

MCAS Communicator

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

Back-to-School Edition - August 2016

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

Welcome to the 2016 MCAS Communicator!

Communicator is the electronic newsletter sent to all staff of Michigan City Area Schools. Watch for the NEXT edition of MCAS Communicator in early September... and then monthly through June. If you have an item to submit, email it to Betsy Kohn bkohn@educatmc.net by the last Friday of the month.

Reminder from Payroll

A reminder to teachers: Contracts have been issued. Please sign and return the yellow copy to the payroll office as soon as possible.

Team M.C.A.S. Polos

There are about 30 "Team MCAS" polos left, in various colors and sizes. They can be purchased at Reprographic Arts, 1017 Franklin St, Michigan City. Cost is \$12 for sizes up to XL, and \$14 for larger sizes. To ensure they have your size, call first: 219.872.9111

A Great Year to Mentor

The Safe Harbor Hours for Ours Mentoring program is seeking new mentors for the 2016-2017 school year. Hours for Ours is a school-based mentoring program partnering a Michigan City Area Schools student with the Michigan City adult/business community, thereby creating positive voluntary inter-generational relationships nurturing a child's potential. Mentors and mentees meet once a week during lunchtime or after school. To become a mentor, call 873-2026 or email amay@mcas.k12.in.us.

Free and Confidential Mental Health Services

Did you realize that 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://educatmc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816EAP.pdf>

August EAP Newsletter: Food & Stress

<http://educatmc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816EAPnews.pdf>

Healthy U @ Work Newsletter

Superfoods and supplements, stretching before/after workouts, cooking peaches, and more!
http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_august2016.pdf

CPR Class

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held on Thursday, September 22. 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@educatmc.net) to sign up. 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.

You're Invited: Wellness Wednesdays

Don't miss "Wellness Wednesdays" in Michigan City! This fun walk/run takes place every Wednesday through September 28th; meet at the Elston YMCA at 4:30pm and begin walking/running a 2.65 mile course through the Uptown Arts District. Fitness and FUN for the whole family!

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816WellnessWed.jpg>

Ship & Shore Blues Festival- Free for Students

The Blues Festival that will be at Washington Park on Labor Day Weekend is offering free admission on Sept 4th to all students who show a school ID. They must be accompanied by a paying adult. In addition to the performances, they will have a musical instrument "petting zoo" for kids to try instruments, plus other activities for children and teens. More info about this opportunity is here:

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1120850723636&ca=b1e6bdca-5605-4a69-9a6a-72d54b4c1f8d>

Homeward Bound Shopping Cart Walk

10 local organizations are working together to raise awareness and reduce homelessness in our area. They are inviting student or staff groups, teams, clubs, and etc. to join in a "Homeward Bound Epic Sidewalk Shopping Cart Parade" on Saturday, Sept. 17th in Michigan City. Follow the links at the Unity Foundation site below for more information about this unique opportunity to decorate a cart and have fun while raising some funds for local nonprofits serving those in need:

<http://uflc.net/homewardboundwalk/>

<http://uflc.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Parade-Flyer-6-17-16.pdf>

Support the Wolves

Remember, your MCAS staff ID badge gets you FREE admission to any home athletic event. Please support our Wolves teams this fall! (Visit <http://michigancityathletics.com> for a complete schedule of upcoming sporting events.) Note: Friday's football game vs Northridge begins at 6:30pm... all other home football games are at 7:00pm.

Game Day Tailgate Party

The MCHS Athletic Dept. invites you to a tailgate party on Friday, September 9th at the Old Al's parking lot across from Ames Field. Free music, activities, and FUN... Port-a-pit chicken meals are \$10 - see any MCHS athlete or purchase from the Athletic Dept. After the party, come on over to Ames to watch the Wolves take on the Valpo Vikings! Follow this link for a flyer about this event...please share!

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816tailgateparty2.pdf>

Olivet Grad and Endorsement Programs

Olivet Nazarene University offers a number of master's and certificate programs for teachers that can be completed online. Now enrolling! For more information visit:

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

Grant Opportunities

Lowe's "Toolbox for Education" Grants (deadline Sept. 28):

<http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/>

Unity Foundation Teacher Grants (deadlines in October):

<http://uflc.net/grants/teacher-grants/>

Runnin for Prestin- MCAS Discount

The 4th annual "Runnin' for Prestin" 5K and 10K race will be held on September 17 in Washington Park. (The run was initiated in support of Prestin Butcher, a LaPorte county boy who was diagnosed with an aggressive brain cancer at age 10 but is now cancer free; proceeds now support Riley's Children's Hospital's pediatric cancer research team.) MCAS employees can get a reduced registration fee of \$20 for the 5K and \$25 for the 10K by entering the promo code HERO4ZERO at: <http://www.runninforprestin.com>. Questions? Contact info@runninforprestin.com or (219) 309-0572.

Stuff a Bus

Al's Supermarkets, First Trust Credit Union, and MCAS are celebrating 13 years of "stuff a bus" to support the Salvation Army food pantry! Now through Sept. 6, you can make a monetary donation or donate non-perishable food items at First Trust (950 E. Hwy 20). On Saturday, Sept 10, volunteers will be filling MCAS school buses with bags of food in the parking lots of both Al's Karwick and Al's Franklin. Thanks for your support!

Hilfiger Discount for MCAS

The Tommy Hilfiger Outlet at Lighthouse Place is offering MCAS staff a 15% discount. Just show your MCAS ID or bring the ad below/show it via a mobile device.

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

Teacher Store in Elkhart

Again this year, MCAS classroom teachers are eligible to visit the Feed the Children "Teacher Store" in Elkhart 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.) Beginning September 6, you can visit the store anytime it is open (Tuesdays & Thursdays). See below for the detailed calendar, address/times, and more info.

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816Teacher%20Store%20Calendar.pdf>

WAY TO GO!

- MCHS Spanish teacher **Jennifer Gracyalny** will receive the 2016 EXTIMO (Exceptional Teaching Impact and Motivation) Student Voice Award for Outstanding Spanish Teacher, given by the Indiana Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. She will receive the award in November at the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association Conference.
- MCHS Guidance Counselor **Aaron Garrett** is a Hoosier Star Finalist! Please support Aaron at the finals on Saturday, Sept. 10th at 7pm at the LaPorte Civic Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.hoosierstar.com/>
- Marsh teachers **Alisa Carlson, Erin Breen, Michelle Hamilton, and Susan Shell** all received grants for classroom projects and materials through Donors Choose. Consider posting your project (or supporting a project) here: <https://www.donorschoose.org/>

Give Backs and etc....

- Pine Elementary will have a give back at Holly's on Tuesday, September 20th. Coupon coming in next issue's Communicator!

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

- LaPorte County Orchestra Children's Chorus sign ups

- Wellness Wednesdays in Michigan City
- Xtreme Elite Cheerleading sign ups
- Student Day at Ship and Shore Blues Fest
- LaPorte County Parks Fall Programs
- Zookeeper for a Day kids' program (Sept 17)
- And more!

HAVE AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL YEAR!