



## ED Corner

### Updates from Daryl Lucke, Executive Director

Dear Staff,

Can you believe we've reached the final staff newsletter of the school year? Time really does fly when you're doing amazing things—and wow, you've all done so many! I want to give a huge shoutout to every one of you for the incredible activities you planned throughout the year. I've absolutely loved seeing the creativity and joy captured on our Facebook page. Keep sharing those moments—they're inspiring!

As we look ahead to summer, I'm beyond excited about our upcoming theme: **"There's a Hero in All of Us."** What a powerful and fun concept! I can already tell that your imaginative ideas are going to make this summer unforgettable. Be sure to check out the details about our brand-new **Book Club**, created to support this awesome theme and add even more magic to our summer programming.

While you're reading, don't miss the helpful **training listings** included in this issue. You'll find even more great resources and recommended trainings in the **staff-only** section of our website—perfect for brushing up on skills or exploring something new.

And finally, I hope you have found Dawn's visits to your centers this year to be supportive, and helpful with the offer suggestions, and as a go-to resource for all things behavior and activity-related. Don't forget to read her article in this edition—and most importantly, remember to have fun!!!

Thank you all for your passion, dedication, and the heart you bring to everything you do. Here's to a fantastic summer ahead!

With appreciation,

*Daryl*

Executive Director



## MLEDP Book Club Kickoff Meeting

We are excited to introduce our first-ever MLEDP Book Club! This special gathering is a place where staff can bring children's book ideas to share with all centers. Our focus for this first meeting will be on books related to our summer fun theme: **"There's a Hero in All of Us."**

### Meeting Details:

**Date:** May 22nd **Time:** 6:30pm **Venue:** Mt Lebanon Library

### What to Expect:

Share and discuss children's books that align with our summer theme. Brainstorm individual weekly theme ideas or overall book suggestions that are a hit with our kiddos. Collaborate with a Lebo Librarian to make the most of this valuable community resource. Draft a book list to support and enhance the quality programming in each of our centers.

We hope to see a representative from each center. If you are interested in attending, please let Kelly know by **May 1st**.

Let's come together to inspire and engage our young readers!

"I think it's the books that you read when you're young that live with you forever."—J.K. Rowling

# WELCOME

### Please welcome our Summer Fun Team Members!

Elizabeth Dugan, Katie Bucher, Hayden Kenny, Jonathan Haddox, Ella Koster, Sylvia Alpern and Bayley Cooper.

Welcome back to Katie Girod, Chloe Webster-McGee, Tanner McFoy, Colin McCormick, Anna Slocum, Tony Ranalli and Bob O'Connor!

**April/May**



## Pay Dates

4/15 pay is for hours worked 3/17-3/30

4/30 pay is for hours worked 3/31-4/13

5/15 pay is for hours worked 4/14-5/4

5/30 pay is for hours worked 5/5-5/18

## April/May Birthdays

Please wish a Happy Birthday to:

Kelly Helterbran - 4/7

Sharon Riesmeyer - 4/8

Liz Comiski - 4/18

Matt Derrick - 4/25

Jenna Stevey - 5/11

Amy Simon - 5/17



## Training Spotlight

The following trainings can be found on Penn State Better Kid Care. Please check in with your Director to see which trainings would be appropriate for your development.

**2 hours Coaching and Mentoring: Supporting Staff (for Center Directors)**

**3 hours Coaching from the Teacher's Lens: Preparing and Finding Teacher Voice (For Center Directors)**

2 hours Building Relationships with Children and Youth Who Challenge Us

2 hours Emotions and Self-Regulation for Adults and Children

2 hours Positive Peer Interactions in School-Age Programs—Frontline Staff

2 hours School-Age Youth Programs: Positive Interactions, Positive Outcomes

2 hours Tools of the Trade for School-Age Practitioners: Positive Guidance

2 hours Every Child Counts: Building Community

2 hours Service Learning for School Age Children and Youth

## Program Spotlight

Mt Lebanon Extended Day was excited to again team up with Point Park University for a unique classroom experience. Student teachers from the university joined our MLEDP teachers to provide exciting social emotional learning lessons in conjunction with the Inner Joy company. Inner Joy is devoted to fostering emotional and mental well-being in children. By emphasizing experiential learning, their goal is to “empower children to cultivate their 'joy muscle,' enabling them to confidently navigate the world with a deep sense of agency and purpose.” Our children were able to explore the concepts of understanding your emotions, working through tough feelings and how to self-regulate through art, music, movement and literacy connections. Both the Hoover and Howe morning kindergarten groups as well as the Foster 4th and 5th graders participated. This is such a meaningful and enriching initiative! It was rewarding to witness the kids exploring these concepts. More information can be found on the InnerJoy website at [Innerjoyed.com](https://innerjoyed.com).



## Behavior Corner

### Have Fun together

Some children carry a heavy load emotionally. It may be a piling up of various components: stressors at home, difficulties in the classroom, socializing or friendship issues, or general unrealized expectations. Add in a busy schedule and it makes it hard to keep your balance.

We are heading into spring, a busy season with performances, sports, church events, and school testing.

We can't solve all problems, but staff can offer a break, a little respite while at MLEDP, for a personal connection with children, to smile, have a friendly conversation, tell some jokes and laugh together, play a game, forge new friendships, master a new skill or at least give it a try, build confidence, be curious.

More outside time lends itself to pushing ourselves to new accomplishments. Think about some safe challenges you can introduce or parameters for kids to create risk taking in a safe environment...How far can you jump, throw, or a combination of feats like an obstacle course.

Some may choose a quiet moment, others to be with friends, or a physical activity or a challenge to solve. We are all a bit different in what refuels us. MLEDP offers these and is a good place to be. Focus on this while you plan activities and engage with kids this spring and give a little grace.



## Reminders

### Agency Communication: Important Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that the agency utilizes staff personal email for important correspondence. To ensure you do not miss critical information, we kindly ask that you check your personal email regularly.

Since the center email is designated for group communications, personal emails allow us to share individualized information effectively. Notifications regarding mandatory training, credential renewal deadlines, and other essential updates will be sent directly to your personal email.

Many of these communications are time-sensitive, and failure to review them promptly may lead to consequences such as delayed training completion, overdue health assessments, lapses in credentialing, or potential impacts such as reduced merit increases, personal responsibility for training fees, or inspector citations.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to staying informed. Please reach out to Jen Query [hrast@mledp.org](mailto:hrast@mledp.org) if you have any questions or need further clarification.

## Dates to Remember

May 13 - CPR/First Aid for those scheduled

May 20- Long Day

May 26- Memorial Day Paid Holiday

May 28th- All Staff Summer Fun Training 6:30-8:30; Howe Cafeteria

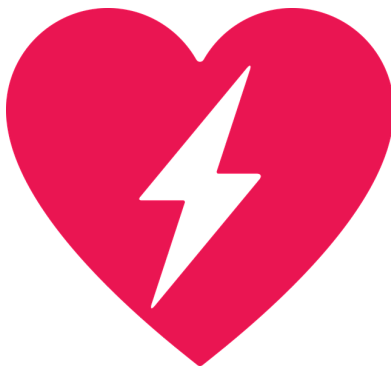
June 5th- MLEDP closed for program. Staff work 8a-12p to closeup the center. CPR/First Aid for those scheduled

June 6 and June 9- Staff Off (may take available vacation or personal time - be sure to submit request ahead of time).

June 9-CPR/First Aid for Summer Staff

June 10-13- Summer fun training 9a-4p

June 16th- First day of Summer Fun



## CPR/First Aid Classes

CPR Class Instructions – Action Required Before In-Person Session

### In-person CPR class dates:


May 13, 10 AM

June 5, 12:30 PM

June 9 (Summer Staff), 9 AM

If you've been notified that you're enrolled in an upcoming CPR class, please read this carefully:

✓ **Look for an email from HSI Training** – It contains access to the required online training portion.

 **You MUST complete the online training before attending the in-person class.**

⊘ **You will not be allowed to attend the in-person session without completing the online portion first.**

! If you do not complete the online training, you will be responsible for finding and paying for a CPR class on your own in the community.

Please prioritize this to ensure you're prepared and can attend your session as scheduled.