

MCAS Communicator

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

February 2015

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

February is CTE Month

February is Career & Technical Education month. We salute our teachers and staff who work with CTE students at MCHS and at A. K. Smith - you are preparing our students so well for future success! To kick off CTE Month, A. K. Smith will be holding an all-you-can-eat **pancake breakfast this Saturday (Jan 31)** from 8:00 a.m. to Noon featuring delicious pancakes and sausage gravy/biscuits prepared by culinary students. Cost is \$8.00, children 5 and under are free. Mayor Meer will be on hand at 11:00 to deliver a proclamation in honor of CTE month and student awards will be presented. Proceeds benefit student fees for contests and certification exams. See you there!

CPR Class Full

The February class for CPR training (for teachers in need of license renewal) is now full. Unfortunately, Opportunity Enterprises is unable to provide future trainings at Mullen. Linda Bechinski is investigating several other options for CPR training; watch your email for updates on this, coming soon!

Black History Month Exhibit

The Safe Harbor After School program has created an exhibit at Mullen called "Celebrate the Legacy." This features an array of themed displays, videos, photographs, audio listening stations, memorabilia, games, and more! The exhibit is open for guided school tours next month (call for info), and also for self-guided tours for any interested members of the community, Monday through Friday from 1:00-4:00pm. A family celebration will be held in conjunction with this exhibit on Saturday, February 21 from 10am to 2:00pm. Follow the link below for additional details - and spread the word:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/BHMFlyer2.pdf>

Retirement Planning Workshops

If you are considering retirement within the next five years, you may want to take advantage of the Regional Retirement Readiness Workshops being offered through MetLife. The 4-part series leads participants through elements necessary to create an effective retirement plan. Information is neither MetLife nor product-oriented and would be useful whether or not you are currently working with a financial advisor. All participants receive a "Retirewise" guide and other helpful resources. These workshops are open to Northwest Indiana educators, administrators, support staff and their guests and all associated costs have been covered. The series is being offered at MCHS in the media center, and will begin on Thursday, **February 5** from 5:30-7, running three consecutive **Thursday** evenings. See the flyer below for enrollment information, and a description of each week's content. If you have questions, contact MetLife representative Jeff Schankerman at **219-738-5646**.

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/4/RetirementReadinessWorkshop.pdf>

Snow Makeup Days Ahead

Spring is almost here! But, we still have two snow days to make up. School will be in session for students on Monday, February 16 (Famous Americans Day) and on Tuesday, June 2.

Healthy U @ Work

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

http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_january2015.pdf

2015-16 School Year Calendar

The MCAS School Board approved the calendar for next school year at its meeting this week. All dates have been entered into our district/school website calendars, and printed copies of the calendar will be circulated in a few weeks. A few highlights:

Teacher Work Days - August 17 & 18

First Day for Students - August 19

Thanksgiving Break - November 25-27

Winter Break for Students - December 21 - January 4

Teacher Work Day (or a snow makeup day) - January 4

Spring Break - April 4-8

Last Day of School for Students - May 27

Teacher Work Day - May 31

Graduation - June 5

Snow Makeup Days - Jan 4, Jan 18 (MLK Day), Feb 15 (Famous Americans Day), and May 31-June 3

Summer School

Summer school plans were also approved at Tuesday's School Board meeting. Summer school will be held June 22 - July 23, Monday through Thursday. Elementary, IREAD, and Kindergarten countdown will take place at Lake Hills; Middle and High School programs will take place at MCHS. Special ed is again partnering with Reins of Life for special programming this summer. More information about summer school, summer camps, and other summer opportunities for our students coming soon!

Quad Med - New Saturday Hours

The Quad Med Michigan City Health and Wellness Center clinic at Lake Hills will be open one Saturday each month, beginning this Saturday (Jan 31). Quad Med (formerly Novia) serves teachers, bus drivers & monitors, and non-administrative food service staff who have Anthem health insurance. For more information:

http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/Michigan%20City_Monthly%20Saturdays_2015.pdf

MCAS Featured at First Friday

Have you attended a "First Friday" event in Michigan City yet? If not, you'll definitely want to check this out! On the first Friday of every month from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., local,

uptown businesses open their doors to the public and host artists and their work. These "pop-up" galleries showcase anything from paintings, to sculptures, to live performances, and many businesses provide free snacks and drinks, too. On **Friday, February 6**, our very own **Pine Fine Arts Magnet Elementary School** will be featured in a First Friday performance at 6:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church (121 E. 7th Street). Come on out and hear from our very talented students in theatre, piano, band, dance, art, pre-band, and chorus! (Future "First Fridays" will be featuring students from other schools, too ...please support.)

Are YOU an Innovator?

If you are creatively integrating digital media and technology in your classroom, consider applying for the 2015 PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators Program. This yearlong professional development program is designed to reward, foster and grow a community of 100 tech-savvy educators making an impact in their classrooms. For details:

<http://to.pbs.org/digin>

WAY TO GO!

Check out this great profile of Safe Harbor's **Sherri Silcox**, who was featured by LaPorte County Life.com as their "Life in the Spotlight":

<http://www.laportecounty.com/features/life-in-the-spotlight/50027-a-la-porte-county-life-in-the-spotlight-sherri-silcox>

Indiana Governor Mike Pence recognized the LaPorte County Career and Technical Education program and Director **Audra Peterson** during the annual State of the State address on Tuesday, January 13, 2015. Click here to watch a video clip:

<http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/gov-pence-gives-shoutout-to-laporte-co-vocational-program-in-state-address/30705134>

COMMUNITY LINKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Franciscan St. Anthony Health Michigan City and **IU Health La Porte Hospital** are reaching out to La Porte County residents to get their views on the most important health needs in their communities. Please take five to seven minutes to share what you think are the most pressing health needs in our community by clicking on the link below. (Responses will be used to help each hospital determine its community benefit strategies for the years 2016-2018.)

<http://surveymonkey.com/s/inhealthneedssurvey>

Trine University's School of Professional studies has announced a number of new online courses for educators. For more info visit:

http://www.virtualeduc.com/trine/index.php?utm_source=trine&utm_medium=email&utm_content=image&utm_campaign=capture

COMMUNITY BACKPACK

There are several new postings on our "Community Backpack" page!

- Club Inspire - After School homework and tutoring help at MCHS
- "Give Kids a Smile" - Free dental services at Health Linc on Feb 16th
- YMCA Elston branch winter programs
- Plus lots more!

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>