

MCAS Communicator

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

February 2019

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

Welcome back from the deep freeze!

Rescheduled Board Meeting

The January school board meeting was canceled due to the weather. It is rescheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at 6 p.m.

CPR for Certified Staff

A CPR class for certified staff in need of license renewal will be held on Thursday, March 14th at 3:15pm at Mullen (100 Manny Court). The cost is \$50, cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions at the class. The class lasts approximately 2 hours. CPR books are available to borrow from any nurse's office if you need to review prior to the class. Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski in advance to reserve your spot for this class, or with any questions - lbechinski@educateMC.net.

American Fidelity Reminder

Due to the weather closings, American Fidelity has scheduled additional days for people who missed appointments to discuss Section 125. Please see the email that was sent to all staff on this yesterday for the schedule and a link to sign up. If you already had an appointment scheduled for a day we are going to be in session, you do not need to reschedule.

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 Newsletter - February: 10 Tips for Dealing with an Anxious and/or Agitated Individuals

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//February%202019/February%20EAP%20Newsletter.pdf>

February EAP Webinar

Please register for "Tips To De-escalate An Anxious Or Agitated Individual" and "Know Your Numbers" on Feb 20, 2019 12:00 PM CST at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5166977170164354819>

Civics Education Contest

In recognition of Law Day on May 1, the National Center for State Courts is sponsoring a contest for elementary, middle, and high school students. Each grade group is asked to answer the following essay question (100 words or less): Should there be limits to free speech? Why or why not? Deadline is February 22 and students receive cash prizes. For more info:
<https://www.ncsc.org/contest>

Black History Month News

The Michigan City Human Rights Commission has announced its annual Black History Month contest. This is a poster contest for grades K-6 and an essay/poetry contest for 7-12. Deadline is Feb 15th. Let's sweep the awards this year!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//February%202019/Black%20History%20Month%20Essay%20Info%20and%20Entry%20Form%202019.pdf>

Again this year, Safe Harbor and the Michigan City Black History Committee are offering tours of an extensive Black History Exhibit housed at Mullen. The free exhibit is open to the public weekdays in February 1-4pm and 6-8pm, Saturdays 11-4, and Sundays 1-3. School and other group tours can be arranged; call Allen Williams at 873-2026 ext 8737 or awilliams19@mcas.k12.in.us. A flyer is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//February%202019/Black%20History%20Exhibit.pdf>

The Michigan City Black History Month committee will hold its annual Quiz Bowl for middle and high school students on Saturday, Feb 16 at Mullen. There are always great prizes and students have a fun time. Enter your team today!

Entry Form is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//February%202019/mcqbentryform2019andflyer.pdf>

Study Guide is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//February%202019/bhm%20quiz%20bowl%20study%20guide%202019.pdf>

A full calendar of events from the Michigan City Black History Committee is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//February%202019/Civil%20City%20Black%20History%20Month%20Calendar%20190119.pdf>

Wall of Fame

It's time to submit nominations for the 2019 MCAS Wall of Fame! The Wall honors former Michigan City Area School employees who have made outstanding contributions. For eligibility info, a list of past inductees, and a nomination form follow the link below. Deadline for submission is March 29.

<http://educateMC.net/WOF>

Retirement Dinner - Save the Date

The 2019 Retirement and Wall of Fame dinner will be held on Monday, June 3 at Blue Chip. More details coming in future editions of the MCAS Communicator.

Footlight Theater Discount for MCAS Staff

The Footlight Theatre in Michigan City is offering MCAS staff \$10 tickets for its opening night showing (March 1st) of Arsenic and Old Lace at the Footlight Theatre in Michigan City (1705 Franklin St.) Reservations are recommended by calling 219-874-4035 or visiting www.footlightplayers.org. Show your MCAS staff ID for the discount. The show starts at 7:30 and they hope to see you there!

Office Max/Office Depot Rewards Club

Did you know that teachers can earn discounts at Office Max/Office Depot? Stop by the store at Dunes Plaza to register for the rewards program; be sure to mention you are a

MCAS educator. Meanwhile, here's a coupon good through 2/24 for those who may be interested:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//February%202019/OfficeMaxDepotCouponFeb.pdf>

Tommy Hilfiger Discount

The Tommy Hilfiger outlet at Lighthouse Place offers a 15% discount to all MCAS staff. Show your ID and this coupon to take advantage of this:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//February%202019/Tommy%20Hilfiger%20Corporate%20Partnership%20Discount.pdf>

K-12 Econ Resource

Econ Lowdown is a website that offers free online courses and videos on economics topics for use in K-12 classrooms. Check out here:

<https://www.econlowdown.org/>

SAVE THE DATES - GIVE BACKS & OTHER EVENTS FOR TEAM MCAS!

February 2 - MCHS Athletic Boosters Comedy Night at the St. Joe Club DETAILS HERE:

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//February%202019/boosterclub_comedynite.pdf

February 6 - Pine Elementary Give back at Hacienda

<https://www.facebook.com/events/331468287705577/>

February 23 - Trivia Night at DAV benefiting MCHS Baseball

<https://www.facebook.com/events/289580171755464/>

February 27 - Pine Elementary Give back at Papa John's

March 8 - Triviafest at St. Joe Club benefiting MCHS Marching Band DETAILS HERE:

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//February%202019/TriviaFlyer_Band_2019.pdf

April 2 - "Run with the Wolves" 5K Fun Run at Washington Park - Register HERE:

https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/MichiganCity/RunWithTheWolves5KFunRun?fbclid=IwAR2Q0fj6TIJnnnX_yapQVG5F6dY1GpNpS5F-xsTpLyjWDEBkzoajJwLICn8

WAY TO GO!

Krueger Middle School teacher **Daisy Lee** has been named the 2019 Soil & Water Conservation Teacher of the Year. She'll be honored at the LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District's annual meeting on February 23.

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

- "Give Kids a Smile Day" dental checkups at HealthLinc Feb 19
- Rolling Prairie Baseball Signups
- Pop Warner Flag Football Signups
- Elston YMCA Parent-Child Sweetheart Dance Feb 12
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

Feb 18 - eLearning Day (November snow makeup)

Feb 27 - Kindergarten Roundup, 10am - 6pm
Feb 27 - Elementary Parent Conferences, 3:15 - 7:15pm
March 14 - Secondary Parent Conferences, 2:30 - 5:30pm
March 14 - Wolfpack Roundup, 5:30 - 6:30pm
March 13-22 - Elementary Art Show at Lubeznik Center, (Reception Tuesday, March 19, 4:30-6pm)
April 1 - 5 - SPRING BREAK
April 19 - Good Friday - NO SCHOOL
June 3 - Retirement/Wall of Fame Dinner @ Blue Chip