

# MCAS Communicator

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

## April 2019

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

### **IU Educator Survey**

The Deans from Indiana University's Schools of Education from across the state are coming together to develop new online graduate opportunities, including a flexible master's degree program for teachers. They want to understand the most pressing professional development needs of Indiana's K-12 teachers, including their interest in specific course topics and program delivery methods. Please take a moment to complete this survey (by Friday, April 19th) to help shape the opportunities available to Indiana educators.

**Survey Link:** [IU Survey for Educators](#)

### **CPR for Certified Staff**

CPR classes for certified staff in need of license renewal will be held on Thursday, April 11 at 3:15pm at Mullen (100 Manny Court). The cost is \$50, cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions at the class. Classes last approximately 2 hours. CPR books are available to borrow from any nurse's office if you need to review prior to the class. Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski in advance to reserve your spot, or with any questions - [lbechinski@educateMC.net](mailto:lbechinski@educateMC.net).

### **Safe Harbor Middle School STEAM Success Camp**

Safe Harbor, in collaboration with their Michigan City Robotics Team, is offering a FREE one week STEAM Success Camp from June 10th to 14th at AK Smith Career Center. The camp will provide middle school students a chance to enjoy virtual reality applications, 3-D printing, robotics activities, CAD (Computer Aided Drawing) programs, swimming, and daily field trips. The camp is from 8:30 to 3:30. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Sign up is limited to the first 20 students.

*Note: A registration form for this and two other "Summer of Innovation Camps" for middle school students in June (including a Manufacturing Camp and the MCPD Youth Leadership Academy) will be available after Spring Break.*

### **Food Service News**

The Food Service Department wishes everyone a pleasant and safe Spring Break. On April 22 we will be celebrating Earth Day in the elementary schools with "Dirt Pudding." Earth day is a time to promote environmental awareness in order to protect our planet. It is also a time to be thankful for the planet we live on and promote ways to preserve and make our planet beautiful. So don't forget to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!

### **Nooses Off!**

Michigan City High School's Theater Department will perform its spring play, "Nooses Off," April 26-28 in the high school auditorium. This is a murder mystery whodunit that centers on the cast and crew of an amateur theater production -- and it promises to be very entertaining. Friday and Saturday performances will take place at 7pm, and the Sunday matinee will take place at 2pm. The show is directed by Michigan City High School math teacher, Charles Puetzer, and student director, junior Dante Morland. The cast features six

seniors: Trinity Clayton, Jenna Dawson, Bailee Laux, Tommy Komay, Julia Miller, and Ashlee Orman, alongside several underclassmen. Don't miss this!

### **Disney Bound!**

Did you know? The Michigan City High School Marching Band has exciting plans for spring break: they will be traveling to Disney World! Approximately 40 of our band members will be making the trip to Orlando, Florida, where they will be marching in a parade at the Magic Kingdom and will have a three-hour workshop in a recording studio at Epcot with a Disney Music Director. The band has been fundraising and planning for this trip for over a year, and we wish them all the best as they represent our high school.

### **Run with the Wolves**

Don't miss the "Run With The Wolves 5k Fun Run," a fundraiser organized by the Michigan City High School Class of 2021. The run will be held on April 20 at Washington Park starting from the Tennis Pavillion. Those who register by April 1 will receive an event t-shirt and pack of biodegradable colored powder to throw at the end of the race. Registration the day of the race begins at 8:00 am, and the race will start at 9:00 am. To register, visit the MCHS Facebook or:

[https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/MichiganCity/RunWithTheWolves5KFunRun?fbclid=IwAR2Q0fj6TIJnnnX\\_yapQVG5F6dY1GpNpS5F-xsTpLyjWDEBkzoajJwLICn8](https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/MichiganCity/RunWithTheWolves5KFunRun?fbclid=IwAR2Q0fj6TIJnnnX_yapQVG5F6dY1GpNpS5F-xsTpLyjWDEBkzoajJwLICn8)

### **Substance Abuse Grant**

Michigan City Area Schools is one of 12 public and private school corporations that have received funding from the Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte, through a new initiative called Partners in Prevention. Our district's \$12,000 planning grant is assisting us in the preparation of a competitive grant by May 6th that will center on providing our students with evidence-based substance abuse prevention programs. The Healthcare Foundation of La Porte plans to award up to \$2.8 million to La Porte County schools for planning and three years of implementation grants to reduce students' substance use through this initiative.

### **National Park Passes for 4th Graders**

Every year, beginning September 1, all children in the fourth grade have access to their own Every Kid in a Park pass. This pass provides free access to national parks across the country. The Every Kid in a Park pass is good for the 4th grade school year, until August 31, 2019. Information on obtaining the pass - including class passes and activity ideas for teachers - is available by visiting [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov).

### **Free and Confidential Mental Health Services**

As an employee of MCAS, you qualify for 6 FREE mental health counseling sessions for you and your immediate family members. This is part of our "EAP" (Employee Assistance Program). Click on the link below for more information on this important service:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202018/2018%20You%20are%20not%20alone%20poster.pdf>

### **April EAP Newsletter: Civility**

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202019/Franciscan%20Employee%20Assistance%20Program%20April%202019%20Newsletter.pdf>

### **April "EAP" Webinar**

Please register for "Civility" and "Off Balance Core Moves - A Whole New Way To Workout" on Apr 17, 2019 12:00 PM CDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1196231665377814029>

### **Retirement Dinner - Save the Date**

The 2019 Retirement and Wall of Fame dinner will be held on Monday, June 3 at Blue Chip. More details and a registration form will be sent out in late April.

### **AK Smith Server Training**

An Adult Server Training program is beginning April 8th at AK Smith, through our Adult Education Department. This program is geared for people already in the industry who want to improve their skills in this profession. Students will study everything from the 9 steps of great service to how to increase your customers' purchases, which in turn makes your tips increase. Classes will be held Mondays - April 8th - 29th - 3pm till 6pm. For info, contact Mary Koselke at [mkoselke@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:mkoselke@mcas.k12.in.us) or leave her a message at 219-873-2120, ext 8731.

### **PNW Early Childhood Conference**

Registration is now open for the 13th annual PNW Early Childhood Conference, which will be held on Saturday, April 27 at the Westville campus. For more information about the conference and for a link to register, go to:

<https://centers.pnw.edu/early-learning/early-childhood-conference/>

### **Patriotic Parade**

Michigan City's Patriotic Parade is Saturday, June 29. If your group or organization would like to take part, please complete the form below. (Note: As always, MCAS will have a unit participating, and all are welcome to march along with us.)

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4757XBSByzSD\\_D4VX3qzbH1s-6d746jd5JScs76CKq4m4XQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4757XBSByzSD_D4VX3qzbH1s-6d746jd5JScs76CKq4m4XQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1)

### **Attention, SUPERS**

Are you following @MCASSupers on Twitter? It's #MCASIncredible!

### **Healthy U at Work Newsletter - March**

Diabetes and Pre-Diabetes, Asparagus, 25 Habits of Happy People and more...

[http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww\\_newsletter\\_march2019.pdf](http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_march2019.pdf)

### **Calling all Couch Potatoes**

Barker Middle School invites you to stop by after school to run/walk a mile inside Barker... this is taking place daily through April 22.

### **K-12 Sunscreen Poster Contest**

The Indiana Academy of Dermatology and the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association are pleased to introduce a statewide educational poster contest for Indiana students in grades K-12. The purpose of this contest is to educate Indiana schools and educators about the new Indiana law allowing students to easily bring and store sunscreen at school for personal use. Additionally, the contest aims to educate students on healthy behaviors and will direct teachers to some useful resources on the IN Department of Education website. Students have the opportunity to create educational artwork and winners and their schools will receive cash prizes. The deadline for artwork submission is May 3, 2019. Entry forms and additional details can be found here:

<http://www.inacademyofderm.org/contests.html>

### **Retirement Workshop**

The Porter County Retired Teacher's Association is hosting its annual Teacher's Retirement Workshop on April 13 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Valparaiso High School at 3801 North Campbell Street, Valparaiso. They welcome any interested school employee within 5 years

of retirement to attend. Todd Wooten from Blue Sky will be discussing taxes in retirement, maximizing Social Security benefits and more. Call to reserve your spot: (219) 548-9370 by Thursday, April 11, 2019. More info:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202019/RetirementWorkshop.pdf>

### **Salvation Army Silent Auction**

The Salvation Army of Michigan City will hold a "Spring Fling" dinner and silent auction fundraiser on Thursday, May 2 at the Traditions Event Center (formerly White Eagle Park). This event is a revival of the Fall Harvest Auction, which was held every fall for more than 60 years to support the work done by The Salvation Army. Proceeds will support the many services provided by The Salvation Army including its food pantry, men's overnight homeless shelter, diaper bank, utility assistance, transportation assistance, summer camp, school uniform exchange, weekend backpack feeding program, and more. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased here:

<https://donate.sawmni.org/event/mc-springfling2019/e224164>

*Note: If you would be willing to donate an item for the silent auction (gift basket, artwork, event tickets, timeshare, etc.) please contact Betsy Kohn!*

### **SAVE THE DATES - GIVE BACKS & OTHER EVENTS FOR TEAM MCAS!**

April 11th - Give Back at Five Guys for Middle School Football

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202019/FGposter1MF.pdf>

April 13-20 - Give Back at Five Below benefiting Pine's Reading Incentive Program

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202019/Pine%20Fundraiser%20FiveBelow.pdf>

April 16th - Give Back at Chipotle to support Pine Elementary:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202019/PineHacienda.pdf>

April 20 - "Run with the Wolves" 5K Fun Run at Washington Park - Register HERE:

[https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/MichiganCity/RunWithTheWolves5KFunRun?fbclid=IwAR2Q0fj6TIJnnnX\\_yapQVG5F6dY1GpNpS5F-xsTpLyjWDEBkzoajJwLICn8](https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/MichiganCity/RunWithTheWolves5KFunRun?fbclid=IwAR2Q0fj6TIJnnnX_yapQVG5F6dY1GpNpS5F-xsTpLyjWDEBkzoajJwLICn8)

### **WAY TO GO!**

- Congrats to Career and Technical Education Director **Audra Peterson**, who will be honored by Ivy Tech Northwest with an honorary degree at its graduation ceremony on May 11th!
- Congrats to our Superintendent, **Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins**, who is being honored by the Boy Scouts as its 2019 Distinguished Citizen at their awards luncheon on April 11th. Anyone available is welcome to attend the (free) luncheon in her honor; please RSVP by April 4th - info is [here](#).
- The Tuholski-Oberlie Environment and Arts for Youth Fund has approved a grant for a mural project at Marsh Elementary that was submitted by Art teacher **Sarah Quartuccio**. Way to go!

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

- Piranhas swimming signups

- Bowling Fundraiser for MC Commission on the Social Status of African American Males (April 2)
- "Dance with Me" Class
- Tutoring at Ivy Tech
- YMCA Game Night for Teens (March 29)
- Spring Break Camp at Paladin
- Hoosier Star Vocal Auditions (March 16 and 17)
- Pop Warner Tackle Football and Cheer Signups
- **PLUS: more flyers will be posted by Monday!**

#### **Calendar Reminders:**

April 19 - Good Friday - NO SCHOOL

April 20 - "Run with the Wolves" 5K at Washington Park, 8am lineup, 9am race start

April 26-28 - MCHS Spring Play "Nooses Off", 7pm Fri/Sat and 2pm Sun

May 6-10 - Teacher Appreciation Week

May 7 - Election Day (SCHOOL IN SESSION)

May 9 - Pops Nite band concert @MCHS, 7pm

May 10 - MCHS Prom

May 17 - Showcase Concert @ MCHS, 7pm

June 3 - Retirement/Wall of Fame Dinner @ Blue Chip

June 5 - July 2 - Summer School (Monday - Friday)

June 5 - Adult Education Graduation, Elston Holdcraft Auditorium, 6pm

June 9 - MCHS Graduation, noon

**HAVE A WONDERFUL SPRING BREAK!!!**