

MCAS Communicator

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

December 2015

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

One City One Sound Thursday

Don't miss the annual "One City One Sound" all-district holiday concert this Thursday, December 3, at MCHS. The music begins at 7:00 p.m.! Admission is free, but please bring a canned good and/or donation for Salvation Army. Many thanks to our amazing music teachers and the food service, transportation, tech, and Sodexo staff working behind the scenes. Here is info on traffic and parking for the event:

http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/4/MCHS_parkingmap2015.pdf

Winter Learning Resources

Again this year, we are encouraging families to visit our web site for learning games/activities that will help students keep skills sharp on snow days and over break. Follow the link for "winter learning packet" on any school home page (this will be posted in the next week or so) or visit this direct link:

<http://educatemc.net/winter>

Math Resources Reminder

Don't forget... there are many resources for K-6 math posted in the curriculum area on our website under "staff" - new materials are being added frequently! If you haven't visited this page in a while, check out what's new...

<http://educatemc.net/Page/12535>

Superintendents' Letter on ISTEP

All six LaPorte County school superintendents, including Dr. Eason-Wakins, have written an "open letter to the community" regarding the 2014-2015 ISTEP. To read it, visit our home page at <http://educatemc.net>. Thank you for your continued focus on students and learning despite the many challenges we face!

EAP Topic of the Month: Holiday Stress

Our Employee Assistance Program offers resources to help employees/family members who may feel additional stress at holiday times. Follow this link to read the November EAP flyer on this topic:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/2015%20FEAP%20December%20Newsletter.pdf>

And here is information about an upcoming EAP webinar on both "Holiday Stress" and "Breaking the Behavior Chain." (Each behavior is a series of events linked together- similar to the links in a chain.) Please register for Holiday Stress and Breaking the Behavior Chain on Dec 16, 2015 12:00 PM CST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3591437451635294209>

CPR Class

CPR for teachers in need of license renewal is scheduled for Thursday, January 14th and Thursday, March 24th. Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, which is at 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) to sign up.

Holiday Food Drive and Volunteer Opps

MCAS is conducting its annual district-wide canned food drive to benefit the Salvation Army this holiday season. MCHS National Honor Society is also conducting the annual "Operation Bookworm" drive (with a prize of volunteer hours from honor society students for the building that collects the most!). Please bring in your donation for both of these by Thursday, December 10th; most buildings have a collection box for food and/or books, but if yours doesn't, feel free to bring/send your donation to the Ad Building. AND if you are working with a team, club, school or other organization interested in helping the Salvation Army this holiday season there are still numerous volunteer opportunities - most important, they need bell ringers:

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/Salvation%20Army%20Holiday%20Volunteer%20Opportunities.pdf>

(Important: Please sign up for these volunteer opps at the Salvation Army web site www.samichigancity.org)

Healthy U @ Work Newsletter

Fitness gift ideas, how to measure hunger, lung health and more...

http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_november2015.pdf

1966 & 1995 Teams to Be Honored

Don't miss the December 12th home Boys' Basketball game (tipoff at 7:30pm)! At halftime, members of the State Championship 1966 Basketball and the 1995 Volleyball teams will be honored as they are celebrating milestone anniversary years. City will play Indianapolis Arsenal Tech that night - the same team they defeated in the '66 finals. Remember - your MCAS ID badge gets you in FREE to ALL home athletic events! Schedules for girls/boys swimming, diving, girls/boys basketball, wrestling, and gymnastics this winter season are on the athletics web site at <http://michigancityathletics.com/>

GO WOLVES!

Hours for Ours Needs YOU

One caring adult paired with one child for a single hour a week can make a real difference in that child's life. If you know someone who can find one extra hour per week during lunchtime or after school, please encourage them to be that important friend to a child. We offer mentoring opportunities that everyone would enjoy, including horticulture, robotics, college and career, and special interest. Contact Sherri Silcox at 873-2026 x 8744 or ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us.

WAY TO GO!

Congratulations to the **7 elementary/middle school teachers** and the **22 MCHS teachers** who received grants through the Barbara A. Carmen Endowment and the Teacher Innovation Fund this year! Read the story on the MCAS home page for the complete list of the funded projects: <http://educatemc.net>

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Scholastic is having a holiday warehouse sale on books - this is in Mishawaka TODAY and TOMORROW Dec 1-2. See below for details:

http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/omni_img_standard_pdf.pdf

Pine is having a give back at Holly's TODAY (December 1st)... please support and remember to show the coupon below:

<http://educatemc.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=2&PageType=17&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=1&EventDateID=19637&CurrentView=month>

Reprographic Arts in Michigan City has asked us to pass along a special offer for printing of banners and t-shirts:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/Reprographic%20Arts%20IncDecember.pdf>

Don't Miss the Snowflake Parade!

Michigan City is bringing back the "Snowflake Parade" down Franklin street in the Uptown Arts area, which involves Santa coming to town and lighting the library tree on Franklin Street with a carol sing. It is THIS Saturday, December 5th - parade steps off at 3:00pm. The MCHS Marching band, MCHS City Singers & Treble Chorale, and MCAS School Board members are taking part, and the MCHS choral groups will be leading a carol sing at the tree lighting. Children are welcome to bring letters to Santa, which will be collected along the parade route.