



MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Mid-State Messenger

January 2023

MSSE Board Selects Next Director



At the Executive Committee Board meeting on December 14th, the MSSE Board unanimously approved the recommendation of employment of Bobbi Fisher as the new Director effective July 1, 2023 following the retirement of

Angela Armour. Mrs. Fisher served our member districts as a Special Education Teacher for nine years before assuming the role of Program Coordinator for the past six years. On behalf of the Board and current administration, we congratulate Bobbi as she begins the transition to her new role. We know MSSE is in good hands!

IAASE Leadership Award



Congratulations to Lyn Becker, Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education Region V Leadership Award recipient! Lyn received several nominations and was honored at the Region 5 meeting held on Dec. 2nd in Hillsboro. A nominator shared, "Lyn has so many highly developed skills and wonderful characteristics, but her history of outstanding service dedicated to children with special needs is clearly her passion and daily motivation. Lyn is truly an exceptional educator. She has made a tremendous impact in so many lives in central Illinois. Her expertise, work ethic, professionalism, and dedication to Mid-State Special Education and those we serve has been consistent and steadfast throughout a couple decades."

MSSE Supports Brody



MSSE employees show their ongoing love and support of Brody and the Haston family by sporting their "Together We Support Brody" t-shirts during the recent professional development training. Kristy Haston serves Bond CUSD #2 as a school psychologist. Our positive thoughts and prayers continue for Brody.

Morrisonville Learns a New Language



One of MSSE's teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing (DHH), Michaela Hartley, will begin teaching sign language to students in Morrisonville Elementary and Junior High Schools. Michaela is giving up her lunch time to start an ASL Club. Her

goal is to empower students to practice with one another so they can better support the DDH community. A few students have already started using their new skills interacting with students on the pre-k playground!

Jazz Band Tour



Colt and Russell Students were treated to an amazing concert

from the Litchfield High School Jazz Band. The students and staff had a wonderful time listening

and singing to Christmas carols. The band does a remarkable job and everyone enjoyed the tour!

Spreading Cheer and Fun

Christmas activities re-engaged staff and students with lots of hands-on activities during the month of December including Christmas trivia, potlucks, dress up days for students and staff, games for staff and students, secret santa, scavenger hunts.



Transition in Action



Mrs. Saatkamp arranged a tour of LLCC at the Springfield campus for Gianna Pop and Mallori Scott, seniors from South Fork High School. Mac and Ashley from LLCC did a great job of showing them the many different programs, classrooms, labs, new police dog, and the office personnel they will need to meet with to get set up for classes. After high school, Mallori plans on being a therapist and Gianna plans to be a dental hygienist.

Homecoming Royalty



Pictured: Homecoming Queen (Ryleigh Davidson) and King (Joey Patterson) from Edinburg High School. Ryleigh, a senior at Edinburg High School, is one of many students in the STEP program. She is involved in sports, softball, basketball, and volleyball. Her plans are to attend LLCC and play softball. She is undecided of a career choice at this time. She will be touring the programs offered in February.

Deck The Halls

On December 16th, Cornerstone/Chrismont held their annual Deck The Halls event where students from all classrooms decorated the outside of their classrooms in holiday cheer! MSSE employees and member district administrators were invited to serve as judges for the event. Pictured below is a view of the upstairs hallway. Allyshae Meyers reported that the students have been looking forward to the event for weeks. While visiting, students served as tour guides and showed the visitors around the building. The students made one of the rooms into a live snow globe. Ms. Prince, the school clinician, volunteered to participate with the students.

