

# MCAS Communicator

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

## Back-to-School Edition 2017

*(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 info you would like to include, please email Betsy Kohn at [bkohn@educateMC.net](mailto:bkohn@educateMC.net) before the last day of the month. The Communicator goes out on the 1st day of each month! (Exception... September's will go out September 5.) Back issues are located under the "Staff" channel on our district home page.

### Eclipse Info

In case you haven't heard...we're about to have an out-of-this-world major solar event on Monday! Please be safe if you are outside on Monday between 11:55 and 2:45...especially at 1:21, which is the peak of the event here in our area (the eclipse here will be 89%). Regular sunglasses will not provide adequate protection! Teachers planning special educational activities should contact their building principal. To read a copy of the information emailed to parents (and posted to social media) visit the link below. There is also a lot of great educational information at the NASA site referenced here: <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/Page/13507>

### Team MCAS Polos

We are placing a follow up order for anyone interested in purchasing a "Team MCAS" dry fit type polo shirt. Cost is \$15 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!

### Yes, we are EducateMC

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

### Your Staff I.D. = Your FREE TICKET!

Don't forget, your MCAS Staff ID gets you in free to all MCAS home athletic events. Please come out and support our fall athletes! For a complete schedule of events visit the athletics website at <http://michigancityathletics.com/>

### Gameday Tailgate on Sept 1st

The Wolves are holding a "Game Day Tailgate Party" on Friday, September 1st prior to the Chesterton Game. The event is at the Old Als' lot across from Ames Field, from 3-7pm. Bring your own tailgate food OR purchase a Port-a-pit ticket for \$10 (includes drink and 1/2

chicken) - tickets are for sale from the MCHS Athletic Dept; stop by, call 873-2043 or contact Craig Shaman at [cshaman@educateMC.net](mailto:cshaman@educateMC.net).

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202017/tailgateparty\\_2017.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202017/tailgateparty_2017.pdf)

### **Teacher Appreciation at Ames Sept 1st**

September 1st is also "MCAS Teacher Appreciation Night" at halftime... all teachers are invited to sit in a reserved area in the end zone and will be honored at halftime. Teachers, watch your mailbox for details and an official invite, coming soon.

### **CPR Training for Certified Staff**

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held Thursday, September 14 and Thursday, November 16. 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](mailto:lbechinski@educatemc.net)) to sign up.

### **Did YOU Know?**

Safe Harbor supports daytime learning with out-of-school time programs for Michigan City Area Schools students at all levels. Elementary sites served are Lake Hills, Knapp, Edgewood, Joy and Marsh. Club Discovery takes place at Barker and Krueger Middle Schools and Club Inspire is the afterschool program serving Michigan City High School. Students at Coolspring School are bused to Joy for services. Boys and Girls Club provides afterschool programming at Springfield and Pine. Safe Harbor offers homework help, tutoring, academic enrichment, STEM, SPARK recreation, parent engagement, and a large variety of programs to engage, enrich and empower students to be their best. In addition, Safe Harbor runs the Michigan City Robotics Program, Hours for Ours Mentoring Program, and offers morning care at it's five elementary sites. For more information call the Safe Harbor office at 873-2026.

### **Ticket Monster: A Perk for MCAS Employees**

Ticket Monster Perks is our new entertainment benefit platform that offers you exclusive discounts on sports, concerts, theater, movie tickets and theme park tickets nationwide. Follow these three steps below and start saving today:

1. Go to [www.ticketmonsterperks.com](http://www.ticketmonsterperks.com)
2. Sign up & save \$5 on your first order!
3. Start browsing discount sports, concert, movie and theme park tickets nationwide!

\*If prompted, enter your company identifier: MCAS

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

### **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>

### **YOU are Needed to Mentor**

Another year of the Hours for Ours Mentoring program will begin in September! Become a mentor and make a difference. Mentors needed for elementary, middle school and high school students. To become a mentor, contact Abby May at [amay@educatemc.net](mailto:amay@educatemc.net)

### **Y-M-C-A...**

News flash: The YMCA at Elston just added a 6-6:30am workout class every weekday morning! Remember, all MCAS employees get a discounted membership at the YMCA.

### **MCHS Homecoming**

Homecoming is Friday, September 15th! Any schools or organizations that would like to be in the annual parade are welcome... email Student Council advisor Elaine Rivich & Katie St. Germain at [mchsstudentcouncil@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:mchsstudentcouncil@mcas.k12.in.us) to register or for more info.

### **Teacher Grants**

The Indiana Retired Teachers' Foundation offers small grants for school or classroom projects each year. The very brief application is due Sept. 30th:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202017/IRTF%20Active%20Teacher%20Grant%20Final%202016.doc>

### **Field Trip Grants**

Target Corporation is accepting applications for its Target Field Trip Grants program, designed to bring K-12 students to museums, historical sites, and cultural organizations. Grants are intended to fund visits to art, science, and cultural museums; community service or civic projects; career enrichment opportunities; and other events or activities outside of school. Funds may be used to cover field trip-related costs such as transportation, ticket fees, food, resource materials, and supplies. Grants of up to \$700 will be awarded in January 2018. Program guidelines and the application are here:

<https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/grants/field-trip-grants>

### **Tommy Hilfiger Discount for MCAS**

The Tommy Hilfiger store at the Lighthouse Place Premium Outlets offers MCAS staff a 15% discount. Show your staff ID and the coupon below, good through October 31.

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202017/Q3\\_Corporate%20Partnerships\\_US.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202017/Q3_Corporate%20Partnerships_US.pdf)

### **Benefit for Joy IA's Daughter**

Joy IA Becky Dipert is coordinating a benefit for her daughter, Lauren Malott, who is battling ovarian cancer. The event is on September 2 at the Moose Lodge and will help defray medical expenses. If you can attend, donate prizes for a raffle, or etc. please contact Becky at [rdipert@educateMC.net](mailto:rdipert@educateMC.net). More details about the event are here:

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202017/FB\\_IMG\\_1501688042787.jpg](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202017/FB_IMG_1501688042787.jpg)

### **Sumdog Math Contest Starts September 8**

Sumdog's Northwest Indiana math contest starts September 8, ending the following Thursday. The contests are suitable for all students in grades K - 8, as they adapt to each

individual's level. Students can play online either at school or at home using the website or the app. Visit <https://www.sumdog.com/contests> to enter. Questions? Contact Mara Young at [mara@sumdog.com](mailto:mara@sumdog.com)

### **WAY TO GO!**

- Congrats to Dr. Wendel McCollum, who will be inducted into the Michigan City High School Football Hall of Fame at this Friday's football game. Come on out and cheer him on!
- Congrats to **ALL OF US** on a successful start to the 2017-18 School Year. Mission Possible, TEAM MCAS!

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

- LaPorte County Children's Chorus (open to all kids, grades 2-8)
- Hoosier Star (featuring MCHS' own Aaron Garrett as a celebrity judge!)
- Triviafest on Sept 8 (supporting our MCAS Elementary Sports Programs!) - Email Betsy Kohn at [bkohn@educateMC.net](mailto:bkohn@educateMC.net) to form your team today - we are hoping for a capacity crowd!
- Dragon Boat Races benefiting Dunebrook
- LaPorte County Parks fall programs
- And more!

### **Calendar Reminders:**

- September 1 - Teacher Appreciation Night at Ames
- September 1 - Game Day Tailgate Party, 3-7pm
- September 4 - Labor Day NO SCHOOL
- September 15 - MCHS Homecoming
- September 22 - MCAS/MCPD/MCFD Car Wash for United Way! (Details coming soon)
- October 18 - Parent/Teacher Conferences for Barker/Krueger/MCHS
- October 19-20 - Fall Break NO SCHOOL
- October 26 - "Howl O Ween" at Ames
- November 15 - Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences
- December 14 - One City One Sound

### **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>