



Migrant Magazine

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Important Dates

April 29-May2, 2012
NASDME Conference
Portland, Ore.

September 2012
OSY Dissemination Event
Clearwater, Fla.

Happy Birthday!

- 1/6 Christina Benassi
- 1/3 April Harper
- 1/3 Wanda Rutherford
- 1/4 Arlene Quinones
- 1/24 Naomi Sherfey
- 2/3 Wayne Hughes
- 2/7 Ellen Yokley
- 2/13 Susan Phelps
- 2/18 Linda Smith



Summer Can Change Everything!

By: Amy Edwards

The “Summer Changes Everything” National Conference on Summer Learning was held November 15-16, 2011, in San Francisco. Kentucky was well-represented this year, with 13 Migrant Education staff members representing all four regions. More than 60 workshops were offered, and many workshops were focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and literacy.

Upon our return, several Kentucky attendees got together to share what we learned and how to apply the new knowledge to their programs for this coming summer. Some attendees felt that there is a need to be more creative in programs for middle and high school students. There were workshops that encouraged focusing on kids’ interests and then helping students relate those interests to their career goals. Job-shadowing during the

summer was another idea.

Project-based learning was emphasized for summer programs. For districts preferring to conduct home visits rather than on-site programs, it is a great idea to leave follow-up work for the kids and parents. The families can then keep a log of the additional hours spent doing parent/student participation in which a tutor was not present and giving direct instruction. Project-based learning takes the focus off individual skills. This way, students will still practice important skills while focusing on the work being done to create the end project.

PBS offers many free programs that have entire curricula. The Electric Company offers a curriculum for children ages 6-9 with literacy activities, games, take-home activities and video clips to help promote literacy. To get more information, go to [http://](http://pbskids.org/electriccompany)

pbskids.org/electriccompany.

Partnering with other agencies or programs is promoted by the Summer Learning Association. Conducting a summer program exclusively for Migrant Education students may seem easier, but, with tighter financial times, partnering has its benefits. Don’t forget about partnering with 4-H to help you with summer programming. That organization offers many summer programs and may even be willing to do a customized program for your students.

Don’t be afraid to “think outside the box” and do things differently for your summer programs. By sharing our ideas following the Summer Learning conference, we came up with the idea for the state to create a resource guide for Summer Programming to help with ideas and places to locate materials. This is currently in the infant stages, but your Regional Coordinators will have more information as this resource evolves.

National Summer Learning Association
www.summerlearning.org

Twitter Town Hall

The Kentucky Department of Education invites teachers, administrators, district staff, parents and other education stakeholders to submit questions for Commissioner Terry Holliday’s second Twitter Town Hall **Thursday, Jan. 19, from 4-5 p.m. ET.** The Twitter Town Hall topics will focus on the 2012 General Assembly and KDE’s legislative agenda. Questions can be tweeted both before Jan. 19 and during the live event from 4-5 p.m. ET. Use the hash tag **#AskDocH** to send questions. If you don’t have a Twitter ac-

count and would like to sign up for one, visit www.twitter.com. It’s a free service and also offers apps for smartphones if you’d rather follow along off-PC/MAC.

The Twitter Town Hall also will be webcast live. If you would like to follow the Twitter Town Hall via live webcast, click [here](#). To listen and/or watch, you must have Windows Media Player installed on your workstation. Once Windows Media Player is installed, simply click on the appropriate link to hear audio-only or view the video with audio.

To install Windows Media Player on your device, please click the appropriate link below:

[Download the Windows version of Windows Media Player.](#)

[Download the Macintosh version of Windows Media Player.](#)

Commissioner Holliday looks forward to answering your questions on Jan. 19.

Recruiter in the News



Picture taken by Cassidy Herrington

In the fall, Fayette County Recruiter Richard Sanchez was featured in the article "[Tobacco, Sweat and Books](#)" in *La Voz*, the Spanish/English newspaper. Sanchez said that the biggest problem facing migrant workers is the lack of access to information. For example, many migrant workers don't know what to do in case of emergency, where to find food or how to access services. The Migrant Education Program (MEP) was developed to provide workers with this type of information to inform them of available services.

The article reported that in 2008, Kentucky was the second-largest producer of tobacco in the country, producing 205,850,000 pounds worth \$382.59 million dollars. Migrant families are fundamental for our state's economy.

Sanchez also was mentioned in a story on Lexington's WUKY-FM, "[Kentucky Agriculture Heavily Dependent on Migrant Labor](#)." This story discussed the importance of migrant farm workers from a farmer's perspective. Sanchez (above) was recruiting a man who was 20 years old and

who came to harvest and dry tobacco. This man works 8-12 hours a day. It was noted that Sanchez goes to the farms to find migrant workers and brings a map to show them where they are.

Mac Stone, the executive director of marketing with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the co-owner of Elmwood Stock Farms, strongly believes that Kentucky's economy is dependent upon seasonal migrant workers. In 2009, Kentucky acquired 5,000 H2A workers, making Kentucky the fourth-largest participating state.

Here is a sample list of games and types of skills that are reinforced:

- *War* (with a deck of cards) – comparing numbers;
- *Yahtzee* – computation (addition/multiplication)
- *Battleship* – graphing on the coordinate plane
- *Life and Monopoly* – counting money
- *Rummy* – sets, sequences, counting
- *Clue* – deductive reasoning
- *Scrabble* – vocabulary and spelling
- *Mad Libs* – vocabulary and grammar
- *Taboo* – vocabulary
- *Apples to Apples* – comparisons



Parent Engagement — Board Games

By: Amy Edwards

When we think about helping our students academically, the focus often is on homework and tutoring. Although this specific focus is very important to academic success in all subjects, it is also important to think of ways to reinforce academic skills in a fun way at home. Some parents may shy away from educational activities if the activities seem rigid and more formal like school. Reinforcing literacy and math skills does not have to be boring, with drill-and-kill worksheets.

One way to have students work on academic skills without them even knowing it is through board games. Individual games can teach specific skills like grammar, vocabulary, basic math, patterns and more. Playing games also helps with learning processes (taking turns) and critical thinking skills (thinking ahead, hypothesizing, cause and effect). Playing board games is a great way for parents to be involved with reinforcing academic skills. (See the list on the left.)

At your next PAC meeting, let the focus be on board games. Allow families to play several different games during the course of the meeting with Migrant Education staff so that they can see a "Game Night" modeled. At the end of the night, raffle off games as door prizes or give each family a game pack to take home. Encourage families to have a weekly game night. The benefits will be far greater than just the reinforcement of literacy and math skills that students will use.

Searching Students in MSIX

By now everyone should have their own Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX) account. MSIX can be very useful. If you recruit a new student in your district, it is a good practice to search for the student in MSIX to learn more about him or her. When you open your MSIX account, there is a student search on

the left side. There also is an advanced and basic search where you can enter the student's name, parents' names, date of birth and birth state. Once you locate your student, you can click on tabs about demographics, enrollment, assessments and course history. The demographics tab provides the same in-

formation as the Certificate of Eligibility (COE). The enrollment tab provides information about the facility, student's grade, PFS, IEP and LEP status. The assessment tab provides test score information. Kentucky will be adding assessment data for the first time in January 2012. Finally, Course History will provide information if you find a high school student.

Helping a Migrant Student in Mayfield Independent

Gaby Acree, a migrant recruiter advocate for the Mayfield Independent school district, provides services for a student named Abraham Ramirez. She wanted to share what she has done with him and how it has helped this migrant student.

Ramirez is a 1st grader at Mayfield Independent School. He is always distracted, but in September, that changed. A new student arrived in the classroom who spoke little English. Ramirez has shown leadership and stepped up to be a great helper. He explains words to the new stu-

dent and helps her in class. Having this new student in class has really helped him stay more focused in class and decreased his disruptive behavior because he wants to be a good role model for her. Acree is very proud of Ramirez. He was even the school's honor student the week of September 22.

The migrant program has provided Ramirez with school supplies, tutoring from Monday to Friday, summer camp and lots of books. He really enjoys reading. Each time that Acree visits his home, he refers to

her as the "book lady." He is always very excited.

The migrant program has helped Ramirez improve in reading and writing, particularly since he has been receiving tutoring daily for 45 minutes.



Abraham Ramirez at the Nashville Zoo field trip during the summer.

Migrant Literacy Net

When Christina Benassi attended the Southeastern Regional Meeting, she received information about the Migrant Literacy Net: www.migrantliteracy.net.

This website proves advocates with a tool for assessing and providing supplemental research-based literacy lessons for students K-12 to improve their foundational skills. Educators can identify students' literacy needs, and, using a student success plan, they can access instructional lessons designed to improve specific literacy skills and provide graduation plans for Out of School Youth.

There are 123 reading lessons that use the five dimensions of reading from the U.S. Department of Education (phonemic awareness, phonics fluency, vocabulary development, comprehension and oral reading skills.) The writing skills are based upon the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards. The writing lessons provide information on general writing process skills, stylistic aspects of writing, grammar and mechanical conventions, and research skills. Each lesson provides a pre/post assessment.

The Migrant Literacy Net is a product of the Migrant Education Program (MEP) consortium Incentive grant funded by the U.S. Department

of Education and the Office of Migrant Education. The LEARN consortium has 16 participating states, not including Kentucky, that work to create effective supplemental online instruction for students in reading for migrant education programs.

The Migrant Literacy Net is a very helpful website. The lessons are self-explanatory and are available in both English and Spanish. There is also information to provide to parents so they can help their child with a variety of skills including phonics, comprehension, vocabulary and writing.

MSIX: Test Data and Credit Accrual — How Does It Affect You?

Recently, the Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX) asked Kentucky to supply information about the migrant students' assessments and credit accrual to include in MSIX. Over several months of working with the state database, MIS2000 and MSIX personnel staff finally got a testing environment created to check the information from MSIX with what was currently on MIS2000.

The Kentucky Data Team, consisting of Bill Thompson, Christina Benassi and Rebecca White, checked the data from MSIX to make sure it matched with MIS2000. The group found some terminology differences with the way the test data was recorded. In Kentucky, we now use Novice, Apprentice, Proficient and Distinguished. In MSIX, the terms Below Basic, Basic, Proficient and Advanced are used. Kentucky migrant staff have not decided how to resolve this issue, since Kentucky also has changed the way scores are perceived. Any new changes most likely won't occur until the fall of 2012.

The Kentucky Data Team also had to look at students' credits when they attended high school. The team noticed that several districts have neglected

to find credit information for their students. This is something that all districts should be collecting during the individual withdrawal. If a student is part of the mass withdrawal, an attachment of credit history should be included for each.

Another issue was that school years recorded in MSIX, compared to the ones in MIS2000, sometimes were off by one school year. Benassi found out that the MIS2000 team considered September 1 the start of the school year, and therefore anyone enrolled before that date was considered part of the previous school year. This issue was addressed via a phone conference with MIS2000, and the school start date changed to August 1.

Collection of test data for all students and credit accrual information for high school students is crucial for Kentucky's data quality.

News from Migrant Employees

- ◆ Maddie Conrad, Southeastern Regional Recruiter, got engaged in Las Vegas, Nevada, in November.
- ◆ Cindy Sasser, Western Region's clerk, welcomed her first grandchild, Molly Quinn Brasher. She was born November 29 at 11:50 a.m. at Baptist Hospital East in Louisville. She weighed 7 lbs. 5.1 oz. and was 20" long.



Things to Remember when Completing a COE

- If a worker moved for any work and obtained work soon after, even if it is "to join" move, "soon after" starts when the worker arrived. The worker should find work within 30 days of their arrival, not the QAD.
- If you are continuing a family's eligibility, please note "Qualifying off previous COE" or "Continuing Eligibility" in the comments section.

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Getting to Know Northeastern Recruiter Laura Puente

Laura Puente is a very special recruiter from the Northeastern Region. She is one of the few recruiters who also used to be a student in the migrant program. Puente can easily relate to the students in the migrant program.

Puente says that she and her three siblings were in the program as children because her family traveled from Texas to Kentucky to work in tobacco. While her parents worked in the fields, Puente and her siblings went to school. In 1993, Puente and her family were the first Latino family Bill Thompson recruited in Fleming County.

Thompson said that the Puente family participated in the migrant summer program for several years. Puente attended two schools every year when her family traveled to Kentucky. Puente says, "School was different in Ken-

tucky because we were the only Hispanic children there, but I remember our teachers were very nice, and they helped us transition into the new environment."

Finally, after a few years, they settled in Kentucky. Puente's family really liked the community and wanted to raise their children there. Puente graduated from high school in 2001, then attended Tomball Community College in Houston, Texas, where she studied early childhood education.

Puente then moved back to Kentucky and began working for Fleming County in 2003 as an ESL tutor. She worked there for two years, where she assisted Thompson with translating for Hispanic families, and he observed how easily she communicated with them. She was hired by the Migrant Education Program in 2005. Puente began as a recruiter/

clerk for Fleming County and did that for two years. With the growth of the region, Puente became the Northeastern Region's first regional recruiter and has been a recruiter/advocate for the region for a total of six years. Thompson says that Puente has been invaluable in expanding the program into untapped areas.

Puente enjoys what she does because, "I feel like I am returning all the help my family received when we were in the program. I see other kids in the same situation I was once in, and I know that they can do so much with their lives."

Puente lives in Flemingsburg with her husband Andy and three children — Elian, Elisa and Elia.

