

# MCAS Communicator

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

## December 2016

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

### Snowflake Parade Update!

Please join your colleagues THIS SATURDAY for the annual Snowflake Parade in uptown Michigan City, which ends with the arrival of Santa and lighting of the tree in front of the Michigan City Library. Any interested staff are welcome to march along the route with the decorated MCAS mini bus. Look for our unit in the lineup along Washington Street at 2:30pm (parade steps of promptly at 3pm!) We will have some pencils and bookmarks to pass out but feel free to bring candy canes or etc. also. Dress is holiday festive. (Rumor has it that some staff from Pine will be there in UGLY sweaters....)

### "Quarter Mania" on Saturday

Help the Class of 2020 through a "Quarter Mania" fundraiser on Saturday, December 3. Download the flyer below for details and information on this unique event:

[http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/november%202016/2020\\_Fundraiser.pdf](http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/november%202016/2020_Fundraiser.pdf)

### One City One Sound

The annual "One City One Sound" district-wide music concert is TONIGHT - December 1 at 7:00pm in the MCHS gymnasium. Many thanks to all of our music teachers and the many others who are working behind the scenes for this. Tune in to WIMS, WEFM or Channel 98 to hear it live!

### Ringers Still Needed

The Salvation Army still needs help ringing bells this holiday season! It's easier than ever to sign up for a shift/location this year. Simply visit [www.ringbells.org](http://www.ringbells.org) to volunteer as a group or individual.

### Food Drive Under Way

MCAS is again taking part in the holiday food drive for Salvation Army. All canned goods/nonperishable items will be picked up from participating schools/departments on Friday, December 16. If your building is not involved, feel free to drop your donation off at the ad building! Note: Operation Bookworm books are also being collected, a project of the MCHS National Honor Society.

### New Look for MCHS

The High School Cafeteria was given a makeover that was very successful! The students have enjoyed new serving lines, merchandise displays, and tables and chairs. The

awesome, homemade pizza is delicious! New tables and chairs were put into place to give the feel of a college cafeteria. The Food Service Department is looking forward to the Grand Opening of the cafeteria on January 19th. More details to follow.

#### Year-End Notes from Payroll

1. If you were issued a revised teacher contract in November and haven't done so - please sign and return the yellow copy to the Payroll Office.
2. Pay dates in December are December 9th and December 23rd.
3. We would like to have everyone using Employee Access to review their payroll checks. If you have not set up your account and need an activation code letter, please call Pat Brennan at ext 8350 or Kathy Burroughs at ext. 8348 to get help.

#### Post-Election Resources

Looking for resources to address post-election issues with your students? Below is a link to resources from a nonprofit organization called "Facing History" that may be helpful:

<http://educateMC.net/post-election>

#### Holiday Gift Idea - Concert Tickets

Save the date! A "Music in the City" concert benefiting Michigan City Area Schools student athletics is set for Friday, February 10th at 8:00 p.m. in the Blue Chip Stardust Event Center. The concert will feature Journeyman-A Tribute to Eric Clapton. Tickets are \$25 and \$10, and are available through Ticketmaster online, or at the Blue Chip "Gift Box" store. Please note that this concert is for age 21 and over. Tickets to the "Music in the City" Journeyman concert make a *perfect* stocking stuffer!

#### Holiday Gift Idea #2!

Wolves Wear is still available in the online store... click on the ad on any MCAS home page, or follow the link below:

<http://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/indiana/michigancity/michigan-city-high-school>

#### November Healthy U @ Work Newsletter

Tracking fitness, the power of creativity, lung cancer awareness, produce of the month: "carrots" and more....

[https://www.franciscanhealth.org/sites/default/files/documents/ww\\_newsletter\\_november2016.pdf](https://www.franciscanhealth.org/sites/default/files/documents/ww_newsletter_november2016.pdf)

#### 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:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816EAP.pdf>

#### This month's EAP Newsletter: Aging Well

[http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/EAP\\_Dec2016.pdf](http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/EAP_Dec2016.pdf)

### EAP Webinar

The next EAP webinar will be at noon on December 21. Please register for "Aging Well" and "Cash Planning" on Dec 21, 2016 12:00 PM CST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1065894431364583682>

### CPR Class

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held on Thursday, January 12. Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, 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](mailto:lbechinski@educatemc.net)) to sign up. Also, the American Heart Association has written new workbooks and there is one available in every school's nurse's office for review if needed. If you borrow one, please remember to return.

### Winter Learning Packet

The MCAS "winter learning packet" is now online - great for students to brush up on skills during breaks or on snow days. This is now a message choice on home pages and we'll begin promoting it to families as wintery weather approaches. Check it out here:

<http://educateMC.net/winter>

### Sumdog Contest

Sumdog is running a special holiday math contest to celebrate the season, starting December 9th. Students can play at school or at home at any point during the week of the contest, and everyone that takes part will receive festive items for their Sumdog House.

Visit [https://www.sumdog.com/enter\\_contest](https://www.sumdog.com/enter_contest) to enter and give your class the chance to win! For any questions, contact [contests@sumdog.com](mailto:contests@sumdog.com)

Do you "like" MCAS?

Be sure to like Michigan City Area Schools on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@educateMC)!

### Olivet Now Enrolling for Spring

Olivet University has options for online master's programs and specialist certifications. Follow the link below for more info:

<http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/Spring%20Indiana%202.pdf>

### WAY TO GO!

- Congrats to Barker Middle School, which has been selected as a "School of Promising Practice" by the IDOE for their quarterly STEM Challenges!
- Congrats to Michigan City High School students and staff for collecting 11,235 pounds of food for the Student Hunger Drive challenge. Proceeds will benefit the Food Bank of Northern Indiana and the local Salvation Army
- Congrats to the recipients of the 2016 Barbara A. Carmen Teacher Grants: Jill Grabowski (Barker), Brianne Covington and Luci Mazac (Coolspring), Elizabeth Law

and **Joshua** Schultz (Knapp), Tessa Maguire and Theresa Wilkins (Pine) and Debra Carpenter (Springfield)

- Congrats to the following MCHS teachers, who have received grants through the Unity Foundation's Teacher Innovation Fund: Lynne Clinkert, Deanna Ehrhardt, Laura Daly, Stephanie Dege, James Funk, Adam Goebel, Jennifer Gracyalny, Ashley Kohler, Michael Livovich, James Newman, Rebecca Shaman, Lucas Snyder, Bruce Stahl, Cheri Whitler, and Amy Wojasinski-Labis.
- Congrats to Knapp Elementary, which has received a grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for \$4,000. These funds will be used to provide materials that engage students in nonfiction books and other informational texts.

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

- LaPorte County Parks winter programs
- MC Basketball League Holiday Hoops camp for K-8 (Dec. 23)
- Double Dutch contest at the Elston YMCA (Dec. 30)
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

- Dec 21 - Jan 3 - Winter Break for students
- Jan 3 - Teacher Work Day
- Jan 4 - School Resumes
- Jan 16 - MLK Day (no school unless snow day makeup)
- Feb 10 - "Music in the City" benefit concert at Blue Chip
- Feb 20 - Famous Americans Day (no school unless snow day makeup)
- Feb 27 - Magnet School Applications for 2017-18 available
- Mar 1 - Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:15 - 7:15pm)
- Mar 1 - Kindergarten Roundup (10am - 6pm)
- Mar 15 - Secondary Parent/Teacher Conferences (2:30 - 5:30pm)
- Mar 15 - Wolf Pack Roundup (BMS/KMS/MCHS - 5:30 - 6:30pm)
- Mar 31 - Magnet School application deadline