

# MCAS Communicator

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

**June 2012**

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

## **Retirement Dinner**

TODAY (June 1) is the deadline to reserve a seat at the MCAS/MCEA Retirement and Wall of Fame Dinner! The event is **June 11** at Blue Chip in the Orleans Ballroom; doors open at 6:00 and dinner begins at 7:00. Tickets are \$33 - checks payable to MCEA. Contact Julie Krachinski at the Ad Building (ext. 8355) to make your reservation. This year, we will honor three former employees as they are inducted into the Wall of Fame, including Marjorie Delehanty, Dale Ferraro, and Phyllis Long. We'll also be honoring 28 retirees. Please note: In addition to those who were listed on the invite originally circulated, 2012 retirees also include Kathy Smidt, Robin Oshinski, and Dewitt Martin. Thanks to all for your many years of service and dedication!

## **Professional Development Ahead!**

MCAS will offer a number of professional development opportunities for teachers this summer. For a complete schedule and an online form to register, be sure to visit <http://www.educatemc.net/PD>

## **Pre-K Update**

The LaPorte County Family YMCA and Imagination Station will offer PreK programs for 3- and 4-year-olds at our elementary schools in the fall. For information on these programs, visit <http://educatemc.net/pre-k>. Note: Children of MCAS staff are welcome to enroll...you do not need to be living in the MCAS district, and you may send your child to the program at any building. The Imagination Station Program (at Marsh) will run from 8:15-3:00 and will offer after-care in conjunction with Safe Harbor until 6:00 p.m. The YMCA program runs from 7:30-5:30 and is offered at all other elementary buildings except Joy (due to space limitations).

## **Summer Printing Reminder**

Please submit your summer printing orders by **June 8!** Go to <http://www.educatemc.net/graphics> and click "Summer Printing" to print the form.

## **Planning an Event for Summer - or Next Year?**

Reminder to all building principals/secretaries: As soon as you have a (tentative) schedule of after-school events set for next school year, please send a copy to Linda Jones at Plant Planning so they can be put on the facility schedule calendar. Same goes for any special events in your building this summer. Heating and AC are adjusted for greatest efficiency when buildings are not occupied - so it's very important that you are on the schedule. Thanks!

## **Message from Payroll**

A reminder to all employees over the summer months: Please remember to login to your employee access account over the summer to keep the login/password active.

Also, if you change your bank account for direct deposit, please notify the payroll office as soon as possible. Thanks!

### **Summer School Location Change**

Summer School will be held [June 20-July 26](#), with no classes on [July 4](#) or 5. Please note that there is a change of location for elementary summer school. Both the summer school classes and Safe Harbor summer camp previously announced for Edgewood will now be held at Joy. Other summer school elementary sites include Pine and Lake Hills. Middle and high school courses will be at MCHS. For more info - including info on Sports Camps, visit: <http://educatemc.net//site/Default.aspx?PageID=4947>

### **Robotics Camp for Middle Schoolers**

A **Lego Robotic Mini Camp** will be offered by Safe Harbor this summer for students entering 6th and 7th grade. The camp will be led by our 2012 Midwest Regional Rookie All-Star Coach and Team Interns. The five-week camp will be held at Joy Elementary School and will take place [June 25](#) to [July 27](#). Sessions will be held each week [Monday](#), [Wednesday](#) and [Friday](#) from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The registration fee is \$25. Space is limited to the first 40 registrants. It's a great opportunity for middle school students who would like to explore the field of Robotics. To sign up or get more information, contact Safe Harbor at [873-2026](#).

### **Safe Harbor Summer Camp - Still Enrolling**

The Safe Harbor summer camp still has openings for the [June 18th](#) to [August 10th](#) camp at Joy School. This K through 5th grade program will have a number of fun and exciting new activities this year, including Horticulture, music and acting, Lego robotics, the Learn to Swim program, Challenge Ed course, library trips, and the MyOn reader program. Purdue North Central and National Dunes Lakeshore field trips and an end of summer "day in the Park " are also scheduled. For info call [873-2026](#), x8749.

### **Summer Food Service**

Once again, the MCAS Food Service Dept. will be providing free meals for Michigan City students at several locations this summer, [June 18-August 10](#). Watch the MCAS web site, Channel 98, and local media for a complete schedule of dates, times, and locations! The Summer Food Service Program for Children provides free healthy meals to children 18 years and younger.

### **Greening Up Michigan City**

The Michigan City Robotics Team is kicking off its fund raising campaign, "Greening Up Michigan City One Light Bulb at a Time". The Team will be selling LED bulbs that have a 23 to 25 year life expectancy and a number of added features: they are unbreakable, they have a reduced watt usage (13.5W/800 lumens compared to the incandescent bulb 60w), and they are eco-friendly (no harmful by-products into the ground or air). A percentage of the proceeds from the net sales go directly back to the Robotics team for next year's travel expenses. Please compare and shop with us! \$14.00 for the 450 lumen (40 W equivalent) \$24.00 for the 60W equivalent. 5 year guarantee. Call the Safe Harbor Office [873-2026](#) X8740.

### **Garage Sale Alert**

Elston's PAWS Positive Behavior Supports Committee will have a Community Garage Sale [this Saturday, June 2nd](#) from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Wolf Pack Gym at Elston. See you there! (Note: If you are interested in selling items at this event, tables are

still available if you reserve by end of the day [today](#)... contact Samantha Babb at Elston, [sbabb@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:sbabb@mcas.k12.in.us).)

### 2012 Registration Dates and Times

- Elementary Registration (all buildings) - [Wednesday, August 8](#) - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Middle School Registration (Barker, Krueger, Elston) - [Tuesday, August 14](#) - 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- MCHS Registration - [Thursday, August 16](#), Noon - 7:00p.m. & [Friday, August 17](#), 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### Back to School Rally

Once again, MCAS is partnering with many community organizations to hold a "Citywide Back to School Rally." This event will take place at Elston's Gill Field on Friday, [August 17](#), from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. If you are interesting in volunteering (help is needed at the MCAS booth, stuffing backpacks, field setup, cleanup, food tent, activity supervision and MORE) contact Patrice Huley at [phuley@pnc.edu](mailto:phuley@pnc.edu) or Rachel Weaver at [raweaver@pnc.edu](mailto:raweaver@pnc.edu)

### Calendar for Next Year

A calendar for the 2012-13 school year is now online. Printed copies will be available at schools next week. Visit the following link to view it:

<http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/75/MCAS2012-13%20Calendar.pdf>

### Pop Tab Results!!!!

Congratulations to all! For the second year in a row our district was very successful in collecting pop tabs and raising funds for Ronald McDonald House of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. This effort is helping our students provide families of critically ill kids a home away from home. This year, we collected approximately 1,000 pounds of pop tabs. According to McDonald's, that translates into about 1,267,000 pop tabs. Pop tabs must be picked up and taken in before we know the exact dollar amount we raised for the charity. Pick-up of tabs is being coordinated by Safe Harbor. Some fun facts about pop tab collection:

- We beat last year's total pop tab collection by about 200 pounds! Great job!
- **Knapp School** was the overall winner this year, collecting approximately 300 pounds of pop tabs. Congratulations to Principal Kathy Bildhauser and all her Knapp family! They used a variety of ways to inspire students to collect tabs. An ice cream party sponsored by Safe Harbor Site Coordinator Chrissy Duncan was earned by **Mrs. Martin's class** for collecting the most pop tabs during a school contest period. Knapp will be celebrating their accomplishment early next fall with a school program hosted by Ronald McDonald.
- **Coolspring School** came in second place, collecting approximately 200 pounds of pop tabs. Coolspring has been collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House since 1999! Their years of hard work have earned the "Collect a Million Club" award that hangs in the school hall. WOW!
- Honorable mention goes to **Joy School, Springfield School, and Marsh School**, who each collected approximately 100 pounds of pop tabs. One special student at Marsh School collected 13 1/2 pounds of pop tabs herself, rewarding people who donated with homemade cookies she baked.

- Keep collecting this summer!

### Thanks for Your HOURS

**Hours for Hours** staff would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to all mentors, principals, counselors and school staff for helping provide another successful year of mentoring to MCAS students. The positive inter-generational relationships that are formed help nurture the potential of our students in many ways. According to recent mentee surveys, mentors have taught our students:

- how to learn to love one another
- how important it is to do well on ISTEP
- how to play games and eat greens
- to make better choices
- to be a more proud and confident student
- ways to "cope"

Thank you for your time, effort, and commitment! Have a great summer!

### WAY TO GO

- Tower of Excellence Educational Support Grants were awarded recently to ten MCAS teachers... Congrats to: **Theresa Steinhiser, Ashley Edinger, Craig Lindgren, Shane Hostetler, Erica Anderson, and Cheri Whitler** (all from MCHS), **Alan Boone, Janis Mitchell** and **Deanna Roths** (Lake Hills), **Jill Grabowski** (Barker) and **Tyler Stahl** (Special Ed). Tower grants support classroom projects of up to \$250; proceeds are generated from the annual Tower Run.
- Congrats to Media Specialist **Mary Gish**, who received a 2012 grant award from the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries for visual learning books at Niemann (Eyewitness and Zoo books).

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Relay News

Don't miss the **Relay for Life** at Michigan City High School, which will be held **Saturday-Sunday, June 23-24**. This is one of the American Cancer Society's largest fundraising events! If you or anyone you know are a cancer survivor please come to the event and/or register in advance at: [www.relayforlife.org/laportecountyin](http://www.relayforlife.org/laportecountyin). Names of those you would like to/honor the memory of at the event can be submitted to Kim Olesker, ACS Staff Partner at: [kim.olesker@cancer.org](mailto:kim.olesker@cancer.org) or Laura Swanson, Survivor Chair at: [theswansonfamily@comcast.net](mailto:theswansonfamily@comcast.net) For more information about the Relay contact MCHS teacher Katie St. Germaine at [indyautiger@hotmail.com](mailto:indyautiger@hotmail.com).

#### Posters for Peace

This summer in Friendship Gardens, local soldiers will be honored during a peace ceremony. In an effort to promote peace and friendship, organizers of this event would like to display "Peace Posters" in the gardens, created by local students. They are asking you to encourage your students to participate individually, or create posters as a class. There are no requirements for posters sizes or media, other than the message should convey peace. Posters should be sent to the Administration

Building, attention: Betsy Kohn. The deadline is the end of the school year, or it could be a summer project -- the ceremony will be in July or August. If a student would like to have their poster returned, indicate this on the back side of the poster along with name/school. If you have any questions, contact Katie Haughtington at [haughtington@comcast.net](mailto:haughtington@comcast.net) or 873-1886.

### **Old Crayons Wanted**

The LaPorte County Parks is in need of old crayons (They use them for candle dipping at the Annual Pioneer Days Program). If you have old crayons you would like to donate please contact Laura Moyer and she will pick them up. (219) 324-5855 or [rangerlaura@csinet.net](mailto:rangerlaura@csinet.net)

### **Art Scholarships Available**

The Michigan City Public Art Committee offers scholarships for Michigan City students in need, ages 5-18. Funds cover the costs of visual art classes or individual art instruction, up to \$200. Please share this information with any students you feel may be interested! For details and an application form visit: <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/site/default.aspx?DomainID=49>

### **Poetry Slam Camp**

The Michigan City Public Library, PNC English Dept., and the Lubeznik Center for the Arts are bringing a writing summer camp experience to middle school students! "Slam Camp" will offer poetry reading and writing activities and games for with a focus on expressive, slam style writing and performance. The camp will be held Mon-Thurs, June 11-14 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day. There will be a public performance June 16. Registration fee is only \$5; sign ups are on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SlamCamp2012](http://www.facebook.com/SlamCamp2012). Students exiting grades 5-8 are welcome. For more information contact Robin Kohn at 873-3049 or [rkohn@mclib.org](mailto:rkohn@mclib.org).