

# MCAS Communicator

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

## April 2016

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

### **Power Down**

Reminder from Technology: Please remember to shut off all equipment at the end of the each day; leaving the Elmos on at night burns out the LED boards in them faster. It's especially important to power down all electronic equipment before you leave for Spring Break... which means end of the day today! Thank you!

### **First Friday Tonight**

As featured on page 1 of yesterday's News Dispatch... Pine Fine Arts Magnet Elementary will be part of the Michigan City "First Friday Art Walk" TODAY (April 1). Students will perform from 5:00 - 8:00pm at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. 7th Street. Stop by to enjoy!

### **Wall of Fame/Retirement Dinner**

The MCAS Retirement & Wall of Fame dinner will be on Tuesday, May 24 at Blue Chip. Cost will be \$35; registration forms will be available after spring break. We will be honoring distinguished retirees and inducting four into this year's Wall of Fame: Fran Booth, Norm Bruemmer, Robert Robinson, and Judy Stark.

### **Athletics Open House**

The Michigan City High School Athletic Department will hold an Open House on Wednesday, April 27 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Coaches representing each of the 22 sports offered at our high school will be on hand to speak with students and families -- especially middle school students interested in finding out more about athletics as they progress to the high school level. Please spread the word to students you know who may be interested, including those currently attending private elementary/middle schools.

### **Come Watch Robo Blitz**

The Michigan City Robotics Team has finished 16th in the state of Indiana after two district competitions and qualified for the FIRST Robotics State Competition! This exciting competition takes place at Memorial Gymnasium in Kokomo, E Superior Street, Kokomo, IN 46901 on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16 from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm. Come and cheer Michigan City's RoboBlitz on. You'll enjoy an "electrifying" day!

### **Catch Me If You Can**

Michigan City High School's spring musical is "Catch Me If You Can" -- the true story of a teenage con man who posed as a pilot, doctor, and lawyer on a cross country crime spree. (The story was the basis of a hit Broadway musical and a movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio.) You can catch "Catch Me If You Can" at Michigan City High School on Friday and Saturday April 22 and April 23 at 7:00pm, and on Sunday April 24 at 2:00 pm. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students.

### **School Year Calendar**

Looking for a handy one-page calendar for the 2016-17 school year? Here it is:

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/calendars%20and%20map/MCAS%20Calendar%20201617.pdf>

### **Healthy U @ Work Newsletter**

The Doctor-Patient relationship, basil recipes, food allergies, ask the trainer, and more!  
[http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter\\_march2016.pdf](http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_march2016.pdf)

### **EAP April Newsletter & Webinar**

Our Franciscan Alliance Employee Assistance Program is offering a webinar on the "25 Top Coping Skills" and "Exercise After 40" on April 20 at 1:00pm. Register at:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8933196996215322370>

To read more about these topics, read this month's EAP news here:

[http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/EAP\\_April\\_2016.pdf](http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/EAP_April_2016.pdf)

### **CPR Class**

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal is scheduled for May 17. Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, which is at 100 Manny Court, adjacent to Lake Hills Elementary. The fee is \$40 cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions. The certification lasts two years. Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski ([lbechinski@educatemc.net](mailto:lbechinski@educatemc.net)) to sign up.

### **Elementary Art Show**

The MCAS elementary art show opens TODAY at the Lubeznik Center, and it will run through May 16. A special reception honoring the artists (and their teachers!) will be held on **April 21** from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Be sure to stop by and view the work of our talented students.

### **Color Run - Sign Up Deadline is April 8th!**

The MCHS Junior Class is sponsoring a 5K Color Run/Walk on Saturday, April 23. Whether you are a runner or just like a leisurely (fun!) walk, this is an event for you! During the race, participants are doused with color at various color stations, and it ends with one final color celebration at the finish line. You've seen them done in bigger cities like South Bend and Chicago, and now you have the opportunity to be a part of one right here in Michigan City! MCHS Student Registration: \$20 Public Registration: \$30. T-shirts are not included after 4/8/16. To register, follow this link: <http://educateMC.net/colorrn>

### **United Way Dodgeball Challenge**

Teams are needed for the United Way Dodgeball Tournament, which will be held on Saturday, April 23 at Elston. This year, proceeds for the event will benefit MCAS elementary athletics! Registration is only \$200 for a team of eight players (three must be female). Adults only - age 18 and up may compete. Follow the link below for more info and plan to join the fun! (**Note:** *Dr. Eason-Watkins has pledged to sponsor the first MCAS team who asks her....*)  
<http://unitedwaylpc.org/events>

### **Runnin for Prestin- MCAS Discount**

The 4th annual "Runnin' for Prestin" 5K and 10K race will be held on September 17, 2016 in Washington Park. (The run was initiated in support of Prestin Butcher, a LaPorte county boy who was diagnosed with an aggressive brain cancer at age 10 but is now cancer free; proceeds now support Riley's Children's Hospital's pediatric cancer research team.) MCAS employees can get a reduced registration fee of \$20 for the 5K and \$25 for the 10K by entering the promo code HERO4ZERO at: <http://www.runninforprestin.com>. Questions? Contact [info@runninforprestin.com](mailto:info@runninforprestin.com) or (219) 309-0572.

### **Joy "Viking Run"**

Save the date! Sign up early! Joy Elementary School is holding a 5K and "fun run" on Saturday, May 7th to support improvement of their playground and grounds. Early Bird discount and a free t-shirt for those who sign up by May 5th. Visit the event site here to download an entry registration form:

<http://educateMC.net/vikingsontherun>

### **Bicentennial Parade Information**

Schools, organizations, bands, musical groups, teams, etc. are invited to take part in the Michigan City "Star Spangled Bicentennial Parade" on July 2. Former Elston principal Warren E. Jones is grand marshal this year, and many units will honor Indiana's 200th birthday. Information is here:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/parade.pdf>

### **YOU Can Make a Difference**

Safe Harbor is looking for new volunteers to sign up as mentors in the school-based mentoring program, Hours for Ours. This program partners adults from our community to be a mentor to a student in one of our schools. Hours for Ours builds relationships that increase students' academic achievement, improve self esteem, and lower the frequency of behavioral issues. If you've been thinking about doing this... now is the time to try it! Call (219) 873-2026 to learn more and become a mentor.

### **Track Crossing Repair**

CSX will be performing track work in Michigan City during the week of 4/11/16. This work will primarily be replacing rail between Roeske and Woodland. In order to change the rail, the crossing at Greenwood Ave. will be closed and there will be a detour. Be sure to follow detour signs and allow extra time if you are traveling in the area.

### **Need Insurance (or Know Someone Who Does?)**

Follow the link below for a quick summary of Indiana's health coverage plans or MDwise Marketplace, created and offered under the Affordable Care Act. For both adults and school age children/teens!

[http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/Everyone\\_deserves\\_insurance\\_July2015.pdf](http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/Everyone_deserves_insurance_July2015.pdf)

### **Mammo After Hours**

St. Anthony is hosting its annual Mammogram After Hours event for MCAS staff on Tuesday, April 26, with extended hours of 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Follow this link for a flyer with info:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/MichiganCitySchool.SAM.Mammo.4.26.16.pdf>

### **Club Discovery News**

Students in the Club Discovery after school program, along with participants in the Tech Club and the Music Group at Krueger, have worked together on a project that resulted in the creation of a music CD. Tech Club students coordinated equipment operation and set up support and also arranged and produced music. Music students developed the concept, wrote the song and provided lead and background vocals. The name of the group is "Studio Fire" and the name of the song is "What I Do". T'Andre Harris, Safe Harbor CCR Coach, and Katie Wall, Lubeznik Center music teacher, coordinated the project. (Note: Barker also created a CD, "I'm Winning.") Watch for a link to listen to these tunes online, coming soon!

### **Barker Craft Fair**

Barker Middle School is having a Spring Craft Show to help fund BNN studio equipment and future STEM projects. The show will be Saturday May 21 from 9-2pm in the Barker gym. They are currently seeking vendors with "crafty" talents. Direct selling companies, Scentsy, 31, Pampered Chef, etc. are welcome. A 10 X 10 space is available for \$25 that includes one 8 ft table. Additional space and tables are available for an additional fee. For info contact Kristi Steinhiser at [Ksteinhiser01@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:Ksteinhiser01@mcas.k12.in.us) or call 219-877-7263. A vendor application is here:

<http://educatemc.net//site/Default.aspx?PageID=28&PageType=17&DomainID=17&ModuleInstanceID=16&EventDateID=20200&CurrentView=month>

### **Conducting Field Investigations - An Educators Workshop**

On Saturday, April 16, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. area educators are invited to attend a workshop on conducting outdoor field investigations. Participants will try a wide variety of hands-on activities that they can use to sharpen students' skills in observation, questioning, and designing investigations. The workshop is open to all educators, but is most suitable for those teaching grades 6 - 12. The event will take place at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and is open to both formal and non-formal educators including teachers, pre-service teachers, home-schooling parents, naturalists, scout and youth leaders, and anyone who works with youth. Registration is \$35; visit <http://duneslearningcenter.org/adults/> or call (219)395-9555. Hurry - space is limited!

### **Housing Opportunities Presents: The Homestretch**

Housing Opportunities invites educators to attend a free screening of the film "The Homestretch." This is an excellent opportunity for our community to assist students who may be dealing with homelessness. "The Homestretch" follows three homeless Chicago teens as they fight to stay in school, graduate, and build a future. The screening will take place on Thursday, April 21, 4:00 - 6:00pm at the Elston Performing Arts Center. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by April 18 to [Caroline Shook cshook@hoi.help](mailto:cshook@hoi.help) or 219-286-3309. Here is a trailer for the film: <http://www.homestretchdoc.com/trailer/>

### **IUSB Special Ed Grad Programs**

Michiana area educators and staff are invited to attend the next monthly IUSB School of Education Graduate Programs information session on Tuesday, April 5th, on the Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education (MAT). The MAT is for individuals who have already earned a Baccalaureate degree but who are interested in becoming licensed as special education teachers in mild intervention (P-12). For more info: Judy Gawlik, Recruiter, School of Education, [jgawlik@iusb.edu](mailto:jgawlik@iusb.edu), (574) 520-4175.

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/Graduate%20Degree%20Programs%20Info%20Session.pdf>

### **Sam's Club Offer**

Sam's Club in Merrillville invites MCAS employees to join them on Saturday, April 9th from 10am-6pm for a special weekend of savings. Anyone who brings in the flyer below will receive \$30 in Instant Savings when they join or renew their Sam's Club Membership. Free Health Screenings will also be available from 11am-4pm. Questions? Contact Nikki Lebetter, Membership Team Leader, [nllebet.s08174.us@samsclub.com](mailto:nllebet.s08174.us@samsclub.com)

Flyer link:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/join%20and%20save.pdf>

### **Art Scholarships**

The Michigan City Public Art Committee offers up to \$200 per year for visual art classes or individual art instruction for qualified children between 5 and 18 years of age. Funds can be used for instruction in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, collage, crafts

such as beading, mosaic, sewing and weaving, or art camps taught by a legitimate instructor. (The committee will not fund music, writing, dance, or drama instruction.) Applicants must show financial need and take instruction from an art provider located in the Michigan City limits. The deadline for applying is 30 days before the instruction begins. Applications are available at the LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Marquette Mall, or contact Jane Daley, [jane@michigancitylaporte.com](mailto:jane@michigancitylaporte.com)

**Community Backpack** - New on <http://educateMC.net/communitybackpack>

- Free Salvation Army Summer Camps sign ups (April 14 & 15)
- Indiana Xtreme Elite Cheerleading
- Parks and Rec Youth Baseball sign ups
- And more!

One final announcement: Our friends at Plant Planning report that the Dairy Queen drive thru on Franklin is now open! **ENJOY SPRING BREAK**