

# MCAS Communicator

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

## February 2020

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

### **From Payroll**

There are new forms for submitting mileage claims, for those staff eligible for mileage reimbursement. [Please click here to access a shared folder of the forms.](#)

### **IDOE Black History Month Resources**

February is Black History Month. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) joins with our schools in recognizing and celebrating this month through classroom and school-community activities. The National Education Association offers these [resources](#), and Scholastic, Inc, has these [materials](#) available to educators.

### **Michigan City Black History Month Calendar**

Here is the calendar of events for Michigan City:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/BHM%202020%20Calendar.pdf>

### **Black History Month Quiz Bowl**

Information on the Michigan City Black History Month Committee's Black History quiz bowl is below. Middle and High School classes, schools, extracurricular groups, church groups, etc. are all welcome to enter a team. Hurry! Signup deadline is Feb 7 and the event is Feb 22.

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/MCQBEntryForm2020andFlyer.pdf>

### **Black History Month Contest Info**

REMINDER: The deadline for the Michigan City Human Rights Commission's annual Black History Month essay and poster contest is February 10. Some significant prizes are offered. We hope that our public schools will sweep the awards this year!

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/2020%20Black%20History%20Month%20Contest\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/2020%20Black%20History%20Month%20Contest_FINAL.pdf)

### **Harriet Tubman Essay Contest**

The Katie Hall Educational Foundation has announced its 8th annual Harriet Tubman Essay Contest for students in grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. The topic is: "Indiana: A Land of Beauty." Deadline is Friday, March 20. Entry info is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/Tubman%20Essay%20contest.pdf>

### **Charles R. Westcott Celebration**

A community celebration will be held in honor of Michigan City's Charles Westcott at the Boys & Girls Club on Saturday, February 15 from 1-3pm. Westcott's son will be attending, and this is open to the public. Charles Westcott founded the Elite Youth Center in Michigan City in 1947. Michigan City's Westcott Park and the Boys & Girls Club are named in his honor. (FYI a feature article in Friday's *Beacher* will profile him and may be good to share with students during Black History month.)

### **St. Patrick's Day Parade**

The Michigan City St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 1:00pm. MCAS will have a unit and all are invited to march with us! Come dressed in your Wolves/leprechaun finery and look for our decorated bus at the lineup location at 12:30pm. OR if your school, team, club, or etc. would like to take part, contact Johnny Stimley at (219) 229-1567.

### **Environmental Stewardship Award**

The Unity Foundation is now accepting nominations for the Jan Nona Environmental Stewardship Award. This is for teachers or students who have gone beyond the ordinary scope of environmental activism. The recipient gets a \$500 award. (There is a preference for high school students and educators although middle school level can also be considered.) Last school year Krueger teacher Daisy Lee was the recipient. Deadline is March 12. More information is here:

<http://app.smarterselect.com/programs/63998-Unity-Foundation-Of-La-Porte-County>

### **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:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202018/2018%20You%20are%20not%20alone%20poster.pdf>

### **EAP February Newsletter: Identifying Anxiety in Children**

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/EAP\\_FEB.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/EAP_FEB.pdf)

### **EAP Webinar - February**

Please register for "Reducing Anxiety Without Drugs" and "Dangers of Vaping/How to Talk to Your Kids About Vaping" on Feb 19, 2020 12:00 PM CST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2973295350059652611>

### **CPR for Certified Staff**

There are two **options for CPR** for certified staff in need of license renewal:

1. CPR Classes will be offered at the A. K. Smith Career Center on 2/12 and 3/18, from 6:00 pm - 8:30pm (cost is \$35). If interested, register online at: [www.IneedACPRcard.com](http://www.IneedACPRcard.com). This nonprofit organization also offers classes at other locations and times. Questions? Contact David Sanders at [dsanders05@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:dsanders05@mcas.k12.in.us).

2. CPR Trainer Val Skwiat offers an online option. (1) Go online to [elearning.heart.org](http://elearning.heart.org) to complete the \$15 CPR course and then print out or email your completion certificate to Valorie Skwiat. (2) Call, text, or email Val to schedule a date and time of your choosing to complete the hands-on skills portion. The cost for this is an additional \$20 to receive your course completion card. Contact Val at (219) 873-2127 x 8606, Cell: (219) 874-1716, [vskwiat@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:vskwiat@mcas.k12.in.us)

### **Sectional, Regional Basketball Info**

The Michigan City High School Athletic Department is pleased to announce that our high school will be hosting the IHSAA Girls Basketball Sectional, which will take place on February 4th through 8th. We will also host the IHSAA Boys Basketball Regional on March 14. Season passes and MCAS staff ID badges cannot be used for these games, however, tickets will be on sale in advance from our Athletic Department.

**Kindergarten Roundup**

Kindergarten & PreK Roundup will take place at all eight of our elementary schools on Wednesday, February 26 from 10:00 am to 6:00 p.m. (This date is also parent conferences at the elementary level, for the convenience of parents already in the buildings with older siblings.) Please note that the State of Indiana has extended the entrance age for kindergarten. Children who are age 5 by October 1, 2020 will be eligible for Michigan City Area Schools kindergarten. Parents who need help determining which school their child would attend are encouraged to contact the MCAS Transportation Department at (219) 873-2127.

**Wolf Pack Roundup**

Save the Date for Wolf Pack Roundup, which will take place on Thursday, March 12 at 5:30pm. All families with students in grades 5 through 8 are encouraged to visit our middle schools or our high school on this date to find out what's in store at the next level. At Michigan City High School, this event will be combined with an Athletics Open House, giving student-athletes and their parents an opportunity to meet coaches and learn more about participating in sports at the high school level. Public, private, home-school, and charter school families are all welcome!

**Wolves Wear on Roundup Day**

In conjunction with the Wolf Pack Roundup on March 12, the Athletic Dept. is holding a "Wolves Wear" day at schools across the district, to benefit Future Wolves elementary athletics. More details coming soon!

**2020 Census Classroom Materials**

The U.S. Census Bureau has a large amount of educational materials for teachers K-12. These include free activities that incorporate census data into subjects such as math, geography, history, sociology, and English language arts. Check out all of the resources here: <https://2020census.gov/en/educators.html>

**Lip Sync Squad**

Again this year, MCAS will have a group performing in the United Way Lip Sync Battle, which will be held on Friday, March 13 at Blue Chip. Team MCAS needs your support! If you are interested in joining in on the Lip Sync performance, contact Holly Martinez at [hmartinez@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:hmartinez@mcas.k12.in.us). OR please consider attending and/or buying a vote for MCAS. <https://givegrove.com/unitedway/vote/>

**Hoosier Star**

Do you have that star quality? The La Porte County Symphony Orchestra is looking for contestants for the 15th annual Hoosier Star competition. Hoosier Star is open to amateur singers of all musical styles and age groups. Competitors in both the youth and adult categories can compete individually or as a duet. Auditions will be held at the La Porte Little Theatre, 218 A Street, on Saturday, March 21 and Sunday, March 22. More details: <https://hoosierstar.com/>

**Summer STEM for High School teachers**

PNW's Hammond campus is offering a 6-week summer research program for high school math, science, and engineering teachers. No cost, plus stipends of \$6150 per teacher are available. The deadline to apply is 2/14/20. For more info: <https://academics.pnw.edu/engineering/research-experience-for-teachers/>

**Student Poetry Contest**

A Student Poetry Contest is part of the 4<sup>th</sup> annual "World Creativity and Innovation Week." Winners of the contest, which is open to students in grades 1-12 from across the region, will be invited to share their work on Saturday, April 19, at the Nest (803 Franklin Street). Contest organizers are asking young poets to explore the intricacies and nuances of the five senses. Poems can be of any length, in any form; narrative, dramatic and lyrical from Haiku to epic. Song lyrics also accepted. Poems must be emailed by Midnight Wednesday, April 1 to [thenestmichigancity@gmail.com](mailto:thenestmichigancity@gmail.com). Include full name/school/teacher's name/grade level/age. Questions? Contact Bill at [William.halliar@gmail.com](mailto:William.halliar@gmail.com) (219) 629-5853 or Ester [thenestmichigancity@gmail.com](mailto:thenestmichigancity@gmail.com) (219) 262-5200.

### **Maker Faire Is Back**

The second annual South Shore Maker Faire will be held on Saturday, June 20 at the Michigan City Public Library (100 E. Fourth Street) in the Uptown Arts District. The free, family-friendly event will be held both indoors and outdoors and will be open to the public from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Featuring both established and emerging local "makers," the South Shore Maker Faire will showcase rockets and robots, DIY science and technology, urban farming and sustainability, alternative energy, bicycles, unique craftwork, handcrafted food and drink, educational presentations, and performances. From engineers to artists to scientists to crafters, the Maker Faire is a venue for these "makers" to show hobbies, experiments, and projects. The Call for Makers, Performers and Crafters is open now through May 29. Individuals, businesses, or groups interested in participating in this event should complete the online application at <http://southshore.makerfaire.com>. There is no cost to participate! Event sponsors are also welcome.

### **IndianaComputes!**

A new computer science professional development opportunity for Indiana K-12 teachers will be available starting this summer. The year-long, hybrid program is aimed at deepening participant content knowledge and gaining confidence in teaching computer science. Find more information [here](#). Complete [this survey](#) to connect with other educators.

### **Spring 2020 ILEARN Indiana Educator Scoring Opportunity**

Indiana educators interested in scoring open-ended ILEARN 3-8 and ECA items may now apply through March 16. This [updated flyer](#) includes links to the online application and the new Indiana Educator Scoring [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

### **Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Discount**

MCAS is a member of The Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Partner program. The Corporate Partnership discount is 15% off your entire purchase, valid until January 31, 2021 at Tommy Hilfiger Outlet stores. Please print and bring this ad with you at the time of purchase or show via a mobile device.

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/Tommy%20Hilfiger%20Corporate%20Partnership%20Discount.pdf>

### **WAY TO GO!!**

- AK Smith Criminal Justice & Law teachers **Officer Lendell Hood** is the recipient of this year's Chris Smith Award from the MCPD. The award, which honors Officer Chris Smith who passed away after a courageous battle with cancer, is given to an officer who embodies a passion for law enforcement as well as a love for life.
- MCHS teacher **Amanda Stolarz** has been selected to participate in The Transatlantic Educators Dialogue (TED). Ted brings educators in the U.S. and the European Union together online for shared exploration and examination of a variety of educational topics, such as immigration, educational equality, active teaching methods, and issues related to identity and difference.

- The MCHS **Compressed Air Academy** has been designated a "State Earn and Learn" program by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. Representatives of the State Office of Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeship will be coming to MCHS on February 4 to recognize the program as a model of best-practice work-based learning. In addition, the Compressed Air Academy will receive the Awards for Excellence for Outstanding Secondary CTE Partnership award at a ceremony on February 18 in Indianapolis.

### Give-Backs and Other Opportunities

- Pine Elementary has a Give Back at **Hacienda TODAY!** Use this coupon: [https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/Pine\\_Hacienda.png](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/Pine_Hacienda.png)
- The MCHS **Baseball** team is having a Trivia Night on **Saturday, Feb 22** at the DAV. To register, call Scott Cuma (219) 781-3528, Mike Bruemmer (219) 871-9652 or Mike Galvan (219) 229-4136. Details: <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//January%202020/BaseballTrivia.jpg>
- The MCHS **Marching Band** will also have a Triviafest fundraiser. Theirs is on **Friday, March 13** at the St. Joe Club. To register a team, email Betsy Kohn, [bkohn@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:bkohn@mcas.k12.in.us) or call Mark Kline at (219) 362-4224. Details: [https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//January%202020/TriviaFlyer\\_Band\\_2020.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//January%202020/TriviaFlyer_Band_2020.pdf)
- Centerstage Theatre and the MCHS Theatre Department are hosting a **Craft & Vendor Fair at MCHS** on Saturday, **February 9**, from 9:00am to 3:00pm. A flyer is here: [https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/Craft%20and%20Vendor%20Fair\\_Theatre.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/Craft%20and%20Vendor%20Fair_Theatre.pdf)
- **Barker** Middle School is hosting a **Craft & Vendor Fair** on Saturday, **March 14** at the school. For info on the event and on being a vendor: <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/Barker%20Vendor%20Fair%20FINAL.pdf>
- **Knapp** Elementary School is currently seeking vendors for its upcoming **Vendor Fair** on **April 25**. Info is here: <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/Knapp%20Vendors%20Wanted.pdf>
- The Michigan City High School **Athletic Boosters** have announced a major fundraiser that they hope will become an annual tradition, a **Spring Raffle**. Tickets are \$20 each, and ten cash prizes will be awarded, with a top prize of \$1,000. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold. These raffle tickets are on sale now in the MCHS Athletic Office.

### Upcoming Events

- February 17 - SCHOOL IN SESSION (Presidents' Day = school makeup day)
- February 26 - Kindergarten and PreK Roundup (10am - 6pm)
- February 26 - Elementary Parent Conferences (3:15 - 7:15pm)
- March 2 - eLearning Day

- March 7 - MC St. Patrick's Parade (march with MCAS!) 12:30 lineup
- March 12 - Districtwide "Wolves Wear Spirit Wear" Day to benefit Elementary Athletics
- March 12 - Secondary Parent Conferences (2:30 - 5:30pm)
- March 12 - Wolfpack Roundup (MCHS, BMS, KMS) and Athletic Open House 5:30-6:30pm

**#MCASGiantLeaps**