHCS students. The MCHCS high school students will serve hot dogs and tri-tip sandwiches to raise money for their "Senior Disney Grad Nite" trip.

**April 29:** Annual meeting **Monterey County School Boards' Association**. The event will honor the Silver Star Program and all of its partners.

**May 1: Steinbeck Young Authors Awards Ceremony**, 10 a.m. at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas.

**Steinbeck Young Authors** is an innovative program for middle school students in Monterey County. The program enhances students' writing skills, explores the excitement of writing through the involvement of community members, and introduces students to John Steinbeck and his works. Taking place over the course of an entire school year, **Steinbeck Young Authors** includes teacher training, a standards-based unit of study on The Red Pony, visuals and objects for classroom use, horse demonstrations, writing exercises, writing coaches, an awards ceremony and prizes for all participating students and contest winners! The National Steinbeck Center, California State University Monterey Bay, Hartnell College, and the Monterey County Office of Education sponsor the **Steinbeck Young Authors** program. Funding sources include the William McCaskey Chapman and Adaline Dinsmore Chapman Foundation, The Community Foundation for Monterey County, Leon and Sylvia Panetta, Patricia Chapman and the Monterey Office of Education.

**For information**, contact the Education Department at 796-3833 ext. 222 or email [education@steinbeck.org](mailto:education@steinbeck.org).

**May 4:** Monterey County Business and Education Research Institute (MCBERI) **11th Annual Student Recognition Luncheon** at the University Center at CSU, Monterey Bay. The event begins at 11:45 a.m.

Each year the **Monterey County Business and Education Research Institute** holds a luncheon to recognize the students and thank the businesses that contribute to the success of Career Technical Education Programs in Monterey County. MCBERI is a non-profit organization comprised of representatives from education, business and public agencies which strive to provide students with opportunities for work-based learning.

Come hear about how career training has changed students' lives! Celebrate successful business-student partnerships, individual student achievements, and distinguished local businesses at the **11th Annual MCBERI Recognition Luncheon**.

**RSVP** to Gregoria Flores-Britt at (831) 753-4211 or e-mail: [mcberilive.com](mailto:mcberilive.com)

**May 4:** The **Monterey County Reads** Program will honor its volunteers and celebrate 13 years of success in helping K-3 students who are reading below grade level bring their reading skills up to grade level by the end of third grade.

As a service to the community, the Panetta Institute for Public Policy at the CSU, Monterey Bay coordinates the Monterey County Reads (MCR) program in cooperation with the Monterey County Office of Education. Launched in 1997, this program has trained almost 1,600 reading volunteers who have spent close to 79,000 hours helping students in grades K-3 in Monterey County schools.

The program operates under the leadership of **Sylvia Panetta**, Institute Director. **Monterey County Reads** is backed by a consortium of school districts, institutions of higher education, the Monterey County Office of Education, public and private high schools, and youth organizations, along with the Panetta Institute for Public Policy. MCR also recruits reading volunteers from businesses, community organizations, churches and synagogues, hospitals, military installations, law enforcement groups and other government agencies. There are several special projects sponsored by the consortium that further support the mission of this program.

**May 6:** The Monterey County Schools Insurance Group (MCSIG) will present **the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Fair**. The event is at the Auxiliary Gym at Hartnell College in Salinas. The event opens at 2 p.m. and closes at 6 p.m. The **Health Fair** offers over 60 exhibits, massage, cooking demonstrations, door prizes, a Kid's Fun Zone and free parking. All current MCSIG members, retirees and dependents are invited.

**May 8:** The annual **Mathletics** competition will be held at Soledad High School from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Mathletics** encourages excellence in math and recognizes the achievement of individual students and the schools they represent.

Forty-one schools are participating in this year's event. Elementary, middle and high school teams, from public and private schools, will take written tests in one of eight levels: fifth grade math, sixth grade math, seventh grade math, algebra 1, geometry, algebra 2, math analysis, and calculus.

The top graduating high school senior, taking the calculus exam, will receive the **Richard Morgantini Scholarship** of \$1,000.00. First, second and third place winners in each level will receive gift certificates, framed certificates and an Olympic-size first, second or third place medal.

**May 19:** Community Resource Fair: **Getting Help for My Child with Disabilities**. This Community Resources Fair is designed to help parents and caregivers become more aware of services and programs for children of all ages with a variety of disabilities. Representatives of agencies and programs serving special needs children in Monterey County will be available to discuss the services offered. Educational, recreational, health and governmental agencies will be invited to participate.

**The presenters** will feature **Nancy Myers**, Program Specialist, Monterey County SELPA; and representatives from community programs and agencies in Monterey County Parents and caregivers of special needs children and students and special education staff are invited.

**The event will be held at the** Monterey County Office of Education, 901 Blanco Circle, Salinas in Rooms A&B. It will begin at 7 p.m. and end by 9 p.m.

Sessions will be in **offered in English and Spanish**. Spanish translators and/or childcare is limited, but will be available upon request when you register before May 14. To register, or for information, telephone 831-755-6436.

## **CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES, RECOGNITIONS AND HOLIDAYS**

### **APRIL 2010**

MATHEMATICS AWARENESS MONTH  
MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD  
EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

### **MAY 2010**

NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
NATIONAL PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS MONTH

#### **May**

- 2-8 Be Kind to Animals Week
- 10-16 National Children's Book Week
- 12 Day of the Teacher (*Education Code 37222*)**
- 12 National School Nurse Day
- 16-22 Classified School Employees Week (*Education Code 45460*)**
- 22 Harvey Milk Day (*Education Code 37222*)
- 31 Memorial Day (*Education Code 37220*). MCOE and all schools will be closed.
- 31 World No Tobacco Day

***Footnote On This E-newsletter.*** This newsletter is to reach all MCOE staff. AHEAD is distributed by email to all account holders on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. The newsletter will continue to evolve with your help. Please send your items for publication, comments, and suggestions to Ron Eastwood, Communications Officer at [eastwood@monterey.k12.ca.us](mailto:eastwood@monterey.k12.ca.us) or to Linda Sweet at [lsweet@monterey.k12.ca.us](mailto:lsweet@monterey.k12.ca.us).

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