

MCAS Communicator

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

December 2018

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

It's Week of Code!

This week, all Michigan City Area Schools are taking part in a countywide **"Week of Code"** December 3-7th. This is the third year that our district has held a Week of Code, which will engage students K-12 in coding and other computer science activities. This year's event has expanded to include school districts across our county, in partnership with the Unity Foundation and the LaPorte County Public Library. Coding is essential for our students: employers across our region have identified coding as an important skill for their employees, and 20% of the questions on Indiana's new ILEARN assessment will cover computer science standards. For resources and much more visit:

<http://educateMC.net/code>

Culinary Christmas Cookie Sale

The A. K. Smith Culinary Students are selling Christmas cookies! Please use this online form to order delicious cookies from the Career Cafe:

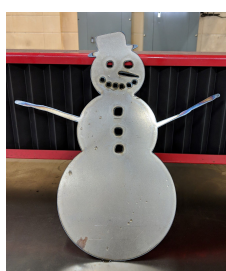
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3FdVKYeBRGKfwZyVrrQwCnDji1hLbI0UANDreQJJVgHe2Ug/viewform?usp=pp_url

OR if you prefer - you can order using the form below:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//December%202018/XMAS%20Cookies.pdf>

Holiday Decorations (and More) from Welding

Not to be outdone... the Welding students at A. K. Smith are selling Christmas decorations cut on their CNC plasma table. (Proceeds benefit students' participation in SkillsUSA competitions.) Decorations are \$25 apiece; the snowman is 13 3/4" tall x 12 1/4" wide. The sleigh with toys is 8" x 12" and the Christmas ornament is 13" tall. All three can be customized to add sayings, different designs, or to be larger (prices vary when customizing). Contact Raymond Goss at 219-873-2120 Ext. 8711 or by email: rgoss@mcas.k12.in.us. Note: Welders can also make custom nameplates or signs!



CPR for Certified Staff

A CPR class for certified staff in need of license renewal will be held on Thursday, January 17th at 3:15pm at Mullen (100 Manny Court). The cost is \$50, cash or check, payable to

Dolphin Solutions at the class. Class lasts approximately 2 hours. CPR books are available to borrow from any nurse's office, if you need to review prior to the class. Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski in advance to reserve your spot for this class, or with any questions - lbechinski@educateMC.net.

Safe Harbor Update

Safe Harbor's FIRST Lego League teams participated successfully in the IUN FIRST Lego League Indiana Qualifying Tournament on Sunday, November 18th. Shelley Deutscher's Lake Hills Lego Lakers took 2nd place in the Against All Odds category. Brianne Covington's Coolspring Lego Vipers took 2nd in the Director's Choice category, and Brian Vedo's Joy Lego Lions took 2nd place in the Presentation category. Congratulations to all!

Healthy U @ Work Newsletter

Alzheimers and Dementia, Fall Salads, Fitness Tracking and more...

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1111471061754&ca=e9dc3b31-1f91-46fd-84f2-444adf884b44>

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:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202018/2018%20You%20are%20not%20alone%20poster.pdf>

EAP Newsletter - December: Self Care

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//December%202018/Franciscan%20Employee%20Assistance%20December%20Newsletter.doc.pdf>

December EAP Webinar

Please register for "Self-Care" and "9 Step Strategy To Maintaining Your Weight During The Holidays" on Dec 19, 2018 1:00 PM CST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3565243814019288835>

"Tickets at Work" Perk

Did you realize that as an MCAS employee, you can receive discounts through Tickets at Work (formerly known as Ticket Monster)? Discounts include attractions, theme parks, shows, sporting events, movie tickets, hotels, shopping and much more. If you haven't signed up yet, go to TicketsatWork.com and use our company code, **MCAS** to get started.

Elementary & Middle School Girls Basketball Clinics

The Michigan City High School Wolves Girls Basketball team will hold three mini clinics for girls in grades K-8. The clinics will be held at the Wolves Den Gymnasium on Saturday, Dec 8th (10:30am - 12:30pm), Saturday, December 15 (10:30am - 12:30pm), and Thursday, December 27 (10:00am - 12:00pm). The clinics are free, and girls can attend one or all three. No advance registration required; parents will be asked to complete permission slips at the door.

Shopping Tour Volunteers Needed

The Jaycees are seeking volunteers to help with the Deserving Children's shopping event after school on December 5th. (Volunteers will keep lines moving at the Orak while the kids wait to see Santa and/or assist shoppers at Walmart.) If you can help, please contact Kristy Hahn at khahn720@gmail.com.

Website Editing "aha!" moment

Have you ever been frustrated by large gaps between paragraphs when you edit your web page? Here's the solution! Instead of typing "enter," use "shift-enter" unless you want the larger spaces between paragraphs.

One City One Sound

The "One City One Sound" holiday concert is this Thursday, December 6, at 7:00pm in the Michigan City High School gymnasium. Many thanks to our music teachers, students, and all those working behind the scenes to make this a highlight of the holiday season. The concert is free, but the Salvation Army will be accepting canned goods or monetary donations. The concert will be broadcast live on Channel 98 and will also air live on Michigan City radio station WEFM (95.9 FM).

Barnes & Noble Educator Shopping Event

The Barnes & Noble Valpo store will open an hour early (at 8am) on December 8th for educators only. There will be special giveaways, free hot chocolate, and a chance to win a \$25 B&N card. Pre-K-12 educators, including classroom teachers, IAs, principals, guidance counselors, and administration receive a 25% discount off list price on most books, gifts, music, DVDs and Toys & Games.

Snowflake Parade Rescheduled

Due to rain this past Saturday, the Michigan City Snowflake Parade has been rescheduled for December 8. All are welcome to march with the MCAS unit - dress festively (but not like Santa) - we have some reindeer antlers if you'd like to wear them. Bring candy canes if you like; we have pencils/bookmarks to pass out. Look for the MCHS mini bus along Washington Street at 3:30pm. The parade steps off at 4pm.

Holiday Theatre Production

Pine Elementary School's Theatre Troupe will present its winter production, *It's A Wonderful Neverland*, on Tuesday, December 4 at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$2 per person at the door. This production is a clever blend of the holiday classic, "It's a Wonderful Life" and J.M. Barrie's classic tale, "Peter Pan."

Districtwide Food and Book Drive

Michigan City Area Schools is again participating in both the "Operation Bookworm" and canned food drives for the Salvation Army this holiday season. Staff, students, and members of the public may drop off a donation of either a nonperishable food item or a children's book at the Administration building or at any other participating school or building through Thursday, December 13th. Each year, our school system is the leading source of food for this project, which serves 500+ families in need in our community each year. (Note: the school that collects the most books will receive service hours from the MCHS National Honor Society!)

eLearning Parent Information

Here's a link to some FAQs that have been provided to parents about eLearning. Feel free to share with anyone who may need this info!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/eLearning>

SUPPORT THIS GIVE BACK FOR TEAM MCAS!

The MCHS Science Olympiad team will have a giveback at **Five Guys** in Michigan City on Thursday, December 6th; no coupon needed but be sure to mention you are there for the giveback. (A great way to celebrate before/after One City One Sound!)

WAY TO GO!

- Congratulations to MCHS teacher **Ralph Gee**, who has been asked to join the IDOE's newly formed Indiana STEM Cadre. He will be giving input on STEM education in our state and will have opportunities for added PD on STEM.
- Congratulations to the following MCAS staff and board members who will be honored among "100 inspiring Michigan City women" on December 4 at the MC Chamber's Inspiring Women's luncheon: **Lindsey Applegate, Linda Bechinski, Deborah Chubb, Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins, Theresa Edwards, Betsy Kohn, Audra Peterson, Sherri Silcox, and Peggy Thomas.**
- Congratulations to Safe Harbor Development Manager **Abby May**, who was selected as one of eight finalists in our state for the D. Susan Wisely Indiana Youth Worker of the Year award. She was honored by the Indiana Youth Institute at its annual Kids Count conference in Indianapolis.
- Congratulations to MCHS Teacher and Volleyball Coach **TR Harlan**, who was named Class 4A District Volleyball Coach of the Year!

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

- "Operation Santa" at HealthLinc on Dec 3rd
 - E-cigarettes and kids/teens - informational meeting Dec 4th
 - Christmas Family Fun Night at the Elston YMCA Dec 13th
 - Lakeshore Performing Arts Lessons
- And more!*

Calendar Reminders:

December 6 - One City One Sound

December 8 - Snowflake Parade (rescheduled from Dec. 1)

December 14 - Pickup day for holiday food and book drive

December 24 - Winter Break Begins... school resumes Jan 7th

ENJOY WINTER BREAK!