

MCAS Communicator

an e-newsletter for the staff of the Michigan City Area Schools

January 2012

(Please post for/share with those employees who do not have email!)

W-2 Announcement

The payroll office will be sending W-2 forms out to each employee at your school/building by January 31st.

New Website this Month

MCAS will launch a new web site this month - with a tentative "go live" date of January 25th. School principals and directors are working on the "migration" of their school sites with assistance from the Tech team; training dates for teacher web sites will be announced very soon. Stay tuned for more info - we will send a preview to all staff before we go live to the public.

Texts Reminder

Want school closing and delay information for MCAS (and other area school districts, universities, or other organizations)? Sign up for the text alert service provided by Fox 28 at the following link:

<http://www.fox28.com/Global/link.asp?L=411003>

MCAS Logo Wear Now Available!

New polo shirts (both cotton and poly "performance" style) and lightweight fleece jackets are available, with the new MCAS logo. Visit the link below for a flyer featuring three of our very own MCAS models! Contact Dorothy Harris at the Ad Building with any questions regarding your order at ext. 8311.

http://mcaswiki.mcas.k12.in.us/@api/deki/files/2595/=Logowear_Combined.pdf

News Dispatch Special Edition

A special edition of the News Dispatch was printed on December 29th, commemorating the 175th anniversary of Michigan City. Copies are on the way to all schools TODAY (January 4th) for all staff and students. Several of the activities and articles are interactive and are geared toward children and/or teens. Special thanks to NIPSCO for funding the extra copies for our schools! (Please note that there was an error regarding the first catholic school in town...the first parochial school in Michigan City was indeed St. Ambrose, however it opened in 1852 at 2nd and Washington Streets, and students were taught by the brothers of the Holy Cross congregation.)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Activities

There will be no school on Monday, January 16, in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. But there is plenty going on in our community that day! All are welcome at the community breakfast, which will be held again this year at PNC in the LSF Building cafeteria, beginning at 7:30 a.m. The speaker is author/professor/radio and TV host Garrard McClendon. The Michigan City Public Library will also have games, stories, puzzles, etc. in the children's area that day from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Other volunteer opportunities for this date will be held from 10-1; visit the PNC web site later this week for details. For more info, contact Laura Weaver at laweaver@pnc.edu or call [\(219\) 785-5742](tel:2197855742).

Black History Month Contest

The Michigan City Human Rights Commission is once again sponsoring its annual Black History Month Poster Contest for students grades K-12. Entry forms are available at all schools - check with your secretary or principal. Deadline for entries is January 31st and awards will be presented by Mayor Meer at City Hall on February 22. More info and an entry form is also available here: <http://www.emichigancity.com/cityhall/departments/humanrights/pdf/poster-2012.pdf>

New School Board Officers

The MCAS School Board held its annual organizational meeting on January 3, 2012, to elect officers and set meeting dates for the coming year. Officers for 2012 are:

- * Mr. Don Dulaney - President
- * Mr. Jim Kintzele - Vice President
- * Mr. Bill Greene - Secretary

As in the past, meetings will be held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Ad Building board room. The only exception will be in December 2012, when only one meeting will be held - on December 18.

Celebrate Mentoring Month

January is National Mentoring Month - and here are three ways **YOU** can help our students:

1. **Become a mentor.** With a mentor, kids are more likely to graduate from high school and go to college, and less likely to get involved in criminal activities.
2. **Encourage a friend or family member** to become a mentor. 98% of existing mentors would recommend mentoring to others.
3. **Become a mentor AND join our NASA e-mentoring program.** A NASA scientist will introduce STEM activities and information that will interest both you and your mentee. Help improve the science literacy of our children!

Call Sherri Silcox for information at [873-2026](tel:873-2026), ext. 8744.

WAY to GO!

- Welcome to **Sue Harrison**, who is the new MCAS Director of Transportation! Sue comes to MCAS after retiring from the Michigan City Police Department, where she served for 20 years, as Commander of the Detective Bureau, the Division of Professional Standards, and the Juvenile Division.
- Congratulations to the following MCAS teachers, coaches, and counselors, who were awarded Barbara A. Carmen grants recently by the Unity Foundation, for classroom projects: **Amy Wojasinski-Labis** (Elston), **Shannon Galloway** (Elston), **Nancy Gonzalez** and **Lisa Bailey** (Springfield), **Pam Sassaman** (Marsh), and **Boback Eghbali** (Niemann).

Community Announcements

- **Trine University** has partnered with Virtual Education Software, inc. to offer professional growth point (PGP) courses for educators online or via CD-Rom. For more info visit: <http://www.virtualeduc.com/e-announcements/trine.htm>
- In honor of Virginia Stevens, the founding member of **First Trust Credit Union**, a \$1,000 memorial scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior who will be pursuing an associate's degree or certification in a non-four year program. This award will be made to a member or child of a member of the First Trust Credit Union. Deadline is March 16th. Visit First Trust (950 E. Hwy 20) to pick up a scholarship application.
- As Michigan City embarks on the process of writing a Westside and Wabash Neighborhoods Plan, it is asking its residents, business owners, students, seniors, and all other members of the community to join in a **Neighborhood Visioning Workshop** on Thursday, January 12th, 2012 at the H.O.P.E. Program Center (222 McClelland Ave.) to discuss and help create a new vision for the Westside/Wabash neighborhoods. Designed to be highly-interactive, engaging, and fun, the workshop will give residents the opportunity to help chart the course for the neighborhoods' future. The workshop will begin at 5:30 pm and last approximately one and a half hours.

A HAPPY and SUCCESSFUL 2012 TO ALL!