

MCAS Communicator

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

May 2015

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

Kudos to Our Teachers

Next week (May 4-8) is Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you (thank you, thank you, thank you!!) to all of our teachers and certified staff for all you do to make MCAS truly awesome!

A SUPER HELPFUL Link from Technology

Be sure to visit the link below... this is a go-to resource for Zimbra-to-Gmail transition, Google calendar, Google Apps tutorial videos, etc. Check it out!

<http://www.mcas.k12.in.us//site/Default.aspx?PageID=12494>

CPR Update from Linda Bechinski

(for Teachers in need of license renewal)

Opportunity Enterprises from Valparaiso will no longer be coming to MCAS to provide CPR certification for teachers/certified staff. I have done much research and found a few area companies that conduct these classes for the public. The company who I selected, Dolphin Solutions, will come to Mullen School for the classes and their fee is only \$40. They also will have the cards back to you within a week. They can handle classes up to 30 participants and will come here on a quarterly basis beginning in the fall. They taught a class here last Thursday and I have had very positive feedback. The next class is scheduled for **Thursday, May 14th at 3:30PM** at Mullen. Payment is still by cash or check at the time of the class. Please contact me (lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us) if you are interested in attending.

In addition, the following companies provide certification if you are unable to make one of the scheduled classes or want to go this summer:

- 1. IU Health LaPorte** - contact Vicki Gushrowski at 219-326-2322. They offer classes every other month from 6-9PM. The cost is \$50. They have classes scheduled on 5/18 and 7/20
- 2. YMCA Elston** - contact Bobi Petru at 219-325-9622. The cost is \$50 for Y members and \$80 for non members. Dates/times TBA.
- 3. Opportunity Enterprises** - 2801 Evans Ave. Valpo. Contact Kirstin Krenz at 219-464-9621, ext 280. or email her at Kirstin.Krenz@oppent.org. The cost is \$35 and the class is held in Valpo.

Also, if anyone would like to review CPR techniques and medical information regarding CPR, there is a booklet available in each school in the nurse's office for you to borrow. This availability is required by the American Heart Association. By having them available for you, it saves everyone the purchase fee of \$10.

Spring really is here...

Due to snow makeup days, the last day for students is now Friday, [June 5th](#).

Math & Science Partnership Workshops

The Summer 2015 Math & Science Partnership Institute will again be about "MASTERing Videos." The institute is scheduled for 10 days (June 15 to 19 and July 27 to 31). Participants are expected to attend all 10 days. First 35 teachers to register will receive stipends and an iPad mini. The institute is open to math & science teachers in grade 5 to 9. Sign up here: <http://educatemc.net/Page/11436>

More PD Coming Soon

More professional development opportunities for summer will be posted in Mid May, for teachers new to the district or new to a grade level. For the latest info, select "Professional Development" under the "Staff" menu tab at <http://educatemc.net>

Wall of Fame & Retirement Dinner

Thanks to all who nominated individuals for Wall of Fame this year. Recipients will be announced next week. The annual Retirement & Wall of Fame dinner is set for **Tuesday, June 2** at Blue Chip. Cost will be \$35 per person. A registration form for the dinner will also be available for all staff next week... watch your in-box!

Tax Rate Information

Please help us provide accurate information to anyone who is inquiring about the property tax rate increase for our schools. Frequently asked questions and a copy of the powerpoint presented by our financial advisors (Umbaugh & Assoc.) are available on our school website at <http://educatemc.net>

Elementary Art Exhibit

Reminder: The annual Michigan City Area Schools Elementary Art Show is on Exhibit at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts in Michigan City, through May 13th. Don't miss this great show!

Healthy U @ Work!

Click the link below to access Working Well's April newsletter... read up on de-stressing, good posture, DIY cleaners and determine which is better ... pilates or yoga?
http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_april2015.pdf

Wellness Screening

Barker will be hosting its 2015 Wellness Screening on **May 19th** from 6:30am - 8:30 am. Follow the link below for a list of tests offered, related costs, and sign up info. Please note they will not bill Medicare.
<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/BarkerMS%202015.2.pdf>

Sports Physicals for Students

Know a middle or high school student who needs a sports physical? St. Anthony will be providing \$20 physicals at MCHS in May:
http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/4/Sports_Physicals.pdf

Purdue's INSPIRE Summer Academy

INSPIRE Summer Academy offers educators a forum to:

- explore curriculum and content that is aligned to national/state Mathematics, English/Language Arts and Science standards
- Learn how engineering can be integrated into your curriculum
- Earn CEUs or up to 22 Professional Growth Points

The 2015 INSPIRE Summer Academy application deadline has been extended to May 15th! INSPIRE is a research institute housed in the School of Engineering Education at Purdue University. This three-day program, running July 21-24, is tailored to equip educators with the skills, resources, and understanding to integrate engineering into their classrooms. This year's

Academy will host a variety of workshops that will cover topics including how engineering can strengthen math and science skills for students of all ages; how engineering can promote reading and writing skills; and how engineering creates meaningful experiences in teamwork for students. For more detailed information, go to

<http://www.inspire-purdue.org/news/inspire-host-summer-academy> .

Applications are can be found at http://purdue.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9KWCsKkenI0FjsV.

Online Courses from GCU

Grand Canyon University offers online courses for initial licensure, licensure renewal and an ESL certification. Call Karilyn Palmer-Paschal at 630-247-1247 or email Karilyn.Palmer-Paschal@gcu.edu to set up an in person appointment to discuss your options and financial aid that you may be able to apply for.

<http://www.gcu.edu/ec/karilyn.palmer-paschal>

Sumdog Contest

Sumdog's final Northwest Indiana math contest of the school year will start Friday May 22 and will run until the following Thursday. (It's free to take part and there are prizes to be won!)

The contests are aimed at grades K - 8; if a teacher feels this is an appropriate level for other students they are also welcome to join in. It will only take an hour so to get a decent score, and students can compete in school or at home. Teachers can enter a class here:

http://www.sumdog.com/enter_contest

For questions, contact info@sumdog.com

Memorial Day "Cards for Troops" Project

The Michigan City Parks & Rec Dept. is partnering with the Guardian Riders to send cards to troops overseas. Drop off cards by May 15 at the Senior Center or Parks and Rec. See the flyer posted in Community Backpack (<http://educatemc.net/backpack>) for more info!

Anti-Bullying Contest

The "Hey UGLY" anti-bullying organization is sponsoring an acronym contest... deadline is May 31. For entry info, check out the flyer posted in Community Backpack (<http://educatemc.net/backpack>).

Middle School "Innovation" Summer Camps

Thanks to several community partners and funding from a 21st Century Learning Centers grant, Safe Harbor is offering five free week-long summer camps. These camps include:

- Michigan City Police Dept. Leadership Academy
- Manufacturing Camp
- Art Camp
- Camp Invention
- Wolfpack Sports Camp

Students may register for up to three "Summer of Innovation" camps; most programs can accommodate around 50 students. Registration deadline is May 28th. First come, first served! Camps run June 22 - July 25, Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:00pm. and include free breakfast and lunch. Please follow the link below to learn more and to register. Please help us spread the word about this opportunity.

<http://educatemc.net/summerofinnovation>

Summer School Info

Have you visited the info page for summer school? Click on the big red button on any school home page for dates/times/locations of remediation, community camps, sports camps, driver ed resources, and much more. Here's the direct link:

<http://educatemc.net/summer>

WAY TO GO

Congrats to MCAS Technology Director **Kevin McGuire**, who finished strong in the LA Marathon! He's now preparing for the Chicago Marathon in the fall.

GIVE BACK

Hot dog and root beer alert!! Pine Elementary is having a give back at Carlson's on Tuesday, May 12 from 10-7. Follow this link for the coupon:

<http://educatemc.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=2&PageType=17&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=1&EventDateID=17946>

COMMUNITY NEWS

Relay for Life

(A message from Katie St. Germaine @ MCHS!)

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life will be held at the La Porte County Fairgrounds, Saturday, June 27th-Sunday, June 28th. Many MCAS students and staff have become involved with this wonderful cause and are helping lead the fight to find a cure. (There will be a Coaches vs Cancer event during the MCHS vs LPHS Girls Softball Game on May 8th to help support Relay and the ACS!) If you know a cancer survivor, the Relay for Life committee encourages you to have them sign up on the Relay For Life-LaPorte County website. You may also submit their names and addresses to me and/or they may also sign up the day of the Relay event. (The earlier they sign up the easier it is to guarantee that there will be a Survivor shirt available in their size.) Some of the special activities at the Relay include: a Survivor Lap, a Caregiver Lap, and a touching Luminaria Ceremony at 9:00pm. (Luminaria bags are decorated/have names of remembrance and survivors written on them and are lit up by glow sticks.) The next Relay Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 12th, at 6:30pm at Purdue North Central in the LSF Building in Room 002. For more information, and to submit names and addresses for luminarias, email me asap at kstgermaine@mcas.k12.in.us

YMCA Dancing Like a Star

MCAS School Board member Marty Corley will be a featured celebrity dancer at the YMCA's upcoming "Dancing Like a Star" fundraiser. If you would like to help Marty (by attending the fundraiser and/or purchasing a vote for him to win) follow this link:

<http://www.lpymca.org/special-events/dancing-like-a-star>

NEW on Community Backpack

There are several new postings on our "Community Backpack" page!

<http://educatemc.net/backpack>

- MC Parks and Rec "City Kids" summer camp
- "Hey UGLY" anti-bullying acronym contest
- Memorial Day Cards for Troops project
- Michigan City Sports League baseball/t-ball/softball signups (**TOMORROW!** May 2)
- K-6 Citywide "Kiddie Prom" sponsored by Soul Steppers (**TONIGHT!** May 1)
- LaPorte County Parks Spring and summer programs
- YMCA Michigan City spring programs and summer camp
- Pop Warner Youth Football clinic