

# MCAS Communicator

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

## December 2014

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

### **One City One Sound is Thursday**

The annual district-wide holiday concert is this Thursday, December 4th at MCHS, 7:00 p.m.! This year's mega concert will feature more than 1,000 students in grades 6-12. Special thanks to EVERYONE who is working hard to make this possible... especially our music teachers, custodial staff, tech staff, food service, transportation, and JROTC. Please remember to bring a donation or non-perishable food item for the collection at the concert. Follow the link below for important information about traffic flow and parking:  
[http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/4/MCHS\\_parkingmap.pdf](http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/4/MCHS_parkingmap.pdf)

### **Food Service News**

Students and staff enjoyed their Thanksgiving dinner on [November 18th](#) and [19th](#)! Next up: a special holiday dessert on [December 18th](#). The National School Lunch Program continues to change to meet the goals of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Our Child Nutrition Programs strive to meet those requirements and at the same time offer our students products they will accept because believe that good nutrition contributes to a child's educational success. The employees of the Child Nutrition Programs would like to wish everyone a Memorable Holiday Season with family and friends. Happy Holidays!!

### **Art Teacher Show**

Eleven MCAS art teachers are currently exhibiting their work in a show called "Inspired: Inspire" at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts (101 W. 2nd Street), through December 28. An opening reception will be held in conjunction with First Friday this Friday, December 5. Don't miss this!!

### **Deserving Children's Shopping Spree Needs YOU**

The LaPorte Co. Association of Realtors needs help next Tuesday evening (Dec. 9) with its annual Deserving Children's Shopping event for our students! (Chaperones/escorts take kids shopping at Wal Mart.) The required application is below... please submit to coordinator Joy Zigler asap at [atzigler426@yahoo.com](mailto:atzigler426@yahoo.com).  
[http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/2014\\_MC\\_escort\\_app.docx](http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/2014_MC_escort_app.docx)

### **CPR for Teachers**

MCAS is working with Opportunity Enterprises to offer CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal. Classes will take place at Mullen on the following Thursdays: 12/18, 1/15, 2/19, 3/19, 4/16, 5/21. To register for one of these sessions, please contact Linda Bechinski at [lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us). You must register in advance, no walk-ins. The training will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$35 cash (please bring exact change) or check (payable to Opportunity Enterprises).

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

MCAS is once again helping families in need through a district-wide drive for non-perishable food items and new children's books. MCAS staff (and members of the public!) can drop off canned goods etc. at any school or the Ad Building. There are also buses parked at Plant Planning and Transportation to advertise this as a "stuff a bus" effort...and donations are gladly accepted at these locations! All food is given to the Salvation Army for use in its holiday food baskets... serving hundreds of families in need. (MCAS is the main source of food for these baskets each year, so your donation is greatly needed and appreciated.) ALSO the MCHS National Honor Society is coordinating the annual "**Operation Bookworm**" collection – they invite you to donate new books for children/teens at any of the locations mentioned. Let's make sure every child in Michigan City has a book for Christmas! Both the food drive and the Operation Bookworm drive will run until Friday, December 12th.

### **Bell Ringers and Volunteers Needed**

The Salvation Army is still in need of groups and individuals to help ring bells at red kettle locations this holiday season. They also need volunteers to help sort food and toys for their annual Christmas store. (This year, Dr. Eason-Watkins is the Christmas Chair for the Salvation Army campaign... and she urges everyone to help the effort!) To sign up to ring bells or for any other info, contact Jennifer Merrill at [Jennifer\\_Merrill@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Jennifer_Merrill@usc.salvationarmy.org) or 874-6885.

### **Teacher Store - Free Classroom Supplies**

*We've heard rave reviews from teachers who have visited the "Indiana Teachers' Store" in Elkhart. Here's a reprint of the info you need in case you missed it in last month's Communicator:*

Michigan City Area Schools is served by the Feed the Children organization's "Indiana Teachers' Store." Classroom teachers from MCAS are eligible to visit the store one time per month and select free items needed for their students and classrooms. The store is accessible on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM (Eastern Time) at 22365 Elkhart East Boulevard in Elkhart. VERY IMPORTANT: you must show your school ID, and you must have our code number when shopping...it is **1510**. Please note that is **only** for classroom teachers; administrators, counselors, classified non-teaching staff, substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, computer techs, etc. are **not** eligible. Also, teachers cannot bring guests (including children) to shop with them. If you have any questions, call them first: (574) 262-5227 ext. 4720

### **Teacher Web Site Help**

Did you realize there's a handy "how to" guide for creating a teacher web page? Visit the link below to access it... along with many other helpful resources for creating web pages using Schoolwires.

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/Page/11852>

### **Healthy U @ Work**

Follow the link below to read Working Well's November Newsletter:

[http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter\\_november2014.pdf](http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_november2014.pdf)

### **New Ebola Protocol**

MCAS currently has procedures in place for handling communicable diseases. Because of heightened concerns regarding the Ebola virus, our schools are adapting these procedures to include steps for handling suspected cases of Ebola. MCAS is collaborating with area hospitals, the LaPorte County Health Department, the Indiana State Department of Health,

Centers for Disease Control, and the LaPorte County HazMat Team to develop Ebola procedures and train staff. We thank them for their partnership!

### **Update from Elementary Sports Partners**

The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department, the LaPorte County YMCA, the Safe Harbor Program, and the Michigan City Salvation Army coordinated a successful boys' soccer season. Coolspring and Springfield both had 6-1 records, with Joy close behind at 5-2 – but ALL teams had fun. Schools have already begun practices and games for the girls' basketball season. We appreciate the work of our partner agencies in supporting elementary athletics! Anyone interested in volunteering as a coach or official, please contact any elementary school principal or one of the agencies listed.

### **Tree of Thanks**

A "tree of thanks" has been put up in the lobby of the Ad Building. This tree features photos of Hours for Ours mentors and their mentees. A big THANK YOU to all who are mentoring a student! If you are interested in becoming a mentor at lunchtime or after school, contact Sherri Silcox at [ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us). Please consider giving the gift of mentoring to one of our students this year!

### **Give Back at Holly's**

Holly's will have a "give back" event **this Wednesday** (Dec. 3) to benefit the Salvation Army. Follow the link below for the required coupon!  
<http://educatemc.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=2&PageType=17&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=1&EventDateID=16080>

### **WAY TO GO!**

CONGRATULATIONS to the **70 MCAS Teachers** who received small grants this year through the Teacher Innovation Fund, the Barbara A. Carmen Memorial Fund, and the Michigan City Education Foundation. Be sure to check out the complete list of teachers and projects here: <http://educatemc.net>

Congratulations to MCHS teacher **Lynn Clinkert**, who received a Ken Woodruff mini grant on behalf of the Michigan City High School Poetry Club. The grant will assist in expenses for a club field trip to the "Louder than a Bomb" Poetry performance festival in Chicago.

Congratulations (?) to MCHS teacher **Mike Livovich**, who challenged his students to raise \$100 or more for the American Cancer Society as part of the "No Shave November" awareness campaign. Students raised \$300+ in four days, so Mike will be having his head shaved after school on Wednesday....

Congratulations to Barker teacher **Gary Gray**, who is a one of five Indiana finalists in the Samsung "Solve for Tomorrow" contest. Thanks to Gary's efforts, Barker will receive two Samsung Galaxy tablets, and is now in the running for a prize of \$20,000+ in technology. State winners will be announced by February and are based on submission of a lesson plan outlining how they will address the challenge, "Show how STEM can be applied to help your local community."

### **COMMUNITY BACKPACK**

There's a new posting on our "Community Backpack" page!  
 - HealthLinc's "Operation Santa" event on December 16, 3-6pm  
<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>