

MATCEI

Michigan Association of Teachers of Children with
Emotional Impairments

February 2012



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2011-2012

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February Newsletter

Happy February MATCEI Members! Your Board has been hard at work these past months! We have hosted a fantastic Fall Conference with Bryan Dean, have had some great Board meetings, and have been hard at work planning our next Spring Conference “Re-setting the Target: Right Tools, Right Time!” to be held at the Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn on April 18th—20th, 2012. Our conference planning is truly centered around our mission (see below). You will find that we strive, through our meetings, newsletters, and conferences to improve outcomes for all students with emotional and behavioral impairments.

In this Newsletter you will find...

- Fall Conference review
- A Book review
- “Standing on a Soapbox”
- Special Education Resources
- And more!

Happy Valentines MATCEI Members!

*It is the mission of MATCEI to **support and assist** its members committed to providing quality educational experiences **for all students** struggling with emotional and behavioral challenges.*

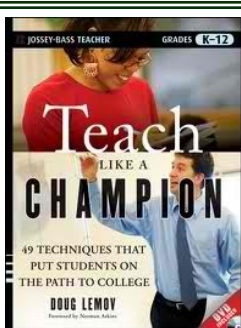


Fall Conference Review Guerilla Teaching Building the UDL Classroom With Bryan Dean

On November 4, 2011 MATCEI held their annual Fall Conference. Our speaker was Bryan Dean who taught participants what it means to use technology to build the UDL Classroom and truly become a Guerilla Teacher! Bryan showed participants how to embrace the technology at our fingertips to engage all learners. We saw how he uses student cell phones as a tool and shows the students to respect the technology by teaching them “digital citizenship”. Participants actively engaged in using cell phones to participate in a variety of polls by using polleverywhere.com. A great way to get up to the second information on how student’s are learning the material you are teaching. He introduced participants to “Glogster”, Goalbook.com, and Prezi.

Bryan has graciously accepted our invitation to conduct workshops at our Spring conference. This will give participants the ability to bring their laptops or iPads and spend time with one of these topics actually learning and creating.

To see Bryan’s Prezi on Guerilla Teaching go to <http://prezi.com/lvwiq2si8-0w/guerilla-teaching/>



The Book Nook

Teach like a Champion- by Doug Lemov

A comprehensive resource filled with the techniques that have proven it is possible to close the achievement gap. This book includes the Essential Techniques - setting high expectations, planning that ensures academic achievement, structuring and delivering Your Lessons, engagement in the classroom and more.

Part Two - Helping Students Get the Most out of Reading: Critical Skills and Techniques; how all teacher's can (and must) be reading teachers; The Fundamentals of Reading and Comprehension.

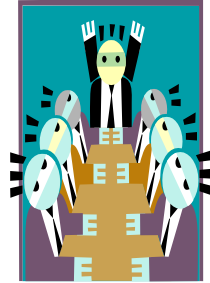
Welcome New Board Member



Aimee Holbrook

Welcome to the Board Aimee! Tell us a little about yourself...

I am graduate from Grand Valley State University and a second year teacher of a behavior focus classroom at East Lansing's MacDonald Middle School. I have been a member of MATCEI for 3 years. Prior to becoming a teacher I worked 5 years as a paraprofessional for students with Autism. I feel so very fortunate for this opportunity to serve on the MATCEI board and look forward to making connections with other professionals and better serving students with emotional impairments.



The MATCEI Board



This year we are pleased and proud to have 3 new members on the MATCEI Board of Directors! Because of the care and commitment of these people, we are able to give quality newsletters and informative conferences. And yes, FUN! Our Board meets once a month to plan and share information. We share a commitment to students with behavioral challenges but we also have a lot of FUN! If you would like to join the Board, attend a meeting, or just want more information please contact any of the Board Members listed on the front of this newsletter!

Meet the Target with Resources!

We all know that good, high quality, research based resources will help us meet the target with our students. Please consider attending the 54th annual MATCEI Spring Conference April 18th-20th to help build your toolbox of resources! Here are a couple of other resources you may like to try!

Education World

http://www.educationworld.com/special_ed/

Check out this site for lots of tools and tips for anyone working with students with special needs. There are articles, technology tips, and so many resources! Interested in behavior management or classroom climate techniques? You will find them here! Haven't tried Pinterest yet? Find a link here! Enjoy!

START ~ Statewide Autism Resource and Training

<http://www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter/>

Looking for resources to help work with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Check out this site! Once you get to the site, scroll down the left side to Evidence Based Practices. You will find many EBP's, clear descriptions, directions, and fidelity checks to assist you in working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder! *Come to the 54th annual MATCEI Spring Conference to learn more about Aspergers Disorder and Behavioral Interventions for students with ASD!

Know someone deserving of a MATCEI Award?

Then nominate them for one of the following MATCEI Awards! Nominate a FABulous teacher with the Exceptional Teacher Award, a person who affects the lives of our students yet in a non-teaching position with a Professional Service Award, or honor a fellow professional with the Milton A. Sakorafis Distinguished Service Award! Awards will be given at the Thursday Banquet lunch during the MATCEI Spring Conference April 19th, 2012.

Send nominations before March 15 to: Wendy Warren * 21116 Flanders, Farmington Hills, MI 48335 – or email to eiteach1017@yahoo.com



Standing on the Soapbox

By Richard Spring

I served on the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) when the Michigan Legislature passed the graduation requirements that are currently in place. SEAC, which makes recommendations to the State Board of Education, wrestled with the issues surrounding the legislation mandate regarding use of Personal Curriculum (PC). The Department of Education insisted this was not a "special education issue/initiative." Many on us on SEAC could see that this absolutely could affect a significant number of our special education students. Regardless of whose issue/initiative it is, the Legislature states that as much as "practicable" the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) graduation requirements should be met by all students who intend to receive a diploma in our state.

I believe and support maintaining high expectations for all students. I also agree that a high school diploma should not just be given out to anyone who puts in enough "seat time." I believe the Legislature wanted to stress that Michigan intended to set the bar high regarding expectations for both educators and students. However, I **do not** believe the Legislature intended to further disadvantage and penalize our students who statistically have the worst educational outcomes of all students with disabilities.

Students with emotional impairments (and all students facing emotional, behavioral, and educational challenges) must be given every opportunity to graduate from high school and receive a diploma. They need to be given every opportunity to meet as many of the content expectations as possible, and provided the time and support necessary to do that. They need to be given every opportunity to compete alongside their non-disabled peers in the job market in order to take their place as contributing members of society. Without a diploma they stand at an incredible disadvantage.

What the Legislature did do was to leave it up to individual school boards to determine what their district's standards would be, and if they would make personal curriculum available to students in their districts. The Michigan Department of Education created guidance documents to help ease the confusion. However, we at MATCEI are hearing that there is great inconsistency in how Personal Curriculum is either being utilized or ignored as a viable option to create a path to a diploma for many of our students. Many students are being told they will not get a diploma because they cannot meet every component of the MMC. Very hardworking students, already disenfranchised could possibly be punished further because of uneven, inconsistent, neglectful, or unfair implementation of the PC district to district. I believe this is unacceptable!

We would like to hear from our members about what is happening in your districts. Our intent is to go the State Board of Education, and appeal to them on behalf of our students who want to graduate even if they struggle with a particular area of the MMC. Districts, staff, parents, and students need more guidance on this complicated and difficult aspect of the High School Graduation Requirements Law. If you would like to weigh in on this issue I would greatly appreciate hearing from you! Please contact me at rspring72@hotmail.com and let me know what is happening from your point of view.