

MECOSTA-OSCEOLA ISD DEPARTMENT UPDATES

April, 2018

*“Helping Schools
Help Students”*



Career & Technical Education

Director Mike Miller Reports on CTE News:

MOCC Open House - On March 15, there was no reason to beware the ides of March at the MOCC! The annual MOCC Open House was a huge success! Our final count, including staff and student-helpers, was about 615. MOCC staff members worked diligently to prepare and execute the event. The excitement and enthusiasm were palpable. The activities in each classroom and lab were student led.



Our Students did an amazing job demonstrating the learning they've obtained and the passion that our staff members have inspired in them.

This was an all-hands-on-deck affair. Mrs. Upham, Mrs. Hallman, and the Culinary Arts students (as usual) laid out a delicious spread. The hot dogs and fries were a big hit!



We also had Mrs. Williams and the popcorn brigade at the north end of the building. Mrs. Paquette's Public Safety students, who embraced the windy, and sometimes snowy, conditions, ensured each of our visitors was counted as they entered the building.

All 7th through 11th graders within the MOISD were invited to the Open House. Mrs. Kage and Ms. Nunn worked diligently preparing and mailing out over 4,000 postcards with the help of Ms. Bolin's Cosmetology Students affixing labels. All of this could not have been accomplished without the leadership of Mrs. Ray and the Open House Committee.

The objectives of the MOCC Open House are manifold. Current MOCC students are able to share with their families and friends the exciting things they've learned.



Through this, a spark is ignited within many eligible, future MOCC students as they experience a taste of that to which they have to look forward during their 11th and 12th grade years. This event also helps the community see that their tax dollars are well spent and serve as an important investment in the social and economic future of our community.

Career Connect Showcase - On March 22, Meceola Tech welding students received their certificates of completion and stood ready to display their work to local employers during the first Meceola Tech Career Connect Showcase. The Showcase affords students and employers the opportunity to meet, connect, and discuss possible employment opportunities. In addition to welding technical curriculum, Career Connect students received career readiness instruction from Career Development Specialist Greg Wickings of the Hope Network and Michigan Works.



Mrs. Ward and Mrs. VanScoyoc did a tremendous job orchestrating this event and are diligently working towards future showcases.



We hope to expand both the number of Meceola Tech graduates and number of employers who can attend.

The highlight of the evening was an announcement from Rusty McKellar, CEO/General Manager of Cadillac Fabrication, that he is interested in interviewing all six of our students! We are excited for our Students and the opportunities available to them due to their recent accomplishments, and look forward to fruitful partnerships with Cadillac Fabrication and other regional businesses.

General Education

Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

March is Reading Month is now behind us, and I must say "Thank You" to all that read in our preschool classrooms. We had many parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other school and community folks visit and share a favorite story—you might recognize some of the folks below. The students love having visitors!



Going on a Bear Hunt - We held a "Bear Hunt" at Eastwood, based on the book, "Going on a Bear Hunt". We had over 82 families in attendance. Here are some data points from the event:

- 67% of parents reported they read to their children daily
- 94% shared they intend on reading MORE as a family after attending the Bear Hunt
- 55.6% of adults wished they had improved reading skills

The Family Engagement team has been requested to replicate this event in other places--next up is Reed City's GT Norman Elementary!

Maple Syrup - Spring is also a time for maple syrup making! Two of our classrooms visited Elsa's syrup production. Students saw how to tap the trees, collect the sap, boil it down, bottle it and of course taste it!

Students are enjoying the spring playground. . it just might take a bit longer to enjoy a dry sand box. Donuts with Dads was also a popular event this last month.



Parades - There are many more activities going on in April--be watching for the "Community Strong" parades coming to a location near you! This year's goal is to have 1000+ community members show their

support by attending or participating in the parades this year.

- Wednesday, April 25--Osceola Children's Parade--begin at GT Norman parking lot at 12:45 PM--parade will proceed to Upton Avenue and end up back at the school.
- Thursday, April 26--Mecosta Children's Parade--1 PM start time and line up at the cinema parking lot and the group will proceed down Michigan Avenue to Hemlock Park.

This year's events are being brought to you by the Great Start Collaborative, Great Start Parent Coalition, Great Start Readiness Programs, Mecosta and Osceola County Chambers, Local Fire and Police Departments, and MOISD.

Family and Business Expo - Saturday, April 28, is the annual Family and Business Expo at the Big Rapids Middle School from 10-2. Each year more than 2,000 folks flow through the community and business tables/booths and play fun games with their children and learn more about the community they live in. Lots of fun activities, lunch available--come on out and enjoy the day!

Thanks for your continued support! Have a great April!

Director of General Education Tonya Harrison Reports:

The Gen Ed Team - Our team continues to stay busy throughout the ISD. We are currently meeting to plan our goals for next year. Meeting monthly, our team talks about where we have been throughout the month, what we have learned, and share out

professional readings. Mr. Locke met with us at our March meeting to share his vision for the ISD so we could blend this into our goals for the 2018-19 school year.

Early Literacy - The focus on the Essential Early Literacy Practices continues to be our focus, as we provide early literacy learning to the local school districts. Amy and Cathy, along with Marla Estes, a district literacy coach from Morley Stanwood, provided learning at the Morley-Stanwood Elementary School on March 16. All teachers in the K-5 building are participating in the learning. Our ISD coaches are helping Marla Estes to be an onsite resource for the Essentials.



Morley teachers at work

Amy and Cathy presented at the 2018 Michigan Reading Conference in Detroit March 16-19 at Cobo Hall. They presented on the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum focusing on the intersection between the SEC, The Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy K-3 document, Third Grade Reading Law, and literacy coaching. Outcomes from this presentation look promising because of the participation of Erin Brown, the lead of the coaching network, considering the opportunities for collaboration between the coaching network and the Hill Grant.



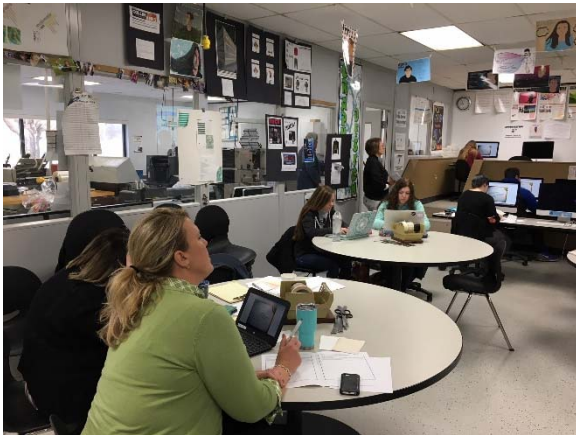
Cathy Wirth-Presenting at MRA

Math and Science - STEM Activities at Weidman Elementary - Our Science team visited Weidman Elementary in February and March to showcase STEM activities to the Weidman Science Alliance students. These students are part of an after-school club that meets twice a month and do various science-related activities. The MOISD has been invited for a second year to incorporate STEM into their club sessions. Students learned the importance of communication and asking questions when working with a team. They also learned how environmental engineers design processes to maximize the amount of minerals that are mined while maintaining a healthy environment. Students used hard and soft cookies to "mine" out chocolate chips while trying to keep the cookie intact.



Students from Weidman Elementary

Classroom Learning Labs - Justin Fox has been working on Classroom Learning Labs at the Career Center and has initiated connections with Reed City Middle School. Recently, Chris Jensen hosted the second Classroom Learning Lab at the Career Center. A Classroom Learning Lab is an informal observation by teachers of another instructor. It is a way for teachers to collaborate about their craft of teaching.

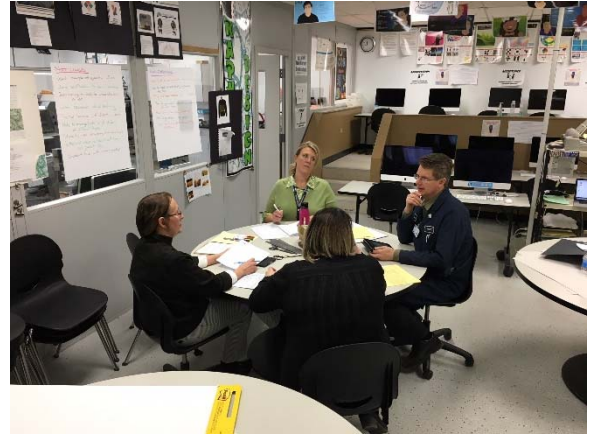


Teachers "Watching" Instruction

Mr. Jensen taught a lesson on Paper Types. He chose a focus for the guests to look for, and guests took away instructional strategies that can be used in their own classroom.

By watching a colleague teach their class, other instructors can witness the best practices that another models. While the observations are a large piece of the CLL, the most enriching part is the conversation that follows:

- the groups shares 'noticings' and 'wonderings' about the lesson
- group coaching from a MORC Gen Ed Consultant/Coach
- continuing to build a collaborative atmosphere within a building



Sharing Out After a Lesson

Behavioral Specialist - Michael continues to provide learning onsite and in the local districts. Since the beginning of 2018, he has provided over 125 direct hours of contact to our locals and has had over 290 participants attend learning opportunities since the beginning of the school year. He is continuing to reach out to local agencies as a direct link to our local schools. Our goal is to create the connections and allow the schools to keep the connection ongoing.

Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:

MoTech Collaboration Firewall Project - I would personally like to thank all the hard work put in by the MoTech Technology Directors on the firewall project. In the past 45 days, the group was able to bid out and evaluate firewalls for the schools. They were able to come together as a group and to find common ground in a solution that meets all the schools' needs. There were many hours put into evaluating the firewalls from five different vendors that bid. In the end, by doing a collaborative purchase, we will save all districts a significant amount of money and reduce the failure point of the one large firewall. Joe Bouman and Dan Canham from Big Rapids were a big help in the process of compiling the information from the bids and

helped also to set up the demo units with the vendors so that all districts could do some hands-on evaluation of the top two vendors. In the end, the whole group came together to make this consensus decision to move 100% of all the schools together on this project. This was a huge win for all members.

Data Driven Decisions - You will start to hear the term Data Governance over the next few months. What is Data Governance? What this simply means is that you need to have accurate data entered into the system in a particular way so that you can integrate this data into other systems as the Data Hubs. You will then be able to run reports that have fidelity and accuracy for making student-based decisions. Each school organization enters data slightly different. One example of this is the naming of data fields for relationship to the student. We must continue to work the ISD Offices, the LEA's, and the State of Michigan to normalize the data so that we can report it and use it for student achievement growth. We will be setting up some training and working with the other state groups on this project.

Director of Special Education Kim Tufnell Reports:

We had thirteen in attendance at our final **Building Positive Relationships: Your Child's Success in School** held at Mecosta Elementary School on March 13 with Michigan Alliance for Families. Michigan Alliance is doing several workshops in May that are in cooperation with DHHS, local and foster care agencies from Isabella/Clare and Mecosta Osceola. The May 18 event will be at FSU as a part of the 7th annual Supporting Caregivers in the Community Event, with the May 17 and 19 events hosting Basic IEP with

Positive Behavior Supports at Isabella DHHS in Mt. Pleasant. We have truly enjoyed the partnership with MAF this year and look forward to working together in the near future.

Caught Making Good Things Happen for Other People--Congratulations to Cortney Clay, Ashley Thompson and Lisa Dubois who were Caught in March. The three Early Childhood Special Education Program staff continue to shine and exemplify what TEAM WORK means!

As part of the Mecosta Osceola Resilience and Trauma Awareness Resource team (MORTAR), Michael Bausano and I co-facilitated the debriefing and discussion following the most recent showing of **Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope** movie with Chad Campbell from Community Mental Health on March 22 at The Church of the Nazarene in Reed City. The event was part of the Osceola County Community Collaborative and the LMNOW Coalition for Foster Parenting. There were over 50 in attendance, and all participated in a "what next" conversation about how we help our communities, especially our schools, understand and mitigate the effects of trauma.

Special Education Supervisor Carol Phelps Reports:



March brought Rashell Bowerman, Instructional Intervention Consultant from the Michigan Department of Education, to the MOISD campus to speak to the Transition Council and guests about the use of Personal Curriculum. The Personal Curriculum is an option any student or family can explore as a way to modify certain graduation requirements and earn a diploma. The Personal Curriculum is a tool to modify specific credit requirements and/or content expectations based on the individual learning needs of a student. It is designed to serve students who want to accelerate or go beyond the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements and students who need to individualize learning requirements to meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements.

Special Education Supervisor Beth Bond Reports:

March is Reading Month Pictures:



Tim gobbled up his Green Eggs and Ham

Special Guests and local heroes read to students:



Scott getting ready to enjoy Green Eggs and Ham





Victoria Deadwyler, Kayla Hammermeister, Wendy Iltis, and I had the opportunity to attend a one-day training by Dr. Fred Johnson, Proactive Discipline for Reactive Students. This training tied in perfectly with previous trainings/professional development on Restorative Practices, Students in Poverty, and Trauma-based Schools. We found it so valuable that books were purchased for all MOEC teachers and we will be starting a book study at our April staff meeting.



Everyone is a Super Hero!



Upcoming Events:

Friday, May 4 – Parent Luncheon and Community Agency Informational Event

Wednesday, May 16 – Graduation. New location: MOEC Gym.