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VOLUME 1
ISSUE 3



A MONTHLY INSIGHT INTO THE HAPPENINGS AT

THE MSDE PULSE

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

PREPARING WORLD CLASS STUDENTS

Special points of interest >>>

- MAY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
- STATE BOARD UPDATES
- MENTAL HEALTH MONTH
- EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION!
- CLASSIFIEDS

WE WANT YOU!!!!!!

Have an event, suggestion, idea or photo you'd like to see in the next edition of **THE PULSE**? Send us your ideas— We are always looking for new and exciting pieces to add and your idea could be featured! Please note that all information must be submitted no later than the **10th of each month**, please plan ahead for any time sensitive materials!

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH!

MSDE is proud to announce our May 2017
Employee of the Month:

Teresa Lewis



Teresa Lewis, May 2017

Teresa is a Child Care Licensing Supervisor with the Division of Early Childhood Education (DECD), Office of Childcare - Licensing Branch, Region 3 in Baltimore County. She was nominated by her Branch Chief, Paula Johnson.

Teresa Lewis consistently performs above and beyond expectations. The Licensing Branch licenses child care providers who provide out-of-home care for children in Maryland. All regulatory activity is conducted through thirteen regional offices statewide. Child Care provider case files are managed and tracked in a Child Care Automated Tracking System (CCATS), and inspections of the Child Care facilities are conducted using an Electronic Licensing Inspection System (ELIS). These databases are the major, and most critical, tools used by licensing staff to perform their duties.

On her own initiative, Teresa took the time to become extremely knowledgeable of the data systems. In addition to performing her supervisory duties, Teresa consistently volunteers her knowledge and skills in finding solutions to technology issues that arise within the CCATS and ELIS data systems. As a member of the CCATS and ELIS super user groups, she evolved as a leader, often leading group discussions during meetings. In April, she convened the meeting of the CCATS super users in the absence of the project manager.

Teresa has provided valuable input into the roll-out of a major CCATS modification and planned modifications for the ELIS system in the following ways:

- ⇒ Tested modifications and provided valuable information to the project managers and vendors in the development of system requirements, and to the Branch Chief in developing policy relative to the systems;
- ⇒ Led efforts to train more than 100 licensing staff statewide in the new processes;
- ⇒ Leading a team of 2 others, she traveled to regional offices conducting training sessions to ensure that staff understood the new processes;
- ⇒ Completed the major training in one month; and saved MSDE staff development training dollars.

CONTACT SAMANTHA FOLEY

Thank You and Congratulations Teresa!

State Board Meeting Actions: April 25, 2017



The following actions were taken at the April 25, 2017 meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education:

- Approved Baltimore City Public Schools' application to waive the post-Labor Day school start date and June 15th school end date for six schools for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Approved Carroll County Public Schools' request to waive one day of student attendance for the 2016-2017 school year.
- Welcomed new Board member Dr. David M. Steiner. Dr. Steiner was appointed by the Governor to serve the remainder of the term of Jannette O'Neill-Gonzales. Ms. Gonzales resigned from the State Board in December, 2016.

The following Opinions and orders were rendered on April 25, 2017:

Keith Goines v. Prince George's County Board of Education – employee termination – Opin. No. 17-16

In the Matter of Request for Removal of Local Board Member Karen Harshman – Opin. No. 17-17

Bash Pharoan v. Baltimore County Board of Education – 2017-2018 school calendar – Order No. 17-05

Board of Education of Howard County v. Renee Foose – motion for reconsideration – Order No. 17-06

Meeting materials, Opinions, and Order can be found at:
www.msde.maryland.gov/stateboard/index.html

The next meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building, 200 West Baltimore Street, 7th Floor Board Room, Baltimore, MD, 21201.

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Eight business days notice prior to the event is required.

Please contact Charlene Necessary at (410) 767-0467 or TTY at (410) 333-6442 so arrangements can be made.



Check This Out >>>



May is Mental Health Month

For more information on identifying Risk Behaviors or how to get involved and #IntoMentalHealth click on the links below:

MHA

NAMI

Mental Health Month, or Mental Health Awareness Month, has been observed during the month of May since the 1950's.

Over the years this movement has developed into a social campaign to educate the public on Mental Health and help to end the negative stigmas and stereotypes that are often associated with Mental Illness.

Each year Mental Health America (MHA) and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) provide the public with themes, events and ideas on how to get involved. As part of Mental Health Month MSDE would like to share these wonderful resources as a small way of starting the conversation and raising awareness for Mental Health!

The organizations have taken to Social Media to help spread their messages. MHA's theme for 2017 is #RiskyBusiness and focuses on the importance of identifying habits and behaviors (excessive alcohol consumption, prescription drug abuse, drug abuse, etc.) that can increase the risk of developing mental illness or exacerbating pre-existing conditions. NAMI, on the other hand, has developed the use of #IntoMentalHealth as a way to highlight and spread the word about awareness, support and involvement in Mental Health efforts.

Green is the official color for Mental Health Awareness! Make sure to show your support by wearing the color Green!

Check out the photos from First Lady Hogan's Celebrating Through Art Event!



Maryland's First Lady, Mrs. Yumi Hogan, hosted a children's art show in the Lowe House Office Building in Annapolis to mark Children's Mental Health Awareness Week in Maryland. Celebrating Through Art: The First Lady's Mental Health Awareness Youth Art Display highlighted the expressive power of art for all young people. Once again, the Maryland State Department of Education was a proud partner and 2017 Community Champion.



Children and youth from across Maryland submitted works of art for a display depicting something which made them feel mentally happy, healthy, and hopeful. Youth artists of all abilities came together as one artistic voice to highlight the importance of good mental health for all children in Maryland. Celebrating Through Art is a program of Children's Mental Health Matters. Partners include the Children's Mental Health Matters Mental Health Association of Maryland, Maryland Coalition of Families, Maryland Department of Disabilities and the Maryland State Department of Education.

Employee Recognition 2017: In Case You Missed It!



On behalf of Human Resources, The Standing Committee and MSDE we would like to thank our employees for all they do each and every day!

The week of May 1st- 5th MSDE celebrated National Public Service Recognition Week with a week full of activities for our employees to enjoy!

The recognition week is a time to honor the commitment and professionalism of government employees. Although one week of events and activities isn't nearly enough to recognize the hard work our employees are responsible for all year round, we hope that you can consider this a small token of our appreciation for your dedication to Maryland Public Schools.

Our wonderful Human Resources team and The MSDE Standing Committee on Employee Appreciation, Recognition and Rewards were responsible for organizing and executing this exceptional program and we would like to extend our most heartfelt thanks for their devotion! In case you missed it—check out some highlights and photos from the week's awards and events!

The week started out with an awards ceremony recognizing MSDE employees who have served 25, 30, 35, 40 and even 50 years of service! Each employee was honored by State Superintendent Dr. Salmon during a ceremony held in the State Board Room. The awardees were presented with a commemorative plaque and got the chance to pose for a photo with Dr. Salmon. We are so grateful to our employees and their multiple years of service. Thank You and Congratulations to our honorees!

Later in the week, our employees were treated to a midweek pick-me-up with our Employee Fun Day! Our employees enjoyed a Carnival-like set up, popcorn included! Participants were able to spend the morning playing games such as Uno and Cup Stacking. Some employees even chose to expend some extra energy through Hula-Hooping and Line Dancing- music and Hula Hoops were provided on site! What a fun break from the work day!

To close out the week our employees “screamed for ice cream” at our Employee Recognition Ice Cream Social! Ice Cream was served by members of the MSDE Executive Team who provided our guests with a smile and a scoop of Chocolate, Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough, Vanilla, Strawberry and much more! Employees chose to top their ice cream with sprinkles, whipped cream, hot fudge and cherries! Our ice cream social was a SWEET way to close out a week of festivities.

Thank You!

MSDE CLASSIFIEDS

POETRY IN MOTION...



Spring in the City by Ken Skrzysz (2017)

The hard verticals of buildings
Melt, like winter-defining ice crystals,
Into beds of tulip reds and cushions of jonquil
yellow.

Office workers tumble out of buildings
And stare at sun drenched shops,
As if surprised by their sudden appearance.

Confused joggers, dazed by early-morning light,
Adjust routes to better appreciate
The burgundy of infant apple blossoms.

Tee shirts replace goose-filled jackets
On young boys who skateboard through
Happily strolling tourists trading a museum for a
promenade.

These precious moments of warmth and light,
Just days ago the dreams of cold nights,
Will soon disappear into humid sunshine

The Curriculum portion of DCAA held its Second Annual Poetry Contest!

This contest coincides with National Poetry Month which is observed during the month of April. Several entries were submitted ranging from haikus to limericks.

During a cake reception on May 1st, Ken Skrzysz, Coordinator of Fine Arts, was announced as this year's winner! His winning poem is reprinted in the adjacent column.

Say Hello >>>

Whose new to MSDE? Check back each month for an updated list!

Kimberly Brown, Administrative Specialist II (Division of Library Development and Services)

Melanie Coleman-Jeffries, Teacher SPC (Juvenile Services Education)

Amy Horan, Public Affairs Officer II (Office of Communications and Partnerships)

Aqib Khan, Office Service Clerk (Juvenile Services Education)

Cynthia LaMaria-Lessner, Program Manager IV (Division of Early Childhood Development)

Eunice Lee, Accountant II (Division of Business Services)

Sarah Neal, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood Development)

Jaqueline Smith, Office Secretary III (Juvenile Services Education)



CUSTOMER SERVICE CORNER

As part of a state-wide initiative to improve customer service MSDE would like to introduce the newest addition to The Pulse: Our Customer Service Corner!

At MSDE we believe that customer service is a part of every job— no matter how big or small! You have seen this in our various customer service oriented efforts such as adopting the Customer Service Survey. In the spirit of improving customer service check back each month for tips, tricks and highlights on responses to our surveys!

THE CUSTOMER SERVICE PROMISE

The State of Maryland pledges to provide constituents, businesses, customers, and stakeholders with services in the following manner:

- **Friendly and Courteous:** We will be helpful and supportive and have a positive attitude and passion for what we do.
- **Timely and Responsive:** We will be proactive, take initiative, and anticipate your needs.
- **Accurate and Consistent:** We will always aim for 100% accuracy, and be consistent in how we interpret and implement state policies and procedures.
- **Accessible and Convenient:** We will continue to simplify and improve access to information and resources.
- **Truthful and Transparent:** We will advance a culture of honesty, clarity and trust.

