

MCAS Communicator

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

April 2017

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

Exciting News! Week of Code!

MCAS is partnering with the Economic Development Corporation of Michigan City and the Unity Foundation, with funding from Horizon Bank and the Michigan City Women's Commission, to hold a citywide **"Week of Code"** for students and community members May 6th through 12th. To kick off the week, Michigan City High School will host a two-day weekend computer coding boot camp (May 6 & 7) for adult community members (ages 16 and up). The following week, students from kindergarten through high school will take part in age-appropriate coding units and activities during the school day. All programs will be led by MCAS classroom teachers or by instructors from the "1150 Academy" a non-profit organization founded with the aim of closing the gap in the nation's technology skills. Visit the Week of Code web page for much more information, including a link to sign up for the Intro to Coding "boot camp," which costs only \$20 and includes lunch!

<http://educateMC.net/code>

MCAS Wellness Screenings

Working Well will be on site for wellness lab screenings/blood draws on the following dates/times:

- Thursday, May 4th from 6am to 8am – Michigan City High School (Library)
- Friday, May 5th from 6:30am to 8:30am – Joy Elementary (Gymnasium)

Information about cost, what tests are included, AND a link to register online can all be found at the link below. (If you have any questions not covered on this two-page flyer, contact Linda Bechinski, lbechinski@educateMC.net.)

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/MCAS_Wellness%20Check2017.pdf

Retirement Dinner Date

Save the date! The annual MCAS Retirement & Wall of Fame Dinner is May 31 at Blue Chip. Reservation forms will be distributed to all staff sometime in April.

Lilly Counseling Grant Update

MCAS is among 280 public and private school districts across the state of Indiana who have received a Lilly Endowment planning grant. The planning grant supports the development and implementation of innovative, promising and sustainable plans and the submission of a competitive K-12 Comprehensive Counseling Initiative Implementation grant. MCAS is working on a "cradle to career" proposal that would help provide counseling, mental health, and social service supports that meet the unique needs of our students and our community. This involves a comprehensive data analysis, best-practices study groups, conferences, site visits, and listening sessions involving staff, students, parents, community partners, and key stakeholders. Many thanks to the MCAS staff and community members who are working to develop the comprehensive plan for this grant proposal! We hope to have good news to share this fall when grant winners are announced!

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:
<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816EAP.pdf>

EAP Newsletters

March Edition: Gossip

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/EAPMarch.pdf>

April Edition: Parenting Children with Disabilities

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/EAPApril.pdf>

EAP Webinar Topics - "Resiliency" and "Parenting Children with Disabilities"

Register here for the Apr 19th webinar (12:00 PM CDT):

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/704835710757321730>

PNW CARE Math Workshop: Registration Open!

Purdue University Northwest will be hosting two, two-week workshops for elementary and middle school math teachers to enhance their teaching of algebra readiness. Elementary teachers in grades 3-6 and middle school math teachers in grades 6-8 are eligible to participate. Teachers only attend one, two-week workshop. The two-week workshops are only for teachers who have not attended a two-week CARE workshop. The workshops will be 8:00 – 3:00 on the PNW Campus, **June 19 – June 30 or July 10 – July 21**. MCAS teachers participating in the summer workshop will be paid a stipend of \$200 per day. The workshops are made possible by an Indiana Mathematics and Science Partnership grant. For details:

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/PNW_CareWorkshop.pdf

Healthy U @ Work Newsletter

In this issue: Are you getting enough sleep? - The Truth About Cholesterol - Artichokes... and more!

http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_march2017.pdf

CPR Classes

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held Thursday, April 27. Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, 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) to sign up, if you haven't done so already. Also, the American Heart Association has written new workbooks and there is one available in every school's nurse's office for review if needed. If you borrow one, please remember to return.

Retirement Workshop

Porter County Retired Teachers will be sponsoring a free Teachers Retirement Workshop at Valparaiso High School on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 9:00 am for all teachers and school employees planning on retiring in the next few years (including the current school year). Please pre-register by April 20; info is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/RetirementWorkshop.pdf>

Teachers Can Win Cubs Tickets

Want a chance to win a pair of Cubs tickets? Olivet Nazarene University's School of Graduate and Continuing Studies is giving away 10 pairs of tickets to teachers for the Cubs v Phillies game on May 2. One lucky grand prize winner will also have the opportunity to throw out the ceremonial first pitch during the game! A link to enter is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/CubsFlyer.pdf>

IUSB Grad School Info Session

Indiana University South Bend's School of Education will host another Graduate Programs Information session featuring its Master of Educational Leadership program. On Tuesday, April 4 at 4:00pm (Eastern Time) in Room 2112 of the Education and Arts Building. For more information, contact Judy Gawlik, Recruiter, School of Education, jgawlik@iusb.edu Phone: (574) 520.4175

Ethical Building Leadership

Olivet University is offering an online master's program for teachers who would like to become principals. It begins May 29th. More info is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/OlivetFLYER.pdf>

Athletics Open House

The Michigan City High School Athletics Department invites middle and high school students and their families to attend its annual Athletic Open House on Wednesday, April 19, from 6:30 to 8:00pm in the Wolves Den Gymnasium. Coaches from all sports at our high school will be on hand to provide information about participating in sports. Please share with anyone you know who may be interested. Public, private, and homeschool students are all welcome to attend, to learn more about the 22 teams at City!

Summer Camps, Summer School

The Michigan City High School Athletic Department is also sponsoring a series of summer camps for elementary and middle school age students -- our "Future Wolves." Information about these camps -- and about ALL of our summer school opportunities -- can be found online at www.EducateMC.net/summer.

Don't Miss the Odd Couple!

The Michigan City High School Theater Department will be performing its spring play, "The Odd Couple - Female Version" on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 21st through 23rd, at the Michigan City High School auditorium. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:00 pm and the Sunday matinee is at 2:00pm. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. See you there!

Elementary Art Show

The annual Michigan City Area Schools Elementary Art Show is on display at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, NOW through May 12th. This impressive show features works from students in kindergarten through sixth grade, from all schools in our district. A special opening reception honoring our talented student artists and their teachers will take place on Thursday, April 13 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Many thanks to our art teachers and to our friends at the Lubeznik Center for their partnership on this must-see annual art show!

MCPD Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Michigan City Police Dept., will be held on Saturday, April 8 in Fedder's Alley/Washington Park. Donations are needed (to purchase candy and prizes) and volunteers are also needed to help fill eggs on April 5 from 8am to noon at the Senior Center and to "hide" 50,000+ eggs on the morning of the event. Please see the flyer below for details about the event, donating, and volunteering!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/march%202017/EasterEggHunt.pdf>

PNW Express Admissions Day

Purdue Northwest is holding an "Express Admissions Day" event on Wednesday, April 5 at both Westville and Hammond Campuses. (Sessions are 10-1 and 12-3). This includes free registration, a campus tour, and lunch. For more information and to register:

<http://www.pnw.edu/schedule-a-visit/>

United Way Youth Day of Caring

The United Way of Porter County invites area youth to participate in a youth day of caring event on Saturday, April 22 from 9am to 1pm at Taltree Arboretum & Gardens in Valpo.

Free t-shirt, cookout, live music. To register: <http://nwivolunteer.org>

Attention, Bowlers!

The annual Junior Achievement Bowl a Thon will be held on Saturday, April 22 in Michigan City at City Lanes. Please let JA Director Lisa Scheller know if you have a team that would like a registration packet! Cell:(219) 508-4676, lisa.scheller@ja.org

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/march%202017/JABoWlaThon.pdf>

Elkhart Teacher Store Report!

MCAS classroom teachers are eligible to visit the Feed the Children "Teacher Store" in Elkhart (22365 Elkhart East Blvd.) for free supplies and materials. (Please note that this is only open to classroom teachers, not administrators or other certified staff/classified staff. Guests are not permitted to shop with you.)

Wondering what it's like? MCHS teacher Melissa Garno has submitted the following report after visiting the Teacher Store:

Monica Handley and I went to the Feed the Children Teacher's Store in Elkhart yesterday. We made a great haul! The director there told us that she is not getting a large quantity of teachers coming to the store, so I thought maybe you could send out a reminder that we are eligible. This is an awesome resource for us. Here are some tips I have for teachers that have not gone before:

1. Go! It is totally worth it.
2. The store is only open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3- 6 PM Eastern/ 2-5 PM our time, so you have to go as soon as possible after school because it takes about an hour to get there.
3. Go with a friend or 2, and take an SUV if you have one among you.
4. You can get up to 3 boxes of binders and 3 boxes of books right now.
5. Don't forget your school ID.
6. They will be open over Spring Break this year, in previous years they closed for a few weeks during Spring Break times.
7. You can go once a month! They get new stuff all the time.

8. *Make it a bonding experience with your colleagues. Take turns driving or chip in for gas money for the driver.*

Edgewood "E Waste" Event

Edgewood Elementary will be hosting a recycling project next month, to mark Earth Day. From April 10 -24 they will be collecting computer towers, laptops, cellphones, cellphone batteries, cd roms, cable boxes, ac adapters, modems, routers, servers, scrap aluminum, copper, brass and insulated copper wire. Watch your in-box for times and more details on this, coming after Spring Break.

Springfield Blood Drive

Springfield Elementary is having a Red Cross "pint size heroes" blood drive on May 11th from 1:30 to 6:30pm, and invites you to donate. For more info, contact Springfield Counselor Deby Carpenter - and complete the info below:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/SpringfieldBloodDrive.pdf>

Barker Craft Show

Barker Middle School is hosting a spring Craft Show on April 22 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Please share this flyer about it with family and friends:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/BarkerCraft17.png>

Pine Artwork Sale

The Pine Elementary School Art Club has established an "Artsonia" web page to promote the club. Any of the images that are on this site can be printed on various items and the art club receives 20% of each item sold. (Proceeds will be used to update print making equipment and to purchase a new brayer and "geli-prints") Check it out here:

<http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=77177>

Drink Root Beer, Give Back

Pine is having a "give back" at Carlson's on April 11th from 10am to 9pm. The required coupon is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us//site/Default.aspx?PageID=24&PageType=17&DomainID=15&ModuleInstanceID=14&EventDateID=23456&CurrentView=month>

WAY TO GO!

- Congrats to MCHS Associate Principal **Candy Van Buskirk**, who was named MCHS Principal for next school year at the Board meeting on Tuesday!
- Congrats also to Krueger Interim Principal **Justin Biggs**, who was named Principal of Krueger for next school year!
- Congrats to former Safe Harbor Director **Herb Higgin**, who retired last spring. He received the Ned E. Kalb Community Leadership Award last night, an award from the Purdue Extension Office and Leadership LaPorte County that annually recognizes a quiet, behind-the-scenes leader in La Porte County.
- Congrats to Krueger Art Teacher **Sarah Quartuccio** who recently had a project funded through Donors Choose. This will fund clay and glazes for a ceramic monster project her students will be doing in April!
- Congratulations to MCHS teacher **Ralph Gee**, who has been accepted for a six-week summer teacher research experience through Purdue University's Engineering Department. The research will focus on incorporating sustainable electronics into high school curriculum.

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

- Special Ed Parent Support Group Meeting
- Indiana Extreme Elite Cheerleading Signups
- Easter Egg Hunt Info
- Elston YMCA programs (Co-ed Baseball, Basketball, K-6 Soccer and more)
- Pop Warner Flag Football
- Parks & Rec Baseball and Softball Signups
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

- April 3-7 - Spring Break
- April 13 - Elementary Art Reception @ Lubeznik Center (4-6pm)
- April 14 - Good Friday (no school)
- April 19 - Wolves Athletics Open House (6:30-8:00pm)
- April 21-23 - Spring Play ("Odd Couple") at MCHS
- May 1-5 - Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 6-12 - "Week of Code"
- May 26 - Last Day for Students
- May 31 - Retirement/Wall of Fame Dinner
- June 4 - MCHS Graduation, 12 noon
- June 7 - Adult Ed Graduation, 6pm
- June 12 to July 20 - Summer School (Mon-Thurs, no classes week of July 4)

Here is a PDF version of the 2017-18 school year calendar:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/calendars%20and%20map/MCASCalendar1718.pdf>

ENJOY SPRING BREAK!