

MCAS Communicator

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

December 2013

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

Holiday Food and Book Drive

MCAS is once again participating in the annual Salvation Army food drive and Operation Bookworm book drive for the holidays. Donations of non-perishable food items (for the food drive) and new books for children/teens (for Operation Bookworm) may be dropped off at any school or building that is participating or at the Administration Building. School buses are also parked at Transportation and Plant Planning to bring more visibility to this effort in the broader community. Hurry! This collection drive only runs through [December 13th](#)! Special thanks to Transportation for collecting items and delivering to the Salvation Army on [Dec 13th](#), and to the MCHS National Honor Society for assisting with Operation Bookworm.

Bell Ringer Challenge!

The Salvation Army has challenged MCAS teams, clubs, classes, and/or other groups to compete in a friendly holiday bell ringing competition. They are looking for groups to ring bells - the group bringing in the most funds will receive a pizza party. Prime time slots/dates are going fast. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity contact Jennifer Merrill at jen121995@yahoo.com.

CPR Training for Teachers

The next CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal is set for Thursday, [January 9th](#). Please contact Linda Bechinski at lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us if you are interested in attending. The training will take place at Mullen and will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$35 cash (please bring exact change) or check (payable to Opportunity Enterprises).

Safe Harbor - Holiday Sale

The Art and Nature Class is a service learning partnership between Safe Harbor, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, & Lake Hills Elementary. Students have made wonderful holiday items combining art and nature, including ornaments from recycled materials and cement trivets. In order to raise money for families to provide Safe Harbor scholarships, the students want to sell their wares. Please help us by purchasing a handmade item for a gift or for you! Click the link below for more info:

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/49/artgardenfundraiser.pdf>

Club Discovery News

Students from the Safe Harbor Club Discovery programs at Elston, Barker and Krueger Middle Schools are focused on community service! Again this year, Club Discovery volunteers assisted the Salvation Army in organizing food items for families in need for Thanksgiving. Students helped with the distribution and carried food cartons for clients who required assistance. All three middle schools will continue with service projects this school year; these activities provide students an opportunity to learn the importance of working

with and serving others and also help them build positive relationships outside of the school/daily environment.

United Way Campaign Results

Thanks to everyone involved, we had a very positive United Way Campaign again this year! We appreciate your generous donations and help with the car wash. Total raised this year by MCAS is \$24,306.40! Congrats to the winners of the special incentive prizes:

Highest % of Donors- Top schools:

Niemann - 38.7% Winner of Jeans & Flip-flop Day with Xavier

Edgewood - 34.0%

Knapp - 33.0%

Admin - 30.5%

Prize drawing Winners:

Tess Pavloff - Dinner with Dr. Eason-Watkins

Nicole Santana - Lunch with Dr. Eason-Watkins

Brenda Bolka - Gift Basket

John Yeakey - Gift Basket

Ad Building Hours

The Admin Building will now be closed for 1/2 hour while our receptionist takes lunch from 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. If you are planning to visit the Ad Building during this time, please be sure you call ahead to make sure someone will be available to buzz you in.

Fishman Prize

The Fishman Prize for Superlative Classroom Practice is a \$25,000 prize awarded annually to public school teachers who demonstrate exceptionally effective teaching with students from high-poverty communities. In addition to receiving \$25,000, the five annual winners engage in a six-week, one-of-a-kind summer residency during which they meet with education leaders and write and publish a collection of essays about their teaching strategies. Finalists receive a \$1,000 award and national recognition. The deadline is [January 21, 2014](#). To read the 2013 winners' paper and learn more about how to apply or how to nominate a teacher, please visit: www.tntp.org/fishmanprize.

WAY TO GO!!!

Congrats to **April Burns, Connie Althoff, Megan Boyter, and Anne Pearson**, who recently attended a Units of Study Workshop in Carmel, Indiana. Approximately 500 teachers attended, and these four teachers were among only 30 invited to have lunch with Lucy Caulkins, the author of Units of Study. It was a great honor!

Congrats to Elston Media teacher **Michelle Coberg**, who recently received a grant from JCPenney and JCP Cares through AdoptAClassroom.org!

Congrats to this year's Barbara A. Carmen grant winners! They include: **Tess Pavloff, Mary Bowser, Nancy Gonzalez, Betheny Bortz, and Sheri Wagner**.

Congrats to this year's Michigan City Education Foundation grant winners! They include: **Amy Hamann, Karen Lyness, Valerie Mecklenburg, Susan Stoll**(Barker); **Megan Edinger** (Coolspring); **Tess Pavloff** (Edgewood); **Stephanie Coggins, Shannon Galloway, Adam Goebel, Gwen Hudson, Kelly Martin-Fargo, Janine Peo, Amy Wojasinski-Labis, (Elston); Meg Kanyer, Natasha**

Magnuson, Christina Schultz, Kimberly Stepp, Ann Schreeg, Nadia Dabagia (Joy); **Elizabeth Law** (Knapp); **Erica Ackerson, Brenda Christianson, Sharon Schuman, Penny Will, Linda Swedenberg, Kylee Caudle**(Krueger); **Erin Lozano, Kathy Kelly, Janis Mitchell, DeAnna Munoz, Kara Curran, and Sheri Wagner** (Lake Hills); **Shannon Chavis, Pam Sassaman**(Marsh); **Susan Shell** (Niemann); **Jeanne Bolen, Holly Beadles, Rick Burnau, Danielle Delgado, LouAnn Porter** (Pine) and Lanette Butz, Debra Carpenter, Kristin Smith, Sheri Tuesburg, Janelle Spolyar, Kelly VandenBerg (Springfield)

SCHOOL and COMMUNITY NEWS

Spaghetti Fundraiser: As mentioned in last month's Communicator... Savja Santana, a 5th grade student at **Joy Elementary** in Jan Ferraro's GT class, has been selected to be a Student Ambassador for People to People. In **June 2014** she will travel to Alaska on a study trip with 39 other students from Indiana. To raise funds for her trip, her friends and family are sponsoring an all-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner on **Saturday, December 14** from 4 to 7 pm at the Coolspring Vol. Fire Dept on Johnson Road and 400 N. Tickets are \$10 per person, and there will also be a bake sale and raffles during the event. For tickets (or to make a donation), contact Nicole Santana, Ricky Santana, or Doug Schroeder - or click on the flyer below for more info:

http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/spaghetti_dinner.pdf

Food Pantry on the Go: The Food Bank of Northern Indiana will host a "Food Pantry on the Go" event for anyone in need on Monday, **December 9** at the American Legion, 121 Skwait Legion, Michigan City from 3-5pm. Please see the flyer below for more information - and spread the word!

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/49/PantryontheGo.pdf>