

MCAS Communicator

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

April 2018

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

Solar News

This week we celebrated the installation of solar arrays and LED lighting at 7 of our buildings with a ribbon cutting at Krueger. We now have arrays at MCHS, Barker, Krueger, Joy, Niemann, Pine, and the Ad Building. The project is the largest of its kind to date for any school system in Indiana! It is being financed completely through energy savings, at no cost to taxpayers... and over the next 30 years it will save our district \$23 million in energy costs. Enjoy this drone footage of our arrays, courtesy of Performance Services:

<https://pressmc.wistia.com/medias/rfqq2qz9sr>

Food Service Celebrates Earth Day

Several elementary school cafeterias will be celebrating Earth Day on Monday, April 23, with an "Eco-Friendly" lunch. They will serve a menu prepared using no electricity at all. The revised menu includes a Turkey & Cheese Sub, Green Tree Broccoli, "Sunny" Chips, Strawberry Applesauce, with a Dirt Pudding treat. They will also feature art projects on the serving lines that were created using recyclable materials. Food Service wants to remind students to love their planet!

Spring Cleaning - for a Cause

Follow the link below to view a list of items that various non-profits need (the MCHS Art Dept is one of the participants). If you are looking to do some spring cleaning or have any items on the list to donate, they can be brought to the NW Indiana Earth Day Festival on Saturday April 21st 9am-2pm at the Porter County Expo Center.

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/april%202018/reuselist18.pdf>

Color Run

Please spread the word! The MCHS Class of 2020 is holding a "Color the Pack Fun Run" at Washington Park on Saturday, April 21. The race begins at 9:00am at the North Point Pavilion, and runners or walkers can register at 8:00 a.m. All those who register by April 9 will receive a free t-shirt on race day. Register here:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/MichiganCity/ColorthePackFunRun>

Comcast Day Volunteer Opp

The Chamber of Commerce's Lakefront Career Network (young professionals group), along with Comcast, is planning a [Day of Giving at the Boys & Girls Club](#) on April 21st from 8:30 - 2:30. Staff and students are needed to volunteer! The more volunteers that sign up, the more money Comcast will donate to BGC. Questions? Contact Katie Eaton at keaton@edcmc.com. Follow the link below for waivers that must be turned in before the day of the event, to the Chamber:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/april%202018/MC%20Chamber%20Day%20of%20Giving%20Waiver.pdf>

CPR Training for Certified Staff

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held on Thursday, May 10. This is the final training this school year! Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, 100 Manny Court, adjacent to Lake Hills Elementary. The fee is \$50, payable by cash or check to Dolphin Solutions. The certification lasts two years. Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski (lbechinski@educatemc.net) to sign up.

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>

New (Discounted!) Wolves Wear Resource

Are you in need of some new wolves wear, personalized with your name/interest/club/sport/group? How about a coffee mug, cell phone cover, lanyard, or anything else you can imagine? Would you also like to help the Alpha Yearbook with production costs? Enter coupon code LT4R9KZD to save \$10.00 off your order at the link below. (Note: this link will now be a permanent button on the MCAS and MCHS home pages.)

<https://schoolstore.jostens.com/school/indiana/michigan-city/michigan-city-high-school>

The Bold, the Young, and the Murdered

Michigan City High School's theater department will present its spring play next month: The Bold, the Young, and the Murdered. This is a comedy and a mystery - all taking place on the set of a soap opera. Performances will be held in the high school auditorium on Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21, at 7:00pm and Sunday, April 22 at 2:00pm. Students tickets are \$5.00, and adults \$10.

City's Got Talent

The "City's Got Talent" talent show is also next month. The MCHS Student Council sponsors this annual show, which will be held on Friday, April 27 at 7:00pm. Don't miss this awesome display by our very talented students!

Art Auction

The MCHS Art Department has partnered with the Washington Park Zoo Society to celebrate the Zoo's 90th anniversary. As part of this celebration, artwork by students and teachers is being auctioned, and a portion will benefit the Zoo. This beautiful art is currently on display at the Artspace Galleries; you can bid online by visiting the Zoo Society's Facebook page (search for @WPZooSociety). Bids will be accepted through the date of the Zoo's 90th anniversary gala on April 28th.

Wolves Athletics Open House

The Michigan City High School Athletic Department invites middle and high school students to attend its annual "Athletic Open House" on Thursday, April 26 from 6:30 to 8:00pm in the Wolves Den Gymnasium. Coaches from all teams will be present to speak with students and families about participating in athletics in high school. This is a wonderful opportunity for 7th and 8th graders to learn more about what they'll experience as Wolves student athletes. Please share!

Healthy U @ Work March Newsletter

Get organized to reduce stress, colon cancer prevention, exercise for lower back pain and more!

http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_march2018.pdf

Check this out!

Below is a pdf guide for teachers interested in booking field trips at Lubeznik. It contains an overview of upcoming exhibits and grade suggestions, as well as information about a hands-on art project component. Lubeznik welcomes all teachers (not just art teachers) to bring students... the Warhol exhibit next fall is an amazing opportunity!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/LCA%202018%20Learning%20Tour%20Guide.pdf>

Save the Dates - Coding is Coming!

Plans are under way for this spring's "Week of Code" - May 4-11. Details will be coming soon!

Northwest Indiana Sumdog Math Contest Starts 04/13/18

Sumdog is a K-8 computer Math and ELA fluency program where students practice skills aligned to standards. The top 3 classes win a subscription to Sumdog's premium teaching tools; there are also participation awards and certificates for top students. Find out more here: sumdog.com/enter_contest

Hilfiger Spring Discount

All MCAS employees receive a Corporate Partnership discount of 15% off your entire purchase at Tommy Hilfiger Outlet Stores - valid until April 30, 2018. Print and bring this ad, or show on your mobile device:

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

MCAS Discount for Swan Lake

The Indiana Ballet Theater will perform Swan Lake on Sunday, April 15th at 3pm at the Uptown Center in Michigan City. IBT is offering a special discount for Michigan City school students, teachers, administrators, and their families. Tickets may be purchased online at <http://ibtnw.org/sales.html> The discount being offered is \$6 off tickets by using the special promo code: IBTGroup18.

Way to Go!

- Barker Middle School Social Studies teacher Mariah Pol has received the Gilder Lehrman Teacher Fellowship for American History. The fellowship will fund her trip to Colorado this July to attend a seminar on the topic of "Westward Expansion" at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Give Backs and Other Fun - Please support!

1. Support Pine Elementary by eating at El Cantarito on Tuesday, April 24th 12:00 - 6:00. Please confirm that you'll be coming (and get more info) by clicking here: <https://www.groupraise.com/events/55645>

Community Events/Announcements

The Michigan City Patriotic Parade will be held on Saturday, June 30th. If your school, group, or organization is interested in participating, here is more information:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/april%202018/PatrioticParade.jpg>

Junior Achievement is having a Trivia Night on Friday the 13th (of April). Here is the flyer with more info:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/LaPorte%20Trivia%20Night-01.jpg>

United Way of LaPorte County is excited to announce their newest signature event - #B4UnitedWay presented by [Mateys Restaurant](#), supporting local community impact projects. The event will be held from 6-9 PM on Thursday, April 12 and will include an evening of blues, BBQ, bourbon, and brews for the cause! This includes: • A delicious BBQ buffet with brisket, ribs, pulled pork, cornbread, coleslaw, and baked beans. • Unlimited samples of 4 signature beers from [Burn 'Em Brewing](#). • Unlimited samples of spirits and a signature Peach Tea cocktail from [Republic National Distributing Company](#). • Chinese and silent auction of unique items for bid. • A commemorative pint glass and fun United Way giveaways. Early bird ticket discount of \$20 per ticket if you sign up by March 31. <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/unitedwaylpc/event/789545/>

The Elston YMCA is having a FREE open house on Saturday, April 21 from 8am -2pm. Bring the family and enjoy the pool, a womens' self-defense class and more! Free childcare. Info is here: <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/april%202018/Open%20house%20april%202018.jpg>

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

- Pop Warner football and cheer sign ups
- Indiana Ballet Theater Swan Lake
- Parks and Rec Softball and Baseball sign ups
- House of Hope softball sign ups
- YMCA Preschool Basketball
- YMCA Open House April 21
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

- March 30 - No School - Good Friday
- April 2-6 - Spring Break
- April 16 - May 4 - ISTEP Window
- April 20, 21, 22 - MCHS Spring Play (7pm Fri/Sat, 2pm Sun)
- April 21 - Color Run at Washington Park (Class of 2020)
- April 26 - Athletics Open House at MCHS 6:30-8:00pm
- April 27 - MCHS Talent Show, 7pm
- May 4-11 - "Week of Code"
- May 18 - Coolspring 80th Birthday Celebration (5:00-8:00pm)
- May 31 - SCHOOL IN SESSION, SNOW MAKEUP
- June 1 - SCHOOL IN SESSION, SNOW MAKEUP (Last Day of School)
- June 4 - Retirement & Wall of Fame Dinner at Blue Chip
- June 6 - Adult Education Graduation, 6pm, Holdcraft Performing Arts Center at Elston
- June 10 - MCHS Graduation Ceremony, 12 noon, Wolves Den
- June 11- July 19 - Summer School
- July 2-5 - NO SUMMER SCHOOL week of July 4
- July 24 & 25 - Rollover
- July 26 - Online registration opens
- August 2 & 3 - On Site Registration
- August 9 - Back to School Rally, Elston Gill Field, (3-7pm)

ENJOY SPRING BREAK!