

MCAS Communicator

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

April 2012

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

Wellness Screenings at Barker

Barker Middle School is hosting a wellness screening on **April 27th** from 6:30-8:30 a.m. Click the following link for more information:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/20120328073159039.pdf>

Magnet School Applications

Magnet school applications for Pine and Lake Hills are now available! Deadline for submission (online or in person at the Ad Building) is **April 20**. Most slots will be available **only** at the kindergarten level for the 2012-13 school year. Families will be notified of placement by **May 18** for kindergarten; available slots for grades 1-5 will be filled in August. For an online application and much more info about the Magnet Schools, visit: <http://educatemc.net/magnets>

Lost Key Reminder

If you have lost an MCAS key, replacement cost is \$50. Contact your building secretary, who can submit a work order for you for a replacement key. There is currently no charge for a lost fob, however it is important that you notify your building secretary or Plant Planning immediately so that your lost fob can be deactivated and a new one issued.

MCAS Logo Wear Still Available

Polo shirts (both cotton and poly "performance" style) and lightweight fleece jackets are available, featuring 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://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/Logowear_Combined.pdf

Cable Channels Update

Comcast has stopped broadcasting all analog cable channels to our area cable. If you are missing local network channels, this is probably the cause! Questions? Contact Paul Papp.

Please Power Down

Technical Services would like to remind everyone that electronics should be turned off at the end of the day, due to the possibility of lightning storms, etc. This includes radios (please remove from charging base), base radios, TVs, DVD/VCRs, studio equipment, sound systems, computers, printers, etc. This is particularly important over spring break.

K-8 Art Show Reception

Please join our MCAS elementary and middle school art teachers and their talented students at an opening reception for the annual K-8 Student Art Exhibit at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts. The reception will be held on **April 19**, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. -- and the art will be on exhibit at the Lubeznik Center through **May 22**. Be sure to stop by...and bring a friend!

Dress for Success Update

At the [March 27th](#) Board Meeting, the MCAS Board adopted the "Dress for Success" dress code for students at **all** MCAS schools next fall! For more information and a brochure that outlines the dress code specifications for next year, visit: <http://educatemc.net/dfs> (Note: Horizon Bank has agreed to match donations to the "Dress for Success" fund, which will help provide clothing for students in need next fall... if you are interested in contributing to this important fund, send donations to: Unity Foundation, P.O. Box 527, Michigan City, IN 46361 noting that they are for the Michigan City Area Schools' Dress for Success fund. Credit card transactions may be made by calling Unity at [879-0327](tel:879-0327).)

MCESP Food Drive

The Michigan City Education Support Professionals would like to thank all employees who donated to their recent Spring Food Drive, which benefited the Salvation Army Food Pantry. **You** are making a difference for families in our community!

Tea and Tails

The Hours for Hours mentoring program invites you to enjoy Tea & Tails, an Hours for Ours FUN-draiser on [Thursday, April 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.](#) at the La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Marquette Mall. Tea & Tails is a silent auction of one-of-a-kind mugs, handmade by local artists and Hours for Ours participants. There will also be tea and coffee vendors, Michiana Humane Society cats & dogs, food available for donation, cards for sale by the Lake Hills Adventurous Potato Paper Company, door awards, and fun for all!

Culinary Students at Jewel

Students from the Culinary Academy at A. K. Smith will be at Jewel-Osco on Franklin Street serving free samples of Roasted Leg of Lamb and Ham and Northern Bean Soup on Sunday, [April 1](#) from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Be sure to stop by for a taste! This is part of an ongoing partnership between the class and Jewel, which provides goods for students to cook and serve at the store to customers.

Mother's Day Contest

Jewel-Osco invites students in grades 3-5 to enter its Mothers Day essay contest. The topic is: "Why My Mom is Wonderful". Winning essays will be awarded prizes that the children can give to their mothers, including a gift basket, flowers, and a large decorated cookie. For more contest information, visit this link: <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>

Kick Butts Day

On [Wednesday March 21](#), VOICE students advocating for tobacco-free air raised their VOICE during the MCAS middle school lunch hours at Barker and Elston. (Kick Butts Day is a day for activism when thousands of youth "STAND OUT ... SPEAK UP ... and SEIZE CONTROL" against the tobacco industry.) More than 450 signatures were collected to support a smoke-free campus. Activities included student presentations and a demonstration that involved students breathing through a straw, plugging their noses, and jumping up and down for 30 seconds -- to simulate emphysema (try it!). Special thanks to Safe Harbor staff who worked hard with students on raising awareness of the negative effects of tobacco.

Robotics Team Heading to World Championships!

No doubt, you've heard the great news by now: The Michigan City Robotics team and their robot "Firehawk" are heading to the WORLD Championships on [April 25-28](#) in St. Louis! The team was named "All Star Rookie Team" at regional competition at the University of Illinois Circle Campus Pavilion in Chicago, where Firehawk placed 15th out of 49 teams overall... a stellar performance for a first-time team. Congrats to Herb Higgin, Sherri Silcox, and the many community and parent mentors that have worked with the students! Special thanks to Plant Planning for their assistance in crating and shipping the 400+ pound Firehawk robot for shipment to St. Lois this week. Visit the team web site at <http://www.mrobotics3936.com/>

Have YOU Checked Your SPAM?

Our new "spam" filter is working very well... however, you will find that several legitimate emails are getting trapped in "quarantine"... so be sure you are reviewing these at least once daily! (Tell your friends...). There are three ways to release your quarantined emails:

1. Click "release" on the quarantine summary email sent daily
2. Click "click here" on the bottom of the quarantine summary email (and sign in) or
3. Log into <https://spam.mcas.k12.in.us>

These functions will work everywhere (work, home, vacation, etc). Don't forget you may have to click "I understand the risk" and accept if it's the first time you use this function or computer. If you need further help or have questions ask your lab assistant, email support@mcas.k12.in.us or give Walt Drescher a call at x8374.

Help Amy

Barker Science teacher Amy Hamman will be participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer on [June 2 & 3rd](#) in Chicago... and she is holding a fundraiser to support her effort. Please join her for an Italian Beef Lunch on [Saturday, April 14](#), from 12:00-3pm at the Clubhouse Bar & Grill, 415 E US Hwy 20, Michigan City. She is asking for a \$5.00 donation for lunch, and there will be raffles, a 50/50 drawing, a "closest to the pin" contest and more. For more info/tickets contact Amy Hamann, Barker Middle School at ahamann@mcas.k12.in.us or [898-0523](tel:898-0523).

Fishing Club News

MCHS has a new student club... the Fishing Club! This club is in need of the following donations: tackle, fishing poles, & money for bait. Any items can be sent to Doug Robertson at MCHS (room N115) or send him an email at drobertson01@mcas.k12.in.us and he will arrange for someone to pick up your donation. Also, The MCHS Fishing Club will be hosting a Fish Fry on [April 29th](#) at the MCHS cafeteria from 4:30-7:30. Enjoy fresh caught salmon and steelhead... prepared with help from Culinary Academy students. Frozen fish will also be available for purchase. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

Mammography After Hours

"Mammography After Hours" returns on [Wednesday, April 18](#) from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at St. Anthony in Michigan City. This is available to women who are affiliated with MCAS (employees, spouses and moms). Digital mammograms will be offered but this requires pre-registration. Most major insurances are accepted. There will be free chair massages and drinks & hors d'oeuvres. See the flyer at your building for more information... or call [219-877-1980](tel:219-877-1980).

WAY to GO!

- Congrats to MCAS School Nurse **Arlene Hudgens**, who recently received her Nationally Certified School Nurse (NCSN) certification. School nurses who become

certified go through a rigorous study period to pass a difficult test, and then must prove themselves regularly in a re-certification process.

- Welcome to new MCAS Chief Financial Officer **Lance Werner**. Lance comes to MCAS from the South Shore Railroad, where he has served as Controller and Treasurer since 1998, managing the company's accounting, finance, and human resource operations. He will assume his new role with MCAS on [April 16th](#).

Community Announcements

- Northwest Athletic Club will hold its second annual **Dyngus Day Dash** 5K Run and Walk on [April 9th](#). Don't miss your chance to be a part of this event, which will benefit the American Red Cross LaPorte County Chapter. Please contact Nicki Northwest Athletic Club Director, at (219)879-4401 with any questions. For more information, visit: <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/ModuleInstance/55/Dyngus%20Day%20Dash%205K%20Application.PDF>
- The **Purdue North Central Women's Association** invites MCAS employees to attend its Spring Luncheon on Saturday, [April 28](#), from 11-2. Cost is \$25. The speaker is Kristi Marsh, who will be addressing the topic "Creating a Healthier Home," focusing on harmful chemicals in our environment. For more information visit: <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/PNCWALuncheonFlyer.pdf>
- Purdue North Central will be hosting **magician Randy Bernstein** for a special "Family Fun" performance on [April 21st](#). Tickets are only \$3...fun for all ages! For more information, visit this link: <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/ModuleInstance/55/FFTeventmagicbyrandy.pdf>
- Also on Saturday, [April 21st](#), at 7:30 p.m. the **LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra** will hold its annual Pops Concert at the LaPorte Civic Auditorium. This concert will be a festival of pop melodies, with six soloists who earned top honors in a state-wide vocal competition and a stellar choir called "Illumination." From Broadway to Beatles, movie hits to Madonna and some "Glee" on the side...there will be show-stopping entertainment for all ages. Plus: children/students are FREE with I.D. For tickets, visit lcsso.net or call (219) 362-9020.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SPRING BREAK!!!!