

MCAS Communicator

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

February 2013

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

Career & Tech in the Spotlight

February is National Career and Technical Education month! This year's theme is *Career and Technical Education WORKS*. Among the activities scheduled is an exhibition of La Porte County Career and Technical Education programs, which will take place at Marquette Mall **this Saturday, February 2** from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. At 12:00 noon, Michigan City Mayor Ron Meer will deliver a proclamation in honor of CTE month, and other special guests will be on hand to recognize outstanding CTE students in LaPorte County. Be sure to watch the News Dispatch for features on our CTE teachers throughout the month, and listen to WIMS radio (AM 1420) just after 7:00 a.m. daily to hear CTE teachers interviewed!

CPR Training

CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal has been scheduled for Thursday, **February 21**, at Mullen at 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$35 cash (please bring exact change) or check (payable to Opportunity Enterprises). To register, please contact Linda Bechinski at lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us. Please note: If you sign up for CPR training, please let Linda know a couple days in advance if for any reason you are not going to be able to make it.

Do Not Call Registry

Want to block sales/marketing calls to your cell phone (or home phone)? Add yourself to the National Do Not Call Registry by calling [888-382-1222](tel:888-382-1222). Be sure to make the call from the phone you want on the list.

"Can You Relate?" Parent Workshop

MCHS and the Parent Network invite all parents to attend a workshop on Tuesday, **February 5**, from 6-7 p.m. in the high school media center. The topic: improving communication between parents and teenagers. Don't miss this one! Presenters will include social worker Deb Reason and MCHS guidance counselor Rhonda LaMarr.

Brunch, Anyone?

Join your friends at Rodini's Restaurant for brunch on **Feb 24**, and help the MCHS Theater Dept! Cost is only \$15. For more info, visit: http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/20/DC_Fundraiser_flyer.pdf

(Are you sponsoring a "give back" for a school organization? Email your coupon or link to Betsy Kohn and she will help you post it on the MCAS website calendar.)

Wellness Screening at Barker

Barker will hold its annual Wellness Screening on **April 24** (6:30-8:30 a.m.) this year. Any employee wishing to register for this should contact Lisa Steinhiser. Details are here: http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/Barker_Middle_school_2013.pdf

2012-13 Calendars

Allison Ruffing has a large supply of the blue 2012-13 school year calendars left. Please contact her if you need any! (The 2013-14 school year calendar is being finalized...stand by for an update in next month's Communicator.)

Eat at McD's!

Join Hours for Ours and Safe Harbor at McDonald's for the Regional Mentoring Celebration! It will be held from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on **Tuesday, February 26**. 15% of sales will benefit our mentoring program. Enjoy an easy, fuss-free dinner and visit with a great group of people. Bring your friends and family! Find out more about mentoring. Did you know? *A lot of people have gone further than they thought they could because someone else thought they could!* For more information about how to help our students by mentoring, call Sherri Silcox at [873-2026](tel:873-2026) x 8744.

Art and Nature

The Safe Harbor Afterschool Program, working with Lake Hills Elementary and Lubeznik Center for the Arts, just finished a semester-long Service Learning Project combining *Art and Nature*. The partners worked mostly with 2nd and 3rd graders (and a couple brilliant 1st graders!) to achieve a number of goals. Go to the You Tube link to view the video documentation. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnSZ-c2V9RQ&feature=youtu.be>

Club Discovery Update

Club Discovery is Reaching for the GOLD with the assistance of Hours for Ours Mentors and a new community volunteer! H4O mentor Allen Williams will visit Krueger's CD Program each week during the month of February to provide students with Black History facts, and to show students interesting artifacts. A second mentor, Don Wenig, has volunteered to facilitate the YogaKids Bridge of Diamonds program at Krueger each week. The YogaKids foundation believes that every child deserves the opportunity to recognize their own strengths and power. Finally, Club Discovery welcomes MCHS alum Nolan Fine, who recently graduated from Loyola University. Nolan has returned to Michigan City to assist with Barker's CD program each week. He will facilitate a Leadership curriculum that is designed to empower our students to make positive decisions. Club Discovery is very thankful for the support of our mentors and community volunteers!

Robotics Team News

MC Robotics hosted a regional "Design Review" forum at Mullen on Saturday, **January 26**. Teams from Crown Point, Gary, New Prairie, and South Bend joined MC to identify key issues surrounding the new build -- and most of all to get to know each other and share ideas. The team now has about 20 days to work out the bugs, challenge their initial plans, and field a competitive robot. This year's robot will be playing disc golf and attempting to climb a pyramid. Special Thanks to the Parent group, which put out an array of snacks! All MCAS employees are invited to stop by and see the robot and practice field -- the team is at Mullen till 7 pm every night and all day **Saturday** until **Feb. 19th**. Go Firehawk!

Online Courses for Educators

Trine University offers online, self-paced, continuing education courses cooperatively with Virtual Education Software, Inc. Visit the following link for more info: <http://www.virtualeduc.com/e-announcements/trine.htm>

WAY TO GO

Congrats to the following MCHS and AKS teachers, who are receiving Teacher Innovation Fund grants this year for classroom projects of up to \$350. The teachers will be honored at a reception at MCHS in March!

- Resources for Reading: **LaReina Valdez**
- Reading is Everything: **Rebecca Sanders**
- 3-D Algebra with K-Nex: **Rory Boone**
- Preserve Fedder's Alley: **Andy Jasicki**
- Community Garden Feeds Michigan City: **Lauren Bridges-Santana**
- This...Is...Jeopardy! **Kortney Brennan, Bruce Stahl and Charles Brennan**
- The Electric Steinbeck Project: **Michael Livovich and Frank Haughee**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zumba Party!

Did you know 1 in 3 women are affected by heart disease? Get your heart pumping at the Northwest Athletic Club's "Zumba Party" on [Feb 8](#), from 7-9 p.m. Proceeds benefit the American Heart Association. Visit the link below for more information:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/Party%20hearty.pdf>

Valentines Day Blood Drive

First Trust Credit Union (950 E. Hwy 20) is conducting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, [February 14](#) from 12:00 – 4:30 p.m. Please consider donating! Call Laurie at [\(219\) 877-2290](tel:(219)877-2290) to register for a time slot.

2013 Children's Art Scholarships Available

The Michigan City Public Art Committee, created in 2011 by the Michigan City City Council, has established a scholarship fund to assist Michigan City children in taking art instruction. Visual art classes or individual art instruction for qualified children between 5 and 18 years of age will be funded. Over \$6,300 in scholarships are available. The maximum grant request per individual is \$200. Funds will be available for instruction in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, collage, crafts such as beading, mosaic work and weaving, art camps or any combination of these taught by a legitimate instructor. The committee will not fund music, writing, dance, or drama instruction. Applicants must show financial need and take instruction from an art provider located in the Michigan City city limits. The deadline for applying is at least 30 days before the instruction is scheduled to start. Applications are available at the LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Marquette Mall, or by contacting Jane Daley, jane@michigancitylaporte.com

New on "Community Backpack"...

- **"Hoosier Star"** contest information (auditions are [March 23](#) and 24)
- **Dyngus Day Dash 5K Run and Walk** ([April 1](#) benefit for Red Cross, ages 8-80+)
- **Dunes Discovery Camp** (summer camp information for ages 10-13, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)
- February programs for kids and teens at **LaPorte County Libraries**

Visit <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49> for details on these and other community events!