



MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Mid-State Messenger

March 2023

March is National Social Work Month

School Social Workers and School Counselors are a vital part of social & emotional health for students in

our 13 member districts. **Karen Bennett, Lynn Cina, Rick Cina, Megan Harley, Patricia Redpath, Nancy Roasio, Jessica Ryan, Sarah Turner, and Scarlett Vanzo**, this month we celebrate **YOU!**



Click on the picture/link above for a free Kindness day activity.

As part of celebrating National Social Work Month, Karen Benett (Vandalia Social Worker) was featured in the *Vandalia One* publication.

February: Low Vision & Blindness Month



April Wilson, our Vision Itinerant, serves all 13 districts with expertise and joy. She helps educate staff on how to support students that have low vision/ blindness. We celebrate April and the students she serves. Thank you, April, for

supporting MSSE, school staff, & students!

Growing Your Own Behavioral Supports



Our very own Emma Reichert and Lyn Becker presented a session to administrators at the IAASE Conference sharing with districts and cooperatives across the state how MSSE took the initiative to recruit, train, and support our first Registered Behavior Technician (RBT). Our skilled and dedicated behavior support team is doing amazing work on behalf of students, staff, and families!

Keenan Powell S-JR's Athlete of the Week

Keenan, a junior at Litchfield High School, is an excellent athlete and has earned some accolades this basketball season; including all tournament teams at Riverton and Carlinville. Locally, he's been selected several times by his coaches as Pizza Man Player of the Week. Keenan was an all-conference football player this past fall as well as making it to the state track meet last season. Keenan has a great connection and rapport with all of his teammates. He works hard at being a good teammate. He is motivated by set targets that he can see himself tangibly meeting, such as receiving yards, catches or interceptions. He leads by example and is described as polite and humble.



100 Days of School Fun!



Sarah Turner, SSW, and Andrea Cartright, SLP, eagerly participated in South Fork's 100 days celebration by dressing up. They made a good effort and still look like they are right out of college!



Pictured above is Ms. Wiegand's class at Mulberry Grove Elementary/Jr. High. They had a fantastic 100th day of school!

Real World Learning = Transition



Mrs. Snyder and Mrs. Lipe, teacher of the Employability Skillsclass at Lincolnwood HS, applied learning with the generous support of community members and business representatives from the Panhandle communities. On December 21, students in the Employability Skills class participated in a mock job interview as a culmination to their unit on obtaining a job. Community members assisting in interviews included Dana Pitchford, Lyn Becker, Donna Wagahoff, Diane Hampton, Denny Held, Diane Riemann, and Patty Fletcher.



On January 27, the students from Lincolnwood HS and the Revive Program along with students from Hillsboro HS completed a tour of Lincoln Land Community College's Workforce Institute and Aviation program. And, on February 2, students in the Employability Skills class toured First National Bank in Raymond and listened to a presentation on banking and employment presented by the bank employees.

Seniors visit LLCC in Springfield



Mallori Scott and Gianna Pop, seniors at South Fork HS, visited LLCC in Springfield. They toured the campus, noting all the unique programs that are offered. They also met with Kim Eddings, Disabilities Coordinator.

Staff Shoutout!



Mrs. Ledbetter, from Brownstown Elementary School, has been teaching special education at BESI for two years. She goes above and beyond to support her students, keep them engaged and continually find new ways to encourage them. She is always willing to offer support to other staff and consistently

welcomes feedback on how to be the best educator. Thank you for everything you do, Mrs. Ledbetter!

Check It Out: IEP Resources



[Promoting Progress](#) This website shares resources that educators and related service providers can use to support the development and implementation of high-quality educational programming for students with disabilities.

[IEP Quality Project](#) This help site specific to Illinois was created to assist education professionals to improve Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for students. On this site, you can:

- create goals based on State Standards
- develop more individualized goals for each student
- find answers to your questions about writing quality IEPs for your students