

# MCAS Communicator

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

## December 2017

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

### **One City One Sound**

Our annual district-wide holiday concert is Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 pm, at MCHS. This performance will feature 900+ of our vocal and instrumental music students in grades 6-12. Many thanks to our music teachers and all those who are working behind the scenes to ensure students can rehearse and are transforming the gym into an auditorium for the occasion. See you there! Here is a [map](#) that explains traffic flow for the evening, and here is a [flyer](#) to forward to family/friends. Remember to bring a donation (\$ or canned good) for the Salvation Army that night!

### **Career Cafe Closed Wednesday**

Due to testing schedules, the AK Smith "Career Cafe" will be closed this Wednesday. This will not affect catering orders. (The Cafe is open each week for lunch on Wednesdays and Fridays, although it also will closed during Winter Break.)

### **Winter Learning Packet**

The "Winter Learning Packet" is once again available! This is a collection of fun web-based resources for students that reinforce ELA and Math concepts. Great for snow days, winter break, weekends, etc. This was promoted on bookmarks that were handed out at the Snowflake Parade, and is also a shortcut on all school websites. Here's the direct link: <http://EducateMC.net/winter>

### **2018-19 School Year Calendar**

The MCAS School Board approved the calendar for next school year at its November meeting. Dates have been entered in our website calendar. A one-page PDF of the calendar is being designed; copies will be available for distribution to families in late Feb/early March. Some highlights:

- August 15, 2018 – First Day of School for Students
- September 3, 2018 – Labor Day (No School)
- October 18-19, 2018 – Fall Break (No School)
- November 19-23, 2018 – Thanksgiving Break (No School)
- December 24, 2018 – January 4, 2019 – Winter Break (No School)
- January 21, 2019 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School; Snow Makeup Day)
- February 18, 2019 – Famous Americans Day (No School; Snow Makeup Day)
- April 1-5, 2019 – Spring Break (No School)
- April 19, 2019 – Good Friday (No School)
- May 27, 2019 – Memorial Day (No School)
- May 30, 2019 – Last Day for Students
- May 31 – June 7, 2019 – Snow Make Up Days (if needed)
- June 9, 2019 – Michigan City High School Graduation

### **Classroom Walkthroughs: A Message from our Curriculum Directors**

We have been excited to visit classrooms during the last few weeks and appreciate the warm welcome from teachers and students. Walkthroughs are an ongoing process to

support continuous school improvement strategies in each building. We recognize that what is seen represents a "slice of time" in the classroom. We understand that the time we walk through may be during a transition, right before a field trip, or ten minutes after a brilliant class discussion. Data from these visits highlight work that buildings are engaged in, effective strategies that impact student learning, and provide feedback about our professional development practices. It is our hope that this process develops a professional culture of learning for all of us.

Next steps will include focused data talks during BLT meetings, staff PLC meetings and district principal meetings. This reflection on instructional strategies will guide us as we make adjustments to classroom practice that improves student achievement.

We are in this journey together for our students. Increasing rigor, engagement and achievement is "Mission Possible!"

-- Jan Radford and Cathy Bildhauser, Co-Directors of Curriculum

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

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held Thursday, January 18. 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.

### **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>

### **December EAP Newsletter: "What Kind of Animal Are You? Personality Types"**

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//December%202017/2017%20December%20Newsletter.pdf>

### **December EAP Webinar**

Please register for "Gary Smalley - Personality Information" and "College Planning" on Dec 20, 2017 12:00 PM CST at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2930407781970440962>

### **Healthy U @ Work November Newsletter**

Gratitude and Health, Sweet Potatoes, Diabetes and more...

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1111471061754&ca=a597f891-c76f-4e18-809e-237b721a97db>

### **Text Alerts**

It's almost that time of year...to sign up for MCAS text alerts about weather delays/closings, follow the link below. Note: If you signed up last year and your info has not changed, you do NOT need to sign up again.

<http://EducateMC.net/texts>

### **Let's Be Friends!**

Please take a moment to "like" MCAS and MCHS (and your favorite elementary or middle school!) on Facebook. Also, follow us on Twitter (@EducateMC and @MichiganCityHS) Please share our many good news posts with your friends!

### **Food and Book Drives Under Way**

MCAS is participating once again in districtwide drives for canned food and books (Operation Bookworm is a project of the MCHS National Honor Society). Pickup for the books is Thursday, December 14 and for the food drive is Friday, December 15th. If your school or building isn't taking part, you are welcome to drop your donations in the boxes at the Ad Building!

### **Hours for Ours Update**

Safe Harbor's Hours for Ours mentoring program is seeking mentors for Barker Middle School students! It only takes 40 minutes a week to make a difference. Being a mentor is truly a fulfilling and rewarding experience that you do not want to miss. Contact [amay@educatemc.net](mailto:amay@educatemc.net) for more information.

### **United Way Reminder**

Good news! During this time of giving you can help provide solutions to the most critical needs in our community. You may still make a United Way donation. If you need a pledge form contact Safe Harbor at ext 8749. Remember, we're better together!

### **Robotics Update**

Michigan City Robotics FIRST Lego League Teams had a successful season and earned awards at the regional Indiana University Northwest Competition on Sunday, November 19. **Shelley Deutscher's** Lego Lakers won third place in Strategy and Innovation, **Abby May's** Lego Lions won third place in Programming and her Lego Vipers won 3rd place in Innovative Solutions. Way to go!!

### **YPT Talent Show**

Young People's Theater is having a talent show this Saturday from 7-9pm at the Holdcraft Performing Art Center (aka Elston Theater). Many of the performers are MCAS students. Please come out and enjoy their talents and vote for your favorite! Only \$5 for tickets at the door.

### **Barker STEM Wish List**

Barker is seeking donations of manila file folders, masking tape, and straws for its next STEM Community Challenge, which will take place during National Engineer's Week 2018 in February. Items are needed by January 8, 2018. Questions? Contact Amy Hamann at [ahamann@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:ahamann@mcas.k12.in.us) or 219-873-2057 ext. 7318

### **Gift Idea #1: Pine's Artsonia**

Wondering what to get that hard-to-shop- for person for Christmas? Pine Elementary School is a member of Artsonia, an online student art portfolio. Artsonia offers items featuring students' designs: Pine's Art Club receives 20% from each customized keepsake. This year all funds raised will go towards purchasing clay texturing tools. Go to <https://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=77177> or [artsonia.com](http://artsonia.com) and type in Holly Beadles in the search bar. Use code HolidayFunds17 for 25% off of one item, valid until December 14, 2017.

### **Gift Idea #2: MC Basketball Online Store**

Michigan City Basketball has an online store, open through December 10th! Shop now at [https://www.bsnteamssports.com/v3/shop/team\\_shop/qNAfqYbuNE](https://www.bsnteamssports.com/v3/shop/team_shop/qNAfqYbuNE)

### **Gift Idea #3: Sectional T-Shirts**

The MCHS Athletic Dept. has Wolves Sectional Champions football t-shirts left. Purchase yours for just \$5.00!

### **“World of 7 Billion” Video Contest**

Back by popular demand, the *World of 7 Billion* student video contest helps bring technology and creativity into middle and high school classes. The contest challenges students to create a short video connecting world population growth and one of three global challenges: Advancing Women and Girls, Feeding 10 Billion, or Preventing Pollution. Students can win up to \$1,000 and participating teachers will receive free curriculum resources. The contest deadline is February 22, 2018 – use this [lesson plan](#) to get started now! Full contest guidelines, resources for research, past winners, and more can be found at <https://www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest/>.

### **Missing Children’s Poster Contest**

The Indiana State Police Clearinghouse for Information on Missing Children & Missing Endangered Adults and the U.S. Department of Justice invites 5<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in the 2018 National Missing Children’s Day Poster Contest. The contest is open to all schools, after-school programs, etc. Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2018. More info is here: <https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/Portals/2/Resources/RS00005796.pdf> - Submissions (poster, contest application and parent/guardian release consent form from the packet) should be mailed to Indiana State Police Clearinghouse, Attention: Torie Harris, 100 N. Senate Ave. N340, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Questions? Call Torie Harris at 317-232-0325.

### **Cyber Security Contests**

The Indiana Sharing and Analysis Center is hosting contests to educate Indiana youth about cybersecurity and internet safety. The contests are available until the end of December.

**Contest 1:** Poster contest for grades K-12

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//December%202017/Poster%20Contest.pdf>

**Contest 2:** Video contest for grades 9-12

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//December%202017/Videocontest.pdf>

### **From NWI Times**

The Times Media Co. invites students and teachers to participate in a couple of features this holiday season. First, they welcome student letters to Santa, which can be submitted here: [http://www.nwitimes.com/opinion/letters/send-us-your-kids-letters-to-santa/article\\_ad83ba0f-24fe-5858-b05b-a448b9ff4d88.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/opinion/letters/send-us-your-kids-letters-to-santa/article_ad83ba0f-24fe-5858-b05b-a448b9ff4d88.html)

Second, the Times has partnered with the Heart Association to encourage 5,000 NWI residents to receive CPR training in 2017. At this point over 4,300 people have gained this lifesaving knowledge. Take a moment to watch the video below; everyone who plays it fully will count in this effort, because the short video presents the key instructional training points.

[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/help-save-a-life-watch-this-short-instructional-cpr-video/article\\_3bc2121e-b594-55fc-a521-fc671b87d04e.html?utm\\_content=bufferbaf1a&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_campaign=LEEDCC](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/help-save-a-life-watch-this-short-instructional-cpr-video/article_3bc2121e-b594-55fc-a521-fc671b87d04e.html?utm_content=bufferbaf1a&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=LEEDCC)

### **Reprographic Arts Has MOVED**

Reprographic Arts (t-shirts, signs, banners, posters, etc.) has closed its Franklin Street shop. It is now located at 2824 E. Michigan Blvd. The phone number is the same: 219-872-9111 and the hours are still Monday thru Friday 8am - 5pm

### **Tommy Hilfiger Discounts**

The Tommy Hilfiger Outlet is extending a discount of 15% off to MCAS staff, good through January 31. The coupon to show is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//December%202017/Tommy%20Hilfiger%20Corporate%20Partnership%20Discount.pdf>

Also, Tommy Hilfiger at Lighthouse Mall invites MCAS staff to a private shopping event on Saturday December 9th from 8am-10am. The event will feature 40% off, raffles, and other prizes. Follow this link for info:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tommy-hilfiger-private-sale-event-40-off-entire-purchase-tickets-40771266957>

### **Ticket Monster**

Reminder: MCAS Staff receive a discount on event tickets through Ticket Monster. Here is information on how to use this perk:

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

Currently, when you spend \$50 or more on Ticket Monster, you are eligible for a 1-year Sam's Club Membership plus some bonus goodies. More info on that is here:

<https://ticketmonster-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/email/pdfs/SC%20Dedicated%20Holiday%20PDF.pdf>

### **Give Backs** - Perfect reason to eat out Wednesday!

1. December 6 (Wednesday) - **Five Guys**. No coupon needed - mention you are there to support the MCHS Early College Club!
2. December 6 (Wednesday) - **Buffalo Wild Wings**, 5-8pm. Support MCHS Boys' Tennis! No coupon needed, but please share this flyer:

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//December%202017/BWW\\_Tennis.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//December%202017/BWW_Tennis.pdf)

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

- "Kids Night Out" at Elston YMCA (drop off your kids Dec 21st for fun from 5-8pm while you enjoy a night out!)
- "Operation Santa" event at Health Linc, December 13th
- Elston YMCA Homework Help/Mentoring Program
- And more!

### **Calendar Reminders:**

- December 14 - One City One Sound
- December 14 - Operation Bookworm book pickup
- December 15 - Pickup of Nonperishable food (District Wide food drive)
- December 19 - School Board Meeting (not the last Tuesday...due to Holidays)
- December 20 - January 3 - Winter Break (Note: Teachers return Jan 4, same day as students. Ad building is open Jan 3.)
- January 15 - MLK Jr. Day (no school unless snow makeup)

### **WAY TO GO**

- Congratulations to Barker Social Studies teacher **Mariah Pol**, who has been invited by the Korean War Legacy Foundation to serve as a Teacher Fellow!
- WOW! Congrats to all of the following MCAS teachers and other staff who received grants through the Unity Foundation recently - through the Barbara A. Carmen Program, the Teacher Innovation Fund, or the Michigan City Education Foundation: **Shirley Allen, Candace Archer, Sharon Arndt, Amanda Bair, Erin Breen, Debra Carpenter, Shannon Chavis, Susan Cleveland, Rita Cochran, Brianne Covington, Stephanie Dege, Angela Dydo, Megan Edinger, Deanna Ehrhardt,**

**Julie Geyer, Melissa Glowski, Jennifer Gracyalny, Diane Grams, Kathleen Gushrowski, David Harris, Stephanie Klengenmeier, Amber Large, Elizabeth Law, Catherine Lindgren, Cindy LoGreco, Erin Lozano, Karen Marfise, Lisa Martin, Luci Mazac, Valerie Mecklenburg, Brian Meyers, Janis Mitchell, DeAnna Munoz, Megan Orlando, Rachel Palleschi, Teresa Pavloff, Janine Peo, Julie Pitman, Mariah Pol, Nancy Porter, Jeffrey Russell, Susan Shell, Jane Shimala, Michelle Sickles, Maria Surma, Zachary Taylor, Kelly Tokoly-Rothermel, Daena Sisk, Sheri Tuesburg, Krista Tuholski, Sheri Wagner, Penny Will, Melissa Wise, and Amy Wojasinski-Labis.** You can read a list of their projects here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=22&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=24026&PageID=1>