

# MCAS Communicator

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

## April 2015

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

### **MCAS & Google – An Important Update from Technology!**

Last week we made a change to the “sync process” between our system and Google. This means all student Google passwords are now the student’s ID number. We hope this makes management of these passwords for classroom teachers easier and the initial setup for the student very simple and quick!

After spring break, Technology will be working with building and district administrators to transition them to Gmail and Google Apps. During the month of April, we will start scheduling after-school training sessions at buildings, to begin preparing all other staff for the transition to Gmail. Our official move from Zimbra to Gmail will happen the weekend of [June 12th](#).

Please be on the lookout for training opportunities in your building! Training will not be mandatory, but you will be expected to be able to use the e-mail system after the switch over occurs. We anticipate more training for other Google tools being available over the summer. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Technology.

### **SPAM-tastic!**

Technology is using a new spam filter! This system allows everyone to manage their own email spam (it is similar to what we had before with Fortimail, but better algorithms reduce the SPAM you see in your inbox). To check your new quarantine you can use this link: <https://email-quarantine.google.com/messagecenter>

Log-in with your MCAS Google Apps username and password; feel free to call x8359 or email [support@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:support@mcas.k12.in.us) with any questions. Additional instructions explaining how to sign-in, allow, and block emails in the new quarantine are here: <http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/Page/164>

### **Spring is here...**

Due to snow makeup days, the last day for students is now Friday, [June 5th](#).

### **Save the Date – MSP Workshops**

The Summer 2015 Math & Science Partnership Institute will again be about “MASTERing Videos.” The institute is scheduled for 10 days ([June 15](#) to 19 and [July 27](#) to 31). Participants are expected to attend all 10 days. Teachers will receive stipends and an iPad mini. The institute is open to math & science teachers in grade 6 to 9. Signup information coming soon!

### **Wall of Fame**

It’s time to nominate former MCAS employees for the Wall of Fame! Follow the link below for a nomination form, which is due Friday, April 24. The annual Retirement & Wall of Fame dinner is set for [Tuesday, June 2](#) at Blue Chip. More info and a registration form for the dinner will be coming to all staff after Spring Break. <http://educatemc.net/wof>

### **Elementary Art Exhibit**

The annual Michigan City Area Schools **Elementary Art Show** opens this Friday at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts in Michigan City, and will run through May 13th. A special reception for our student artists and their teachers will take place on April 30 from 4-6pm. Don't miss this great show!

### **Off the Wall Fundraiser**

Thanks to the support of the Michigan City Rotary Club, the Safe Harbor program will be holding a fundraiser entitled "Off the Wall" on Thursday, April 16th, from 2:30 to 7:00pm at the Lubeznik Center. The project has involved students from Safe Harbor working with Lubeznik Center artists to create framed chalkboard and cork board message centers. These unique frames are the result of a recycling project - the students used leftover yard signs from the referendum campaign last year and have transformed them into works of art. The frames will be sold for \$20 each on April 16th, and proceeds will be used to provide Safe Harbor tuition scholarships for students in need.

### **Robotics News**

Although the "Robo Blitz" (the Michigan City Robotics team) did not qualify for State this year, they are very proud of the students' accomplishments. The team is working on the completion of the Sensory Room at MCHS and looks forward to an Open House in May...watch for info on this in the May Communicator. Thanks to all for your continued support of our team and your encouragement along the way!

### **Healthy U @ Work!**

Click the link below to access Working Well's March newsletter... read up on diabetes and determine which is better ... coffee or tea?

[http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter\\_march2015.pdf](http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_march2015.pdf)

### **Wellness Screening**

Barker will be hosting its 2015 Wellness Screening on [May 19th](#) from 6:30am - 8:30 am. Follow the link below for a list of tests offered, related costs, and sign up info. Please note they will not bill Medicare.

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/BarkerMS%202015.2.pdf>

### **CPR Classes for Teachers**

The April CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal is now full. Watch the May Communicator for information on future classes that will be offered.

### **Mammography After Hours**

Franciscan St. Anthony Health invites all women affiliated with Michigan City Area Schools to take part in "Mammography After Hours" on [April 14th](#). This fills up quickly... please RSVP to the phone number on this invitation if you would like to attend:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/MichiganCitySchool.SAM.Mammo.4.14.15.pdf>

### **Mental Health First Aid Class**

The LaPorte County Drug Free Partnership will offer another Mental Health First Aid Class on [May 19](#), 2015. (Their April 9 and [April 30](#) classes are full.) Youth workers, teachers, aides, food service employees, parents and church youth leaders may benefit from this training. The class is 8 hours and it is being offered free of charge and a full lunch is provided. If you have any questions contact Joe Bunch at [219-210-9809](tel:219-210-9809) or Micki Webb at [219-575-0246](tel:219-575-0246). To register follow this link:

<http://mhfa.eventzilla.net/web/event?eventid=2139073444>

## WAY TO GO

Congrats to JROTC instructor **Tom McGrath**, who was profiled recently by LaPorte County Life as its "Life in the Spotlight"... read about it here:

<http://www.laportecountylife.com/features/life-in-the-spotlight/51570-a-laporte-county-life-in-the-spotlight-tom-mcgrath>

**Pine Elementary** is the recipient of an Indiana Arts Commission Partnering Arts, Communities, and Education grant. This is a \$10,000, two-year grant that will fund an extensive arts-integrated literacy program for third and fourth graders, led by an artist in residence from the organization Arts for Learning. Congrats!

## GIVE BACK

The A. K. Smith Career Center is having a "give back" event at **Hacienda** on Monday, April 13. Proceeds will help students with entry fees for state competitions. Follow this link for the required coupon, and THANK YOU for your support!

<http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=36&PageType=17&DomainID=21&ModuleInstanceID=20&EventDateID=17844>

Krueger Middle School 8th grader Neva Panayi is traveling to New York this summer to perform at Carnegie Hall as part of the Middle School Honors Choir Performance Series. Please help Neva raise funds for travel and registration fees at the "gofundme" link here... or drop off your donation at Krueger. Thanks!

<http://educatemc.net/neva>

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### First Friday

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association invites YOU to attend First Fridays! The first Friday of each month (year round) special events, free entertainment, and more take place in the Uptown Arts District from 5-8pm. THIS WEEK (4/3) there will be a hat fashion parade, poetry slam, skateboard works of art, a stained glass tour, and etc. Read about it here:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/FF%20April%20Short%20.pdf>

### Zoobilee

The Washington Park Zoo Society invites you to attend its annual gala event, "Zoobilee" on Saturday, **April 18th**. The evening includes a dinner buffet, hosted bar, and silent auction and will feature the music of Katie Todd (Lauded by iTunes as one of the "top buzz bands in the country," Katie Todd has shared the stage with Patti Labelle, Steve Winwood, Sarah McLachlan and Juliana Hatfield. Her single "In and Around" was National Geographic's theme for their "Go Green" campaign). Tickets are \$75, and table and event sponsorships are available. For info contact Amy Wojo-Labis at MCHS or visit:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/zoobilee-2015-tickets-15381203594>

### Dodge Ball for United Way

The annual "Play4Life" Corporate Dodgeball Challenge for United Way will be held at Marquette on **May 16** from 10-2. Admission for fans is free... team registration is \$400 (for a team of 8 players). To register, follow this link:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/unitedwaylpc/event/48323/>

**NEW on Community Backpack**

There are several new postings on our "Community Backpack" page!

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>

- Pop Warner Youth Football Clinic at Ames
- Wolves Athletics Open House
- MC Sports League Youth Baseball Clinic (**Takes Place During Spring Break!**)
- YMCA Spring Break Camp (**Spring Break resource!**)
- YMCA Summer Adventure Camp
- SAFY 5K Run and Walk in Chesterton
- Women in Science Expo at PNC for grades 6-12 (**Takes place SATURDAY!**)
- Salvation Army Summer Camp (**SIGNUPS END TODAY!!**)
- HealthLinc Photos with the Easter Bunny (**This FRIDAY!**)

**ENJOY SPRING BREAK!!**