

MCAS Communicator

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

Back-to School Edition 2018

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

Welcome Back!

Welcome back, Team M.C.A.S.! You are reading the "MCAS Communicator," the monthly e-newsletter for all staff. If you know a colleague who does not regularly access email, please share! If you have news or other info you would like to include, please email Betsy Kohn at bkohn@educateMC.net before the last day of the month. The Communicator goes out the first day of each month. (Exception: September's will go out September 4th.) Back issues are located under the "Staff" channel on our district home page.

Team M.C.A.S. Polos

We are placing a follow up order THIS WEEK for anyone interested in purchasing a "Team MCAS" dry fit type polo shirt. Cost is \$17 (\$4 extra for sizes above XL) and the shirts come in navy and light blue. Please check with your school or department office to find out who is coordinating the orders for your building.

Additional Wolves Wear Opportunity

The MCHS Athletic Dept. is also offering an opportunity to purchase Wolves Wear. To see what they have and to place your order, follow the link below. Deadline to order is September 9th.

https://citywolves18.itemorder.com/sale?read_message=true

Yes, we are EducateMC

Did you realize that your email address also works as xxx@educateMC.net? It's true... you do not need to use [@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:xxx@educateMC.net). Our website is ALSO just <http://educateMC.net> - no need to use a longer URL. All of our schools also have web address shortcuts (e.g., <http://educateMC.net/barker>). Try it!

Your Staff I.D. = Your Free Ticket

Did you know your staff ID badge gets you in free to all MCAS home athletic events? Please come out and support our fall athletes! For a schedule of events visit the athletics web site at <http://michigancityathletics.com>

Teacher Appreciation at Ames

September 7 is "Teacher Appreciation Night" at halftime during the City vs Valpo game. All teachers are invited to sit in a reserved area and will be honored at halftime. See below for the official invite:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202018/TeacherAppreciationNite2018.pdf>

Tailgate Party!

The Wolves are also holding a "Game Day Tailgate Party" on Friday, September 7, prior to the Valpo game. The event is at the Plant Planning parking lot across from Ames Field, from 3-7pm. Purchase a port-a-pit ticket for \$10 from the MCHS athletic dept or any fall athlete; call 873-2043 or contact Craig Shaman at cshaman@educateMC.net. Please share the flyer below:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202018/tailgateparty2018.pdf>

Shuttle to Ames

Due to reduced parking options in the general vicinity of Ames Field, the Wolves will be running a shuttle bus to and from Marquette Mall and Ames Field. The shuttle will run on all football game days from 6-7:30pm, and for 45-60 minutes directly at the conclusion of all games (approximately 9:30pm). The pickup/dropoff location at Marquette Mall is the south parking lot outside of the former JC Penney. The pickup/dropoff location at Ames Field is the southwest corner of Wabash and Arthur streets. The shuttle is FREE! Please contact the MCHS Athletic Department at 219-873-2043 with any comments or questions.

City Seeking Feedback

The City of Michigan City is seeking thoughts and opinions on the Downtown Plaza. Follow the link below to complete a brief survey (available until September 15) and feel free to share with others.

<http://bit.ly/MCPlazaSurvey>

School Board Meeting Date Change

The regular monthly September MCAS School Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 18 (**not** Sept. 25).

eLearning Update

Approval was received last week from the IDOE for the use of eLearning Days in MCAS for 2018-2019. Stay tuned for more info, as we will now be working to prepare staff, students, and families for a successful launch of eLearning second semester.

Book Reading/Signing Opportunity

Dr. Jim Dworkin is interested in reading his new book *Red's Nature Adventure* to our students. To schedule, contact him at dworkinjim@gmail.com or call 219-363-2970. This book is the third in a series of his popular "Dog and the Dolphin" and "The Dog and the Jet Ski" books. Beautifully illustrated by Munster artist Michael Chelich, the story is set in the real-life northwestern Indiana nature preserves of Shirley Heinze Land Trust. The appendix includes information about the importance of protecting these natural places and how you can visit them. More info on the book is here:

<http://www.heinzetrust.org/reds-nature-adventure.html>

Trivia Contest

Get your team together! Our "Future Wolves" program is having another Trivia Night to raise funds for MCAS elementary sports. This time it will be held at the Michigan City Senior Center on Friday, September 14th. Food and drinks available for purchase. Trophy and bragging rights to the winner! See the flyer below, and see you there!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202018/TriviaFlyer2018.pdf>

Robotics News

Safe Harbor's Michigan City Robotics Program is gearing up for another exciting year! The high school's state champion FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team will host an introductory meeting for students on Tuesday, September 4th from 2:30 to 3:00 in Mr. Gee's room (0105) at Michigan City High School. Learn about the team, see the robot, and enjoy refreshments! Regular season meetings will start September 11 and will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 to 7:00pm in the AK Smith robotics lab.

The middle school FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) team will host a parent meeting for parents and students interested in more information about the team on Thursday, September 6 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the AK Smith basement. Refreshments will be served. Regular meetings will start September 11 and will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00pm in the AK Smith robotics lab. For more information call Sherri Silcox at 873-2026.

A message from Sodexo: Heating and Cooling

Sodexo manages the heating and cooling of the buildings using a sophisticated computer system for monitoring and programming. The district has established temperature setpoints (cooling is 74 degrees and 70 degrees for heating) that are aligned with your school schedule and events to ensure you have heating and cooling for the duration. It is imperative that all after-hours school events are communicated to Plant Planning in advance to allow us time to make adjustments to the HVAC schedule. It is also important to know that the HVAC equipment in your building is very different than your typical home units and any last minute adjustments to the schedule are not immediately realized. Be sure that your meeting/event is reported to your school office - they will make sure it's on the calendar for Sodexo!

Also, please ensure to submit any work order requests to your school office - the designated contact person for your building (usually your school secretary) enters these utilizing Sodexo's Maximo platform. This ensures prompt dispatch to the maintenance staff and allows you to be notified of any status changes. If you call Plant Planning and we enter the request, you will be unable to be notified of the status changes or completion.

Lands End Scholarship grades 6-12

Because we are a Lands End participating district, our students are eligible for this scholarship opportunity. We will be emailing this info to parents of students grades 6-12 but please also feel free to make students/families aware who you feel may be interested.

<https://www.landsend.com/starboard-scholarship/>

After-School Services

Safe Harbor is a 21st Century Community Learning Center providing After-School Enrichment to grades K-12. Enrichment services include STEM, Arts, Fitness, and Community & Cultural Engagement. After-school services are provided Monday-Friday from 3:00-6:00pm at Coolspring, Edgewood, Joy, Knapp, Marsh, and Lake Hills Elementary Schools. Elementary programs include a snack each day. Cost is \$20.00 per month.

After-school services are provided Monday-Thursday from 2:15-5:30pm at Krueger, Barker, and MCHS. Middle School and High School programs include dinner and bus transportation home each evening. Cost is \$5.00 per school year.

Mentors Wanted!

Hours for Ours is looking for a mentor like **you** for the 2018-2019 school year! Youth participation in Hours for Ours may be at the suggestion of a parent, child, principal, teacher or other school support staff. Student participation must have parent consent. Youth are matched with a mentor who has successfully completed the mentor application process and undergone a criminal background check. MCAS youth meet one hour per week with their mentor. Meetings take place in a designated area within the child's school, under the support of an Hours for Ours school site coordinator.

Youth and mentors spend time playing games, talking and building relationships based on support and trust. The mentor is an emotional 'cheerleader' for the child as he/she grows and begins to realize their potential and sprout dreams for their future. Mentors will meet during a student's lunchtime or in designated MCAS after-school program sites. Any

meetings between a mentor and a student outside of school or a designated Hours for Ours sponsored activity is between the mentor student and student's parent. Contact Abby May at amay@educatemc.net to become a mentor today!

CPR for Certified Staff

A CPR class for certified staff in need of license renewal will be held Thursday, September 13th at 3:30pm at Mullen (100 Manny Court). The cost is \$50, cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions at the class. Class lasts 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 for this class, or with any questions - lbechinski@educateMC.net.

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>

EAP Newsletter - August: Suicide Awareness

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202018/2018%20Franciscan%20Employee%20Assistance%20Program%20August%20Newsletter.pdf>

Healthy U @ Work August Newsletter

Reducing your CO2 footprint, eggplant, lyme disease, and more:

http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_august2018.pdf

Back to School Rally

Thanks to ALL who volunteered, exhibited and attended the 2018 Back to School Rally! There were plenty of extra backpacks left, at all grade levels. See your school social worker if you know of a student in need! Also there were 2 pairs of glasses found at the Rally (1) Child's blue prescription sunglasses and (2) men's oval prescription glasses. Contact Betsy Kohn if you know who these belong to.

Recycle Those Dried Up Markers

Have you heard about Crayola's free ColorCycle marker recycling program? (Last school year, Krueger recycled 13.4 pounds of markers through this program.) More info is here: <http://www.crayola.com/colorcycle.aspx>

Feed the Children Teacher Store

The Feed the Children Teacher Store in Elkhart provides FREE classroom supplies, books, etc. to teachers from qualifying districts (including MCAS). Please be sure to bring your school ID with you when you shop; they have an updated list of our classroom teachers and will be checking this list to confirm you are eligible to shop. Important: this is only available to classroom teachers; principals and other support/certified staff are not able to shop. You also cannot bring guests or children with you. And finally, remember that the store is on EASTERN TIME! See below for the 2018-19 store schedule and additional info.

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202018/2018-19%20Teacher%20Calendar_INDIANA.pdf

Grant Opportunity

The Indiana Retired Teacher Assn. has announced that its annual Active Teacher Grants are now available. They will award twenty \$500 grants. For more info and an online application:

<https://www.retiredteachers.org/active-teacher-grants>

Americorps Opportunity

Americorps is seeking tutors, career advisers, and capacity builders. Sponsored locally by the United Way of Porter County, AmeriCorps members' primary duties involve serving schools (including MCAS libraries) and nonprofits throughout Lake, Porter, LaPorte, and Marshall Counties in Northwest Indiana. Americorps members are age 18+ and work full or part time, some (but not all) while attending college or as a post-college service. Americorps pays an education award and living allowance, and offers loan forbearance for qualified student loans. If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining Americorps (and potentially serving in our district) they can begin the application process at unitedwaypc.org/americorps. If you have questions, contact Maddie Grimm, United Way of Porter County AmeriCorps Program Director, at 219.464.3583 ext. 105 or maddie@unitedwaypc.org.

Barnes & Noble Deals for Educators

Barnes & Noble in Valparaiso is holding Educator Appreciation Days this Saturday & Sunday (8/25 and 26). This includes 25% off list price on most books, gifts, music, DVDs, and toys and games for classroom purchase; 10% off all Café consumables purchases; and 10% off products to encourage tech-based fun including Air Hogs Hyper Drift Drone by Spin Master, Code Gamer by Thames & Kosmos, LEGO BOOST Creative Toolbox, and much more. On Saturday from 10-6, the store will also have a Harry Potter Bookfair with many Potter related activities and contests for kids and adults. For more info contact Michiele Gustin, p (219) 531-6551 crm2138@bn.com. Coming in October: Celebrate Educator Week, Oct 6-14.

Tommy Hilfiger Discount

MCAS employees receive a Corporate Partnership discount of 15% off your entire purchase, valid until October 31, 2018 at Tommy Hilfiger Outlet stores. Please show this ad (print or on a mobile device):

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202018/Tommy%20Hilfiger%20Corporate%20Partnership%20Discount.pdf>

WAY TO GO!!!

- Knapp 6th grade teacher **Mike Maesch** is one of 3 Indiana finalists in the 2018 Presidential Awards for Math and Science Teaching! He will be honored this fall in Indianapolis and will move on to be considered for the national award this spring!
- The **MCAS Adult Education** program was recognized last week for outstanding performance last school year, by representatives of the Indiana Dept. of Workforce Development visiting the area. MCAS was acknowledged as a leader among Adult Ed programs in the region!
- **Marsh Elementary** is a big winner... they are the NFL "Play 60" school for the State of Indiana! They will receive a trophy presented by the Colts cheerleaders to honor their incredible health and wellness program last spring. Top teacher **Michelle Hamilton** will be honored at the official Play 60 NFL game. Stay tuned for details!

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

- Hoosier Star 2018
- LaPorte County Children's Chorus (open to all kids, grades 2-8)
- LaPorte County Parks fall programs
- International Cultural Exchange seeks hosts families
- Champion Force Cheerleading
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

- September 3 - Labor Day (no school)
- September 5 - MCHS Open House, 5:30-7:00pm
- September 7 - Teacher Appreciation Night at Ames; Game Day Port a Pit
- September 14 - 7:00pm (doors open at 6:00pm) Triviafest for Future Wolves at MC Senior Center
- September 24-28 - College GO Week
- September 28 - MCAS/MCPD/MCFD Car Wash for the United Way (at Plant Planning)
- October 5 - Homecoming
- October 17 - Secondary Parent/Teacher conferences
- October 18-19 - Fall Break (no school)
- October 25 - Howl O Ween at Ames Field, 6:30-8:00 pm

Here is a PDF version of the 2018-19 school year calendar:

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/calendars%20and%20map/MCAS_201819SY.pdf