

MCAS Communicator

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

April 2013

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

Power Down, Please

A reminder from Plant Planning and Technology... please turn off/unplug electronic equipment before you leave for Spring Break. This includes monitors, printers, radios in chargers, etc. If it's not plugged in to a surge protector, please completely unplug it from the wall. This will help us save energy and ensure no equipment is damaged in the event of bad weather. Thanks!

Elementary Parent Conferences - Date Change

Elementary Parent-Teacher conferences previously scheduled for Thursday, March 28 will now be held **tomorrow - Tuesday, March 26th**. (Middle/high school conferences are still **this Wednesday, March 27** - no change).

Kindergarten & Pre-K Roundup Tomorrow!

Kindergarten Roundup will be held on the same day as Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences: Tuesday, **March 26th**. Families with children who will be age 5 by **August 1** may stop by to register anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Pre-K Roundup (for children who will be 3 by **August 1**) will also take place on the 26th, from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m., at schools where Pre-K is offered in conjunction with the LaPorte Family YMCA and Imagination Station: Pine, Lake Hills, Marsh, Springfield, and Coolspring.

Magnet Schools

Pine and Lake Hills are now accepting applications for next school year! Paper copies of the elementary magnet school application for 2013 are available at elementary buildings and the Ad Building, or families may apply online. Deadline for applications: **April 19, 2013**. Visit the following link for more information: <http://EducateMC.net/magnets>

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Did you know that as a MCAS employee, you (and your dependents) can take advantage of a free, confidential program to help you with personal concerns and connect you with legal, financial, and academic resources? Click the link below to read more about this employee benefit:

<http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/4/20130131142008145.pdf>

Summer School

MCAS summer school courses will run **June 17** through **June 28**, will be off the first week in July, and will run again July 8 through 19. Students will attend Monday through Friday. Elementary programs will be housed at Joy and Lake Hills and will include remediation (grades 1-3 and 5), iREAD remediation (grade 3), project-based themes (grades 1-3), and Kindergarten Countdown. Middle and high school programs will be housed at MCHS and will include remediation, "math prep camp," Drivers Ed, Phys Ed, and basic high school credit courses. Special Ed will partner again this summer to offer a program at Reins of Life. Safe

Harbor Summer Camp will operate [June 17 - July 26](#) at Joy. Sports camps will again be offered this summer (dates TBA) and Freshman Academy orientation will be held in August. Transportation, breakfast, and lunch will be available. More information/registration forms for summer school will be available after spring break.

Summer Professional Development

Teachers: Are you planning a vacation around professional development this summer? Bookmark the following link for the latest updates to the MCAS professional development planned for this summer. Information about registration will also be posted here, as it is available.

<http://educatemc.net/domain/82>

2013-14 Calendar

The 2013-14 school year calendar has been finalized. Click the link below for a one-page version that is now available on line. (Printed calendars will be ready later this semester.)

http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/calendars%20and%20map/2013-14_SchoolCalendar.pdf

Mammography After Hours

St. Anthony invites all women who are MCAS employees (along with spouses, moms, children, etc.) to a "Mammography After Hours" event on Thursday, [April 18](#), between 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Digital mammograms, free chair massages, food, and more... Please RSVP by [April 15](#) to (219) 877-1980. Follow the link below for more info:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/MichiganCitySchools.Mammography.4.18.13.pdf>

Firehawk News

The Michigan City Robotics Team 3936 will be competing at the Midwest Regional on [April 4-6](#) at the UIC Pavillion in Chicago, Illinois. The team has constructed a 110 pound robot that can throw Frisbees and lift itself onto a pyramid to earn points. It will compete on an alliance with two other robots against an alliance of three robots to (hopefully!) earn a spot in the Championships in St. Louis in April. For webcast information,

visit: <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/event-webcasts>

Please support the team at a giveback at Swingbellys Restaurant on [April 16](#). For more information, call Herb Higgin at [873-2026](#) x 8740.

Save the Date!

The 2013 Retirement/Wall of Fame dinner is set for [Thursday, June 6](#), at the Blue Chip Stardust ballroom. More information (including nomination forms for the Wall of Fame) will be available after Spring Break.

Social Networking Parent Workshop

MCHS and the Parent Network invite all MCAS parents to attend a workshop on [April 16](#), from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the high school media center. The topic: "Safe Surfing: Social Media Tips for Parents." The presenter is Chris Mahlmann, CEO/Publisher of Ideas in Motion Media and LaPorteCountyLife.com. Don't miss this one!

MCAS Art Teachers' Show

The Lubeznik Center for the Arts is now featuring an exhibit of work by Michigan City Area Schools Art Teachers! The exhibit runs through April 14. An opening reception will be held at Lubeznik in conjunction with the First Friday event on April 5 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. The Lubeznik Center is located at 101 W. 2nd Street and is open weekdays 10-5, weekends 11-

4. Be sure to stop by to view the outstanding work of our talented art teachers.

Give Back for Pine School

Enjoy a meal from Chili's on Tuesday, **April 9**, and help Pine Elementary School! Visit the following link for a "give back" coupon for this event:

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/15/Chilis%20Give%20Back%20Night%20Voucher%20-%20Pine%20Fine%20Arts%20Magnet%20School%20-%20April%209%202013.pdf>

April: Prevent Child Abuse

April is Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month! (You will be seeing blue awareness ribbons and/or pinwheels at schools, the MCAS Transportation Dept., and other locations across our city.) National statistics show that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are victims of child sexual abuse before the age of 18, and that 90% of the time, the child knows the perpetrator. To learn more about how you can recognize and respond to warning signs of abuse and how to protect children, please contact Dunebrook at (219) 874-0007. And remember, if you suspect child abuse is occurring – call **1-800-800-5556**.

MCAS staff interested in learning more about nurturing parenting skills are also invited to attend a session at NIEF on this topic, by child abuse prevention/parenting expert Dr. Stephen Bavolek. More info is

here: <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/BAVOLEKFLYER.pdf>

Our community partners at Dunebrook have also asked that we make staff aware of the following events during April:

April 6 - 10:00am Walk to Prevent Child Abuse - Ames Field in Michigan City

April 10th - 5-8pm Buffalo Wild Wings Give Back - LaPorte, A percentage of all food sales including carry-out will go to Dunebrook (no coupon necessary).

April 10th-16th - Al's Supermarkets - "Donate A Dollar, Keep A Child Safe"

April 13th - Al's Supermarkets - Open House for Dunebrook 9-12pm - Come learn more about Dunebrook and receive a free book while supplies last from any of Al's Indiana locations.

April 13th - 9:00am "Fun in Michiana" WEFM 95.9FM - Dunebrook in Michigan City

April 16th - Holly's Give Back - All day-- Michigan City and WEFM broadcast at Holly's from 1-4pm; a percentage of all sales will go to Dunebrook.

WAY TO GO

- Congratulations to **Dori Wiegand** (Food Service, Edgewood) who entered Edgewood in a contest sponsored by the Dairy Council of Indiana... and won some big prizes! During a recent breakfast promotion, Edgewood students saw the greatest increase in the state in milk consumption, and as a result, one lucky Edgewood student received the grand prize in a design-a-milk-carton contest. The

student received an autographed Colts football, the school received an X-Box to use as a recess/behavior reward, and Dori received \$300 to use on equipment for the school kitchen!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Pantry "On the Go" April 1st

The Food Bank of Northwest Indiana will be holding a free food giveaway on **Monday, April 1st** in Michigan City at the American Legion (121 Skwait Legion). The distribution will take place from 3-5:00pm and is open to anyone in need of food. They don't ask for proof of income, however proof of Indiana residency (drivers license, ID, library card, utility bill etc.) is required. Individuals should bring bags or boxes to carry the food home. A flyer on the Food Pantry "On the Go" is here: <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>

Financial Literacy Links for Kids/Teens

First Trust Credit Union sponsors web sites that offer fun online games/activities for elementary, middle, and high schoolers on financial topics. Visit this link to view them: <http://googolplex.cuna.org/17041/> First Trust also sponsors financial literacy classes and speakers - contact Laurie Franke-Polz at (219) 877-2290 for more info.

Favorite Place in Indiana Essay Contest

In honor of Historic Preservation Month, Indiana's Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology is sponsoring an essay contest for 4th graders called "My Favorite Place in Indiana." Essays, ranging from 100-400 words, should tell about a historic (50 years or older) place in Indiana and why it is his/her favorite historic place. The submission deadline is **April 29** and judging will take place on **May 1**. Send essays to: Jeannie Regan-Dinius, Director of Special Programs, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 402 W. Washington Street, Room W274, IGCS, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739 or email to DHPAConnect@dnr.in.gov. For more information about the contest call (317) 234-1268 or email Assistants@dnr.in.gov.

Planning Ahead - AI's Supermarket Involving Kids

AI's (both Franklin and Karwick) is planning several activities for students this spring, some that have academic tie-ins...

1. On **March 30**, 2013 AI's will be having an Easter Egg hunt at all locations at 9:00 am **sharp**. The Franklin St. location will also be having a special visitor that day-The Easter Bunny! He said he will be HOPPY to have his picture taken with children! On that same day the Franklin St. location will also be conducting open voting for the MCHS Art Contest.
2. In April, AI's will be holding an Earth Day contest titled " Re-purposed for a Purpose " - this will be offered for two age groups, 6-10 yr. olds and 11-15 yr olds. Each entry should be a re-purposed project/item from either home or school. Each entry must be accompanied by a one-page description explaining the process and final purpose of the entry. (Think: Science-fair-ish). All participants will be awarded a \$5 gift Certificate. There will also be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner (prizes to be announced at a later date). Entries must be turned in no later than **April 16**, 2013. All submissions be taken to the Service Desk where they will be assigned a number.

Entries will be displayed with a corresponding number. The winner will be announced on [April 22](#), 2013. The three winning entries will be based on three factors 1) Customer votes 2) Creativity 3) Originality.

3. In May, Al's will be sponsoring a Mother's Day Essay Contest. There will only be one winner per store. The age group for participation will be announced at a later date. The prize for the winning essay will be a " Spa Day " gift basket valued at \$50! All entries must be **handwritten** and contain no less than 2 paragraphs. Entries must be turned in by [May 8th](#), 2013. The winner will be announced on [May 11th](#) (so that the winner can pick up their prize to give to Mom on Mother's Day). Also on [Saturday May 11th](#) all stores will offer cake decorating for kids. The fee is \$2 and the event is from 10am-Noon. They will also have " Plant a flower for Mom " and " make a card " stations set up for the kids that day.

Questions? Call Becky Neulieb, Al's Franklin Floral Manager, at [219-872-1816](tel:219-872-1816)

New on "Community Backpack"...

- Taltree Arboretum Summer Camps
- Trail Creek Softball and T-Ball signups
- April Programs from the Laporte Co. Library
- "Character Counts" Program for Teens (Worthy Women Recovery & Laporte YMCA)
- "Train the Trainer" Kindergarten Readiness Workshop for Teachers (Imagination Station)

Visit <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49> for details on these and other community events!

ENJOY SPRING BREAK!