

# MCAS Communicator

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

## April 2014

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

### **Snow Makeup Day**

Last week, the MCAS School Board approved the use of Good Friday as a snow makeup day. School WILL BE IN SESSION on Friday, [April 18](#). Remaining snow days will be made up in June. The last day of school for students is currently [June 6](#).

### **Budget Proposal Information**

Reminder: Information and Powerpoint presentations (pdf format) from the [March 25](#) School Board meeting are available online. Look for the budget news item on our home page at <http://educatemc.net>

### **CPR Training for Teachers**

There will be another CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal on [Thursday, May 22](#). Please contact Linda Bechinski at [lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us) if you are interested in attending. The training will take place at Mullen and will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$35 cash (please bring exact change) or check (payable to Opportunity Enterprises).

### **Save the Date**

Fourth and Fifth Grade teachers...save the date for this summer's Math and Science Partnership Institute, which will be held [June 16-20](#) and [July 28-Aug 1](#) at Barker, 8am-3pm. The theme of this year's institute is "MASTERING Videos – Mathematics Applied to Science, Technology and EngineerRING Videos." All participants must attend both weeks and will receive a stipend and iPad mini! More information and online registration coming soon.

### **Art Shows at Lubeznik**

Don't miss the Middle School Art exhibit, which is on display at the Lubeznik Center through [April 9](#)! Elston, Barker and Kreuger art students worked hard to produce some fantastic pieces in both two dimensional and three dimensional media. Coming soon: The Elementary School Art exhibit – [April 18](#) through [May 23](#). Be sure to stop by for the opening reception on [May 1](#), from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. These exhibits are in the lower level of the Lubeznik Center in the NIPSCO Art Education Studio.

### **SPAMmed Again**

We had yet another "spam" attack on our email system this past weekend... spammers tricked several of our employees into clicking on links, opening attachments, or providing passwords. Remember, our MCAS Tech Dept. will NEVER ask you for your password via email.

### **Summer School**

MCAS summer school courses will run [June 23](#) through [July 24](#). Students will attend Monday through Thursday. Elementary programs will be housed at Lake Hills and will include remediation (grades K-5), iREAD remediation (grade 3), and Kindergarten Countdown. Middle and high school programs will be housed at MCHS and will include credit recovery,

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 16 - July 25](#) at Joy. Sports camps will again be offered this summer (dates TBA). Transportation, breakfast, and lunch will be available.

### **Wall of Fame**

Michigan City Area Schools is now seeking nominations for the 2014 Wall of Fame. This annual award, first presented in 1976, honors former school employees who have made outstanding contributions to the children of the Michigan City Area Schools. Nomination forms are available at all school offices, or on our website at <http://EducateMC.net/wof>. Deadline for nominations is Thursday, [April 24](#). The MCAS/MCEA Wall of Fame and Retirement Dinner will be held on Monday, [June 9](#), at Blue Chip. All employees (certified and classified) are welcome to attend. Reservation forms will be available in May. Watch your email!

### **Tune In to City Pride**

Thanks to the generosity of community donors, MCAS has started a 12-week series of radio shows on WEFM 95.9 called "City Pride." These half-hour shows, which are hosted by Ron Miller, air on [Saturday](#) mornings at 8:30 a.m. and are re-broadcast every other [Thursday](#) at 5:30 p.m. They are also aired on ALCO TV (Comcast Channel 99), twice daily - visit our web site for times. These shows spotlight our programs and students and are designed to raise awareness of the many opportunities we have to offer. The next two shows spotlight the MCHS Cityzen/Yearbook and Pine Elementary's magnet programs. Please tune in!

### **Club Discovery News**

A Youth To Youth grant application submitted to Leadership La Porte County by several Elston Middle School 6th grade students has received first phase acceptance. All applications for the grant were required to be community service in concept and application. The students' project is titled "Neighborhood Rescue" and they hope to be a resource in the removal of trash, leaves and other debris from properties occupied by elderly, handicapped, disabled and low income residents within a defined radius of Elston. The students will present their project to a Youth To Youth panel for final approval in April.

### **Robotics Update**

Michigan City FIRST Robotics Team 3936 will be competing in the Midwest Regional at UIC Pavillion in Chicago on [Friday, April 4](#) and [Saturday, April 5](#). Opening ceremonies begin at 8:30 am on both days. Qualification matches start at 9:00 am on [Friday](#) and go until about 5:30 pm. Qualifications continue on [Saturday](#) morning at 9:00 am and go until 12:15. Alliance Selections for the tournament take place at 12:15 pm. Tournament starts at 1:30 pm. Enjoy the excitement of FIRST Robotics Competition! Admission is FREE.

### **Nike at Knapp**

The NIKE store at Lighthouse Place has partnered with the Knapp School's Safe Harbor site. NIKE's "Access to Sport" team members come to Knapp twice every other week to work out with students in a number of structured recreation activities. The NIKE team has been showing kids motivational techniques that they use in the workplace and educating them about physical fitness. NIKE has made a significant investment, partnering with First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Active Schools campaign. We thank NIKE and their team for partnering with our program. With NIKE's support, we hope to move this into other schools in the near future!

### **Bus Drivers Wanted!**

MCAS is seeking bus drivers (and subs) for next school year. Summer training will be provided and will include assistance in obtaining the required CDL license. If you know of anyone who might be interested please have them contact Val Skwiat at Transportation, [873-2127](tel:873-2127) or email [vskwiat@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:vskwiat@mcas.k12.in.us).

### **Lubeznik PD Workshop**

The Lubeznik Center invites teachers, parents, and after-school staff to attend a professional development workshop facilitated by Matthew Baron of the "Future Hits" educational rock band on [Wednesday April 16](#) from 1-3pm. Attendees will receive a certificate for Two Professional Growth Plan creditable hours towards license renewal. Click on the link below for more information:

[http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/FutureHits Workshop flyer.pdf](http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/FutureHitsWorkshop%20flyer.pdf)

### **Board Info and Invites**

Reminder: Our School Board is now "paperless"! If you have invitations, school newsletters, flyers or other information please send them electronically (email, scan, etc.) to Tonya Falls ([tfalls@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:tfalls@mcas.k12.in.us)) and she will make sure they are provided to Board Members.

### **Mammography After Hours on April 15th**

St. Anthony Health Michigan City invites women of all ages who are affiliated with MCAS - employees, spouses, moms etc. - to attend a "Mammography After Hours" event on [April 15](#) anytime between 3:00 and 7:00 pm. Important: You must RSVP at [219-877-1980](tel:219-877-1980). This is a popular event - first come first served for available time slots. Free food, chair massages, and mammograms. For more info:

<http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/MichiganCitySchools.Mammo.4.15.14.pdf>

### **Rotary Holding Benefit for Safe Harbor**

The Rotary Club of Michigan City is hosting a benefit dinner for Safe Harbor on Friday, [April 25th](#). This is a "craft beer and fine wine paired dinner" at Pottawattamie Country Club. The event will include a dinner with each course paired with both a craft beer and fine wine. Tickets are \$75 per person, \$700 for table sponsors (8 tickets). Live and silent auction items are needed for this event - if you have an item please contact Lance Werner at [werner@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:werner@mcas.k12.in.us). For more info:

<http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/FineDineBeerWine.jpg>

### **International Night**

Michigan City High School has teamed up with the International Student Exchange (ISE) to host an "International Day" event on [April 22nd](#). Featured will be current exchange students teaching the public about their culture while serving authentic food from their homeland. This event is free to the public and runs from 6PM - 8PM in the MCHS cafeteria. All ages welcome!

### **Volunteer Gardeners Needed**

Come brush off the winter blues! Help the "Growing Up Green" task force beautify our schools' courtyards. Volunteers will help with planting, building fences, painting, moving wheelbarrows of mulch and set up of water features. Volunteer 1 [Saturday](#) or all 4. First up: the European courtyard at Edgewood School [Saturday, April 19](#). Next is the Mexico/Latin American garden at Edgewood School on [Saturday, May 3](#). We will complete the ethnic gardens at Edgewood School on [Saturday, May 17](#). The Marsh Historical Rose garden will be planted on [Saturday, May 31](#). We will start each [Saturday](#) at 9:00 and work until 3:00.

Shovels and tools will be available or bring your own. Bring a brown bag lunch. Water and soda will be provided. Your help will be greatly appreciated. John Tiedeman - Purdue Master Gardener/Safe Harbor Horticulture [jtiedeman@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:jtiedeman@mcas.k12.in.us)

### **And MORE Volunteers Needed...**

The Salvation Army in Michigan City is seeking volunteers for "Comcast Cares" day on Saturday, [April 26](#) from 8:00 until about noon. Lunch and a free t-shirt provided. Volunteers will help paint the basement and do other projects including landscaping and general cleanup. Groups of students are welcome, supervised by an adult. The Salvation Army will receive a donation from Comcast for every volunteer who comes to help with this effort! Please see attached for a flyer about this and a parental permission form - although it states that parents must accompany kids, middle/high school can attend as a group with just an adult chaperoning. Forms can be turned in to Bill Brutto (info on the flyer below) or to Betsy Kohn at the Ad Building before spring break.

<http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/SACCD.pdf>

### **WAY TO GO!**

- Lakeshore Public Media recently featured **Krueger Middle School** - check out their video coverage of the Magna Award honor that Krueger earned recently from the National School Boards Association: <http://lakeshorepublicmedia.org/web-exclusive-area-school-earns-natl-honor-for-science-center/>
- Joy Elementary Special Ed teacher **Stephanie Rozinski** was featured in a recent PCG Education newsletter. Click on the link below to read more about Stephanie and the "LASSI" pilot program in her classroom: <http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/SUCCESSNewsletterWinter2014.pdf>
- MCAS has received a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant from the Indiana Department of Education. This grant will enable us to provide after-school services for 300 students at six elementary sites. Thanks and congrats to **Safe Harbor**, the **Boys & Girls Club**, and our many community partners!
- Congratulations to the entire staff of **Michigan City High School**, which had a successful site visit last week by AdvancEd. The site visit team indicated that its recommendation will be for Accreditation of our high school. Accreditation through AdvancEd is an extremely rigorous process, involving a great deal of preparation. It incorporates surveys and interviews of staff, parents, students, and community members; documentation of goals, data, and instructional practice; and finally the site visit. Way to go!

### **SCHOOL and COMMUNITY NEWS**

Please support these give-back events for our schools and programs!

**Joy School Association** give-back at Hacienda – Monday, [April 7<sup>th</sup>](#) Click link below for coupon:

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/10/Hacienda%20coupons.pdf>

**Springfield PBS** give-back at Holly's – **Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>** – Click link below for coupon: <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/16/Hollys%20Give%20Back.pdf>

**Pine Elementary** students have created note cards featuring Water Lily paintings inspired by the work of Claude Monet, and they are selling them as a fundraiser. Packs of 6 cards are \$5. To order, contact art teacher Holly Beadles at Pine – [hbeadles@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:hbeadles@mcas.k12.in.us).

The annual **United Way Dodgeball Tournament** is **May 17th**. For team registration and much more info visit this link: <http://www.unitedwaylpc.org/dodgeball-2014>

**Horizon Bank** is extending a special offer to MCAS employees: a \$100 bonus for those opening a new checking account with direct deposit. Flyers with coupons for this have been sent to all buildings. For more information, or if you have had trouble opening accounts at other banks, contact Bill Gertner, Horizon Bank, at [\(219\) 874-9233](tel:(219)874-9233).

There's a lot NEW on "**Community Backpack**" -

visit <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49> for details on all of these:

- MC Beach, Water, and Pier Safety Expo on **May 23**
- MCPD Police Department Youth Leadership Academy for middle school students
- Michigan City Youth Baseball signups
- LaPorte Parks summer programs
- Wolves Spring Break Basketball Camp
- Wal Mart's "Simple Giving" collection drive... Our local Wal Mart (5780 Franklin) is collecting **toothpaste, soap, and other personal care items** **March 22-April 7th** as part of a Champions for Kids "Simple Giving" project. All items donated will be donated to MCAS for students in need!