

The Wii in Building Relationships

by Jo Beth Robertson, *Graves County High School*

Advances in technology in the resource setting have made even the most insurmountable of obstacles more obtainable. Such is the case with the Wii Gaming System which was purchased with a grant from KYCEC recently for Graves County High School. The grant was written in cooperation with former state SCEC president, Carrie Weber, along with Graves County FMD teacher, Jo Beth Robertson.

In applying for the money, Ms. Weber and Mrs. Robertson stated that the Wii Gaming System would be used in a manner to meet two complimentary goals – that of finding activities students with and without disabilities could participate in equally to promote long-lasting friendships as well as some fun-filled healthy competition. GCHS junior and

peer tutor, Dexter Youngblood, said of the new Wii, "I thought I could kick major butt playing against some of the others, but I found out different. They are really good!" Dexter and the other peer tutors are organizing a round-robin bowling tournament to be held close to the end of school for the students in Mrs. Robertson's class, complete with trophies and other prizes.

The second aspect of the targeted objectives was to establish and promote a program of healthy activity for even the most severely disabled students. The school's physical therapy assistant hopes that by using the Wii System, goals for improving upper body strength as well as increased range of motion can be "achieved more quickly and in a more enjoyable manner."

Wii-hab Research Update

by Dr. Andrew Battles

Editor's note: *Many readers commented on the first article Dr. Battles wrote about his research so we are providing an update.*

The Wii-hab phase 1 results indicated 6 out of 7 subjects improved in memory and 3 out of 7 improved in gait, strength, and range of motion. All subjects showed improvement in social skill self regulation.

Currently we (no pun intended) are into the second phase of Wii-hab research. In addition to the Wii Sports game, we have added the Wii-fit to assist in balance problems in the Traumatic Brain Injured population. This study will run until late June 09. I am also running a study using the Wii with the geriatric population (called Wii-atrics) at the Bowling Green Retirement Village. In this case they have established a 30 person bowling league that meets and bowls two times a week. In this study we are looking at range of motion and socialization skills improvement. The Wii-atrics study will run until late July. Both are showing potential progress towards the goals we set.

A Giant Leap Toward IDEA Full Funding!

It took 34 years, but CEC's unwavering advocacy has paid off. CEC celebrates the doubling of IDEA funding provided by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

(For more information on what this means to you, keep up with the news through kycec.us, cec.spec.org – policy and advocacy – and page 2.)

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**KYCEC is Proud to Welcome
our First Middle School Chapter
– BURNS MIDDLE SCHOOL
DAVISS COUNTY**

(article – page 5)



CEC members delivering soil for a tree planting project adopted by students in the special services classes.

**44th Exceptional Children's
Conference – Nov. 22-24, 2009
Information page 7**



Dr. Arlene Hall

Thanks To Special Educators

It has been my extreme pleasure to serve as President of KYCEC this year. It has been a very exciting year. I have learned a lot from

the special education teachers in Kentucky and I am so proud to be one of you. I want to share a few comments I heard at the national conference in Seattle from Kathleen Puckett, CEC President. She said, "Special educators have a lot to celebrate with the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which more than doubled IDEA funding. All CEC members are certain to reap the benefits of additional \$12.2 billion allotted for IDEA programs. But we still face great challenges – No Child Left Behind mandates;

diverse role expectations from administrators, general educators, and parents; demanding case loads; assessment; heavy paperwork. Educating children with exceptionalities remains a difficult job, no matter the economic or political landscape. Despite these challenges you continue to give of yourselves to ensure your students receive the best education possible. You exhibit creativity and perseverance to initiate new and effective programs for your students. You continuously increase your knowledge and skills to make sure you can best meet the needs of every student. You do whatever it takes to make sure a child succeeds." As I listened to these words, all I could think of is wow – she has been in Kentucky.

Thanks for all you do for students.

ARRA – It's Implications for Special Educators

by: Shelly Weatherford, *President Elect*

During the first week in April it was my honored privilege to be one of over 5,000 educators who met in Seattle for the CEC National Conference. As president-elect, I also attended the Representative Assembly. It was in this assembly that we received the exciting news regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), an education stimulus package released by the Obama administration.

The ARRA stimulus package is a result of the advocacy and leadership provided by CEC and it's members, who serve children with disabilities every day in

classrooms across the nation. It represents a pivotal moment in the history of special education as it more than doubles federal funding provided for special education and early intervention services (Part B & C). According to the U.S. Department of Education, AARA should fund systems changes that focus on reaching long-term results to include:

- ◆ Increasing Accurate Measurement of Progress of Individuals with Disabilities;
- ◆ Improving Access to Assistive Technology and Training in the Technology; and
- ◆ Improving Professional Development Opportunities.

The IDEA funds under ARRA will provide The Kentucky Department of Education an additional \$157,569,975. This is an unprecedented opportunity for Kentucky educators to implement innovative strategies to improve outcomes for infants, toddlers, children, and youths with disabilities.

We Can Make a Difference!

To learn more about the ARRA stimulus plan, visit <http://www.cec.sped.org> and follow the link on the homepage.

**KYCEC & KY-CCBD
Summer Regional Conference**

June 6, 2009

8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

MSU Crisp Center • Paducah, Kentucky

Intervention Central: Behavior Strategies for All Students

SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- ❖ Instructional Interventions that Increase Behavioral Success
- ❖ Strategies for Supporting Students with Bi-polar Disorder in the Classroom
 - ❖ Intense Interventions for Intense Behavior
 - ❖ Motivating and Relating to Diverse Students
- ❖ Unlocking the Keys to Student Success: Analyzing the Situation and Formulating the Plan
 - ❖ Practical Strategies for the Active Student

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--- REGISTRATION FORM ---

Pre-registration Fee: **\$30**
Lunch Provided

On Site Registration: **\$35**
Lunch Provided

Name: _____ *CEC Membership # _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

School/District/Agency _____

Special Accommodations (specify) _____

*Requested for members only.

Make checks payable to: KY-CCBD • Mail Registration by May 29, 2009

Alan Siegel, KY-CCBD Treasurer
3260 Tudor Drive • Lexington, KY 40503

Please send any questions to: Shelly.Weatherford@Graves.kyschools.us

KY SCEC News

by Dr. Janet Applin, Advisor

The Kentucky Chapter of Student Council for Exceptional Children has undergone many changes over the past year. Long-time KY SCEC advisor, **Dr. Janice Ferguson** of Western Kentucky University, has made the difficult but exciting decision to "transition" into optional retirement at the close of this academic year. While Dr. Ferguson will be pursuing new endeavors, she will continue to teach classes at WKU and will always be a willing resource for those of us who have come to depend upon her experience and wise council.

Please join all of us at WKU in wishing Dr. Ferguson well in her "transition" to new and exciting ventures and adventures. Her email address is **Janice.ferguson@wku.edu** if you would like to send her your personal best wishes.

In the interim of Dr. Ferguson's transition, **Dr. Janet Applin** from WKU filled in as acting KY SCEC advisor and WKU SCEC advisor during the current academic year. Dr. Ferguson made it look SO easy but it was quickly found that she has some big shoes to fill and no one can replicate the passion and finesse she put into being the KY SCEC faculty advisor.

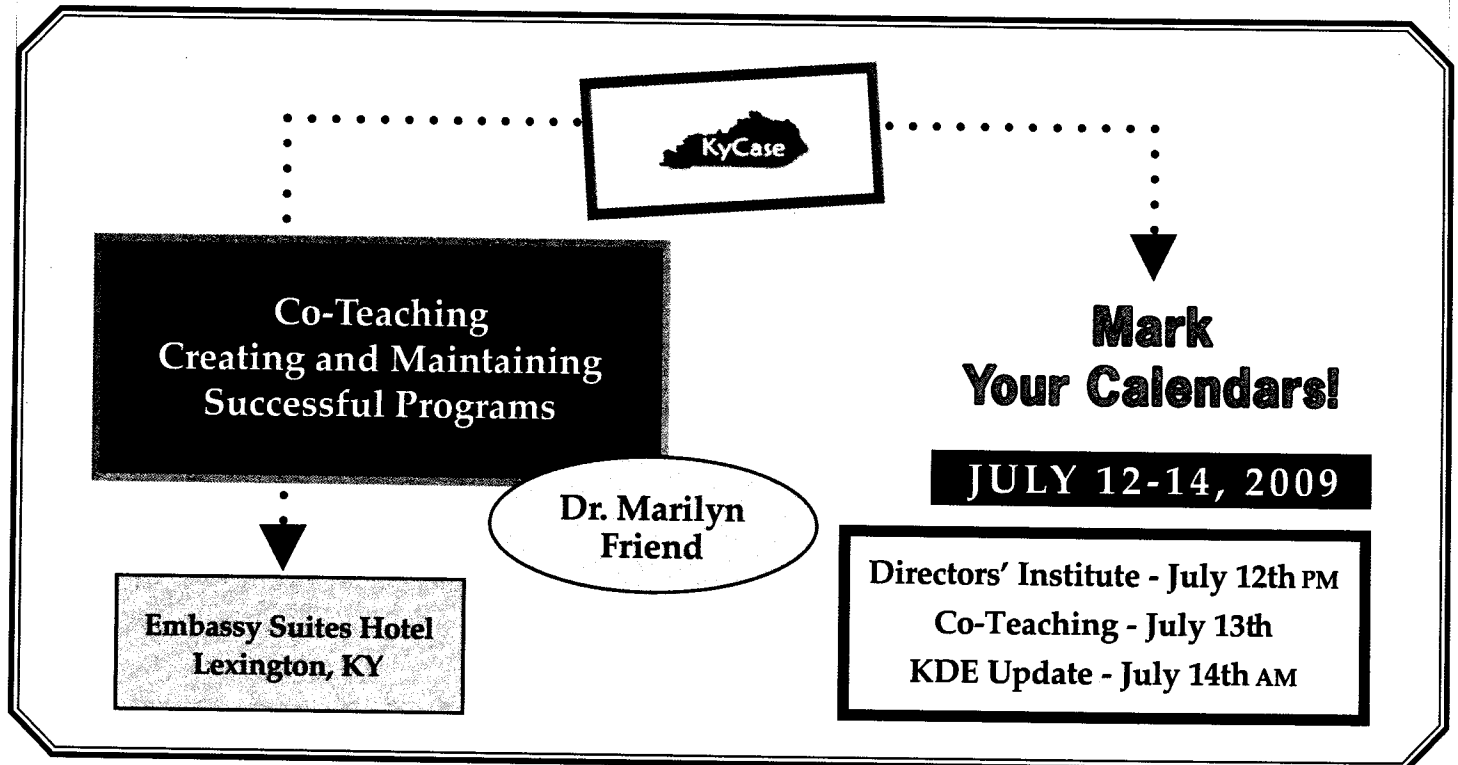
Just a reminder to SCEC students from around the state – you must attend the summer KY CEC executive board meeting to be considered for a state officer's post. Additional information will be sent to KY SCEC members before the June conference so save the dates: June 5-6.

If you have any information, questions or concerns about KY SCEC, contact Dr. Janet Applin at WKU by email: **janet.applin@wku.edu**.

Please welcome our new KYCEC officers who will assume their duties on July 1, 2009.

Vice President: Jennifer Green – currently Membership Chairperson. Teacher at William Natcher Elementary School in Bowling Green.

Secretary: Pam Matlock – retired teacher currently at Murray State as the Director of Special Education Programs at the Crisp Center in Paducah.



“Developing Friendships for Life”– Membership in Action!

by Jennifer Green, KYCEC Membership Chair

CEC member Rachael Clark has been an extremely busy lady this school year, but her rewards and the rewards of her students are many! Rachael helped initiate and develop the first CEC club in a Kentucky middle school. Burns Middle School Council for Exceptional Children Club (BMS CEC Club) in Owensboro is the first of its kind to receive sponsorship from the KYCEC organization. However, its beginnings have been anything



Having fun at the Halloween Sock Hop.

but modest. With meetings of their club once every two weeks, there have been 83 students participating throughout the year with an ongoing active membership of 34 students!

The club was developed with two main objectives: 1) to foster relationships between students with and without disabilities, and 2) to raise student awareness of individuals with disabilities. The motto for BMS CEC Club is

“*Developing Friendships for Life*” and that’s what its membership and officers have set out to do.

BMS CEC Club definitely has an ACTIVE membership, to say the least. This year its organized activities have included:

- ★ A Halloween Sock Hop,
- ★ Volunteering time to help bring in bags of dirt for a courtyard used by students in special services classes,
- ★ A field trip to the Wendell Foster’s Campus for Developmental Disabilities to sing Christmas carols,
- ★ Some members learned sign language and performed a song in sign language with their peers with disabilities at the Veteran’s Day assembly,
- ★ Coordinated an Epilepsy Awareness Week and hosted a guest speaker who had Epilepsy, and

BMS CEC Club has also elected its own student officers. KYCEC would like to congratulate:

Travis Henning, *President*, Gr. 8

Sydney McFadden,
Vice President, Gr. 8

Audrey Sander, *Secretary*, Gr. 8

Orville Messer, *Treasurer*, Gr. 7

Adrianna Miles, *Historian*, Gr. 8

Ms. Clark said, “There are some really creative and eager young

people in our club. Club members will have many opportunities to learn about the differences of others, but more importantly, we hope that they learn about the



Two CEC members hanging out in the courtyard.

things they all have in common.” Ms. Clark believes that everyone matters and that the student CEC club will, “set the example for what can be accomplished when young people come together and focus on their strengths and abilities as individuals and as a whole.”

KYCEC would like to thank BMS CEC Club for all its activities and membership and wish it prosperity in all its endeavors that lead to a brighter future for children with exceptionalities!



Singing Christmas carols at the Wendell Foster Campus.

KYCEC 2008-2009 Chapter/Subdivision Mini-grants Awarded

by Barbara Washington, *Chairperson*

Kentucky CEC awarded 2 mini-grants this year. Congratulations to Chapter #193 – Murray State University. **Jo Beth Robertson**, FMD Teacher at Graves County High School, and **Carrie Weber** were the writers. Their proposal addressed the priority area of development and implementation of a model program. They were awarded \$650 for purchase of a Wii Gaming System to promote collaborative participation among high school students with moderate to severe disabilities and their peer tutors as well as promoting health and wellness activities in collaboration with physical and occupational therapists. (*See page 1.*)

Congratulations also go to the Division of Early Childhood – **Elizabeth McLaren** was the contact person. The proposal addressed teacher training

and membership. The Division was awarded \$650 which will provide scholarships for early childhood teachers and interventionists to join CEC/DEC and to register for their choice of a professional development opportunity.

Kentucky CEC wholeheartedly endorses these and other opportunities to promote high quality teaching and training for members and their students or clients. To learn more about how your chapter or division can receive a mini-grant, *please contact:*

Barbara Washington

3201 Alexander Hall, Murray State University
Murray, KY 42071

E-mail: barbara.washington@coe.murraystate.edu

Phone: (270) 809-2262

Update on DEC Mini-grant Project

by Elizabeth McLaren

KY DEC is currently working on a teacher training and membership enhancement project that is generously funded by KYCEC. The goals of this project are to encourage membership in DEC and provide high-quality training for early childhood special education teachers and students. Funds from the mini-grant will be used to provide scholarships to fully fund a one-year membership for DEC/CEC and partially fund conference registration at early childhood conferences offered in the summer/fall of 2009. **Eligible applicants include:** (1) early childhood teachers (*e.g., Head Start, Early Head Start, state funded preschool, private child care*), (2) early interventionists (*i.e., First Steps providers*), and (3) early

childhood students (*e.g., IECE, family studies, or other related fields*).

Scholarship recipients will select from a variety of state and regional early childhood conferences that include the Infant-Toddler Institute, the Annual Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference, the Early Childhood Regional Training Center Conference, and the Kentucky Head Start Association Conference. All conferences will provide high-quality teacher training that present best practices supported by CEC/DEC such as effective early intervention service delivery models, working with children with behavior challenges, embedding intervention in classroom routines, and partnering with families.

Scholarship winners will receive \$108 to pay for CEC/DEC membership AND up to \$75 to pay for conference registration to their choice of early childhood professional development options. Individuals who are already CEC/DEC members will receive \$50 to use toward travel to this PD opportunity. KY DEC is currently in the process of advertising the scholarship opportunity to early childhood educators.

For more information, please contact:

Elizabeth McLaren

e.mclaren@moreheadstate.edu

Kristi Lunceford

kristi.lunceford@uky.edu

or visit the KY DEC website at <http://www.dec-sped.org/kydec/> to download the application.

NOVEMBER 2009 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

44TH ANNUAL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE

The Stimulus Package for Our Kids

THE GALT HOUSE • LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

NOVEMBER 22-24, 2009

Keynote Presentation on November 23

PLUS – Over 150 Breakout Sessions, Workshops and Institutes



❖ Topics will cover a variety of the major issues of the time. Over 50 exhibitors have expressed interest. A \$105.00 conference registration fee will cover your attendance and access to exhibits.

❖ Special hotel rates are available at the Galt House until October 23. Rates in the East are \$149 single/double; \$159 Triple; \$169 quad. Rates in the West Tower are \$119 single/double; 129 triple; 139 quad. Parking is \$12 per day.

For hotel reservations contact the Galt House: **800-THE-GALT** or **502-589-5200**, mention "KYCEC". You may also reserve your room online – **www.galthouse.com** – group code is #116227.

❖ Six hours of training will be offered on Sunday, November 22 as an opportunity for emergency/probationary teachers who need to get all their hours in one day, or for any others who choose to participate.

This conference is being hosted by the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children in collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Education, Council of Administrators of Special Education, Council for Children with Behavior Disorders, Division of Early Childhood, Special Education Cooperatives, Parent Resource Centers, Regional Training Centers, Kentucky Schools for the Blind and Deaf, Learning Disabilities Association, VSA of Kentucky, KY School Board Association, and others. There is a registration form below for your convenience.

REGISTRATION FORMS WITHOUT PAYMENT OR (P.O.) ENCLOSED WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

**The Following Information is Used for Mailing Your CONFERENCE CONFIRMATION and RECEIPT,
So Please Print Legibly. – One Form Per Participant.**

Name _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Email: _____
School District/Agency _____

Conference Registration until November 2	\$105.00
Student Registration and Retired Educators (currently not working) until November 2	\$50.00
On site registration, or ANY registration received AFTER November 2	add \$15.00
One day registration until November 2 Circle day Sun. Mon. Tues.	\$70.00
Tuesday Awards Luncheon (Teacher of the Year and KDE Report)	\$20.00
Total \$	_____

Advisor's signature required for student registration _____ Check or P.O. # _____

Please list any special accommodations or needs _____

- ▶ **MAKE CHECK OR P.O. PAYABLE TO KYCEC** (or Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children)
- ▶ **BE SURE YOUR CHECK OR P.O. ACCOMPANIES YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.**

- ▶ **DO NOT SEND REGISTRATION FORM WITHOUT PAYMENT.**
- ▶ **MAIL or FAX THIS FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT TO:**
Fall Conference, Attn. Bill Porter,
P.O. Box 991, Franklin, KY 42135; Fax: 270-586-2809