

MCAS Communicator

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

December 2019

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

Snowflake Parade

The Michigan City Snowflake Parade takes place THIS Saturday, December 7. All are welcome to march along with the MCAS unit. We will have pencils/bookmarks to pass out; feel free to bring candy canes. Dress is holiday festive or MCAS/Wolves wear - we have reindeer antlers for marchers who may need them! Note: Nobody is allowed to dress like Santa or Mrs. Claus in this parade. (Look for the decorated MCAS minibus at the lineup location along Washington Street near 10th. Lineup is at 3:30 and the parade is at 4:00pm.)

Happy Week of Code!

Michigan City Area Schools is once again taking part in a countywide "Week of Code" December 2-6. This is the fourth year that our district has held a Week of Code, which engages students in coding and other computer science activities. 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 ILEARN assessment for 6th grade are based on computer science standards.

Scheduled eLearning Day

Reminder: MCAS will have a scheduled eLearning Day on Monday, December 9.

Districtwide Holiday Food Drive (& Operation Bookworm!)

MCAS is once again participating in a districtwide collection of canned food/non-perishable items. ALSO we are collecting books for children and teens. The dates for BOTH the food and book drives are Dec 2 - 12, and all items will be picked up from participating schools on December 13. Contact Betsy Kohn bkohn@mcas.k12.in.us with any questions!

Food Service News

Food Service like to thank everyone who purchased the small potted evergreen trees. They will be delivered this week. Trees will be delivered to your schools and you will be notified that you can pick up the trees in the cafeteria. The profit of the tree sales is \$418.64, which will go into our "Acts of Kindness Fund" to decrease the amount of student negative meal accounts. The Food Service Department wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

One City One Sound

The "One City One Sound" holiday concert is next week! This year's event will feature close to 1,000 student performers and will be held Thursday, December 12, at 7:00pm in the Michigan City High School gym. Many thanks to our music teachers, students, and all those who work 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 our district's YouTube channel and on WEFM Radio, 95.9 FM.

Ready Math Survey

Do you use Ready Math in your classroom? Curriculum Associates values your feedback and would appreciate you responding to the survey below. This will help them improve future versions of the Ready Indiana Math Curriculum. Please complete by December 6th.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9MB2w7cOxLDVbGmRh8R_74NZyC3bAapYrR2iT9Bdb7CSjZA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1

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 December Newsletter: How to Change Bad Habits

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//December%202019/2019%20December%20Franciscan%20Employee%20Assistance%20Program%20Newsletter.pdf>

EAP Webinar - December

Register for "How To Change Bad Habits" and "Advance Care Planning: Focusing On What Matters Most" on Dec 18, 2019 12:00 PM CST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3217902601144801793>

CPR for Certified Staff

A CPR class for certified staff in need of license renewal will be held Thursday, January 9 at 3:30pm 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.

Ivy Tech Classes at AK Smith

The LaPorte County Career and Technical Education Program is partnering with Ivy Tech to offer evening training classes for adults in Welding, Electrical, and Machining. Financial assistance (in many cases covering all costs) is available. The classes are open to adults and also to high school students age 16 and over. Register now for courses that begin in January 2020! Please spread the word. Contact Ivy Tech at (219) 879-9137, stop by their location in Michigan City at 3714 Franklin Street, or email valparaiso-workforcealignment@ivytech.edu. A flyer is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202019/IvyTechSpring2019.pdf>

Bell Ringers Wanted

The Salvation Army needs individuals and groups to ring bells! Sign up for just an hour or two - or an entire day. An online sign up is at <http://registertoring.com>

IU Education Leadership Program

Attention, aspiring principals: IUN offers an MS in Education Leadership program for currently licensed teachers (on a 5-year license) with at least 2 years of full-time teaching experience. More info is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//December%202019/Ed%20Ldrship%20Flyer%20Jun19.pdf>

Census Jobs

The U.S. Census has a great need to hire individuals from Michigan City to conduct the census. More information about this is here:

<https://2020census.gov/en/jobs/job-details.html>

Vibrant Communities

Thank you to all who have participated in the "Vibrant Communities" initiative by attending a community meeting or completing a survey online. Next step: A Vibrant Communities Summit on the Future will be held this Wednesday, December 4, to review what has been learned so far and discuss next steps. All are welcome! More info on this summit is here:

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//December%202019/VCLP_PR%203_Summit%20on%20the%20Future_191125.pdf

Summer Teacher Seminars

Registration is now open for summer 2020 Teacher Seminars offered by the Gilder Lehrman Institute; apply by February 18, 2020. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History's Teacher Seminars offer K-12 educators a variety of programs featuring leading American history professors, visits to local historic sites, and hands-on work with primary sources.

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/programs-and-events/teacher-seminars>

Michigan City Lead Evaluation and Abatement

If you live in a home built before 1978, there's a good chance it could have lead-based paint or other lead hazards. Lead is a toxin that can cause serious mental and physical problems for young children, pregnant women, and even for adults. The City of Michigan City has received grant funding to provide no-cost "Lead Risk Assessment and Healthy Homes" evaluations to assist residents (both owners and renters) in determining if lead is present in their homes, and if so in removing/remediating it. This program is available only for residents of Michigan City who meet income guidelines. To find out if you qualify, please contact Dan Keane, Lead Hazard Control Manager, dkeane@emichigancity.com, (219) 873-1419 Ext 2101. A pre-application for the program is available at City Hall (100 E. Michigan Blvd.) or at this link:

<http://www.emichigancity.com/cityhall/departments/planning-community/pdf/110619.pdf>

CISV Seeking Students

Elementary and middle school teachers: Do you know a student who would benefit from CISV? Children/teens (age 11-15) can participate in this program, which includes multicultural events and international camps. A meeting for families interested in learning more will be held on December 12 at the Michigan City Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Follow the link below for a letter/flyer that you can send home with students you know who may be interested.

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/december%202019/CISV.pdf>

Tickets at Work

Today is "Cyber Monday" for Tickets at Work. Follow the link below for December deals - remember our company code is MCAS.

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/december%202019/December2019HighlightsTAW.pdf>

Give-Backs and Other Opportunities

- **A.K Smith** is having a Red Cross Blood Drive on December 13; **Springfield** is having one on December 18. Register here:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=46360>

- **MCHS National Honor Society** is having a Give Back at **Holly's** tomorrow (12/3). Coupon is here:
<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//December%202019/NHS%20Give%20Back%20120319.pdf>
- **Knapp** is selling discount cards for \$10 each. They have some great deals! Interested? Contact a Knapp staff member or secretary Kaitlyn Woods, ext 6400 or kwoods01@mcas.k12.in.us. Cards look like this:
<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/11/KnappCard.pdf>

Upcoming Events

- December 9 - eLearning Day
- December 12 - One City One Sound
- December 13 - Pickup of Food from all schools for Holiday Food Drive
- December 23 - Jan 3 - Winter Break NO SCHOOL
- January 20 - NO SCHOOL - MLK Jr. Day
- February 17 - SCHOOL IN SESSION (Presidents' Day = school makeup day)
- February 26 - Kindergarten and PreK Roundup (10am - 6pm)
- February 26 - Elementary Parent Conferences

#MCASGiantLeaps