

MCAS Communicator

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

February 2014

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

Hats Off to Counselors

This is National School Counseling Week! Please thank a school counselor you know for his/her important contribution to the success of our students!

Career/Tech Month

February is National Career and Technical Education Month! Breaking News: Our LaPorte County CTE Program received an "A" this year as a result of the IDOE's Perkins Site Visit and review that took place in November. Congrats to our CTE staff and students! Please take a moment to visit the A. K. Smith web site (educateMC.net/careertech) to learn more about the many CTE opportunities we are providing to students at Michigan City High School and the other five high schools we serve. ALSO please mark your calendar.... A. K. Smith invites you to attend its Pancake Breakfast on Feb 22 from 7:00am to Noon - proceeds from this event will support our CTE programs.

Snow Makeup Days

Due to additional school closings due to severe weather, the last day for students is now **Friday, June 6**. Teacher Work Day is **Monday, June 9**. (Is anyone ready for Spring yet?)

CPR Training for Teachers

The next CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal is set for Thursday, March 13th. Please contact Linda Bechinski at lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us **asap** if you are interested in attending. The training will take place at Mullen and will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$35 cash (please bring exact change) or check (payable to Opportunity Enterprises).

Special Ed Expo

The MCAS Special Education Department is hosting an "Exceptional Expo" on March 12 in the Elston Wolfpack Gym from 4:30-6:30pm for families who have students with disabilities. This will be an opportunity for community agencies to display resources and materials. Students, parents, and families will gain information on services available within our community, Michigan City, and Regional area. There will also be free food, giveaways, and door prizes! Flyers will be available soon. If you know anyone who is interested in exhibiting, contact Amy Steele in the Special Ed Dept. by Feb 15th - (219) 873-2000, ext. 8335 or asteel@mcas.k12.in.us

It's Cold Outside...

...what better way to bring some warmth into your life than volunteering to become a mentor? With all the snow and cold, the kindness, sincerity and passion of mentoring is what many of us need! Hours for Ours would like to thank each and every one of our mentors and supporting staff for your dedication and support. Without you there would be no program and many students would not enjoy the benefit of a mentor. PNC students helped develop a new brochure to share with anyone interested in joining our mentoring

team. Please call Sherri Silcox at (219)873-2026 x 8744 or contact the Hours for Ours site coordinator at your school for more information or a copy of this brochure. One hour a week can make a big difference in the life of a child!

Safe Harbor - Promoting College and Careers

Safe Harbor's College and Career Readiness Program will be heading to The Michiana Humane Society on February 13th in conjunction with Brown Mackie College to show of our future veterinarians what's going on in the animal care and welfare industry. During the tour, students will get a chance to ask questions of the both the Humane Society's employees and several Brown Mackie veterinary science students. On February 23 at 2pm, Purdue North Central will be hosting a free workshop to assist students and parents in the financial aid process. This is especially important as the deadline for filing for financial aid is just a couple of weeks after the workshop. There will be a 13 passenger mini-bus leaving from Michigan City High School at 1:30 pm if any parents or students are in need of transportation.

Club Discovery News

Club Discovery "Edible Education" students at Barker Middle School continue to learn more about how to grow and prepare foods naturally. The students are not only gaining information on seeding, planting and growing basic foods, but also are enjoying tasting them. The sessions are coordinated by Sacha Gee-Burns and this week the students will be making pickles! Club Discovery students at Krueger Middle School will begin "Poetry With CC sessions" soon. The program has multiple objectives: learning positive self expression; brainstorming; working in small groups; and improving basic writing skills. The six week program culminates in a presentation of poetry to family and friends. Carnessa Carnes is the session coordinator.

Health Screenings

All MCAS employees, spouses and retirees regardless of insurance coverage are welcome to participate in the 2014 Health Screenings. These are provided through the Novia Clinic at Lake Hills. Please visit the HR page for Current Employees on our website, where you will find more info on scheduling an appointment and a MPWR ("My Personal Wellness Report") questionnaire to complete in advance.

<http://educatemc.net/Page/7095>

(scroll to the bottom of the page to find this info)

SCHOOL and COMMUNITY NEWS

There's a lot NEW on "**Community Backpack**" -

visit <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49> for details on all of these:

- * College **financial aid information workshops** at Grace Learning Center on Feb 6 and 18
- * The Michigan City Human Rights Commission **Black History Month essay contest** for middle and high school (Deadline is Feb 7th!)
- * **Diabetic Support Clinics** for adults and teens at HealthLinc
- * "Give Kids a Smile" **free dental services** for children at HealthLinc on Feb 17

Upcoming School Blood Drives

- Health Academy students at **A. K. Smith** are coordinating a Red Cross blood drive from 7:30am - 1:30 pm on Feb 27th. Please call ahead for an appointment! (219) 873-2120 ext. 8742.
- **Springfield Elementary School** is also having a blood drive - please click this link for more information on their "Pint Size Heroes" event on March 31: <http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/16/springfield%20blood%20drive.jpg>

Legislative Breakfast

The Dunes Shore Council of the ISTA invites you to its annual Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, February 22. This will be held at South Central High School (9808 South 600 West, Union Mills) at 9:00am. Following a legislative briefing by Teresa Meredith, ISTA President, there will be a discussion forum for legislators of Northwest Indiana, interested citizens, parent organization representatives, teachers, Education Support Professionals, and school officials. Topics to be covered include Vouchers and Privatization of School Services, Charter Schools, School Safety, Changes to the Indiana Public Retirement System (PERF/TRF), Indiana Department of Education, etc. For more info: <http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/LegislativeBreakfast2014.pdf>

Grants Available for Youth Projects

Youth 2 Youth, a group of students from the Leadership Laporte County Youth program, have kicked off their 2013-14 Youth Grant program. Do you know of a youth-led community service project seeking funding? Download the flyer for more information:

http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1104247303997-128/Y2Y+flyer_March+deadline.pdf

Grant applications are available online: <http://www.leadershiplaportecounty.com/>
Deadline for grant proposals for the next grant cycle is March 3.

First Trust Scholarships

First Trust Credit Union has two \$1,000 scholarship programs available. If you know of a family member or a student who is looking for scholarships, direct them to www.firsttrustcu.com for info and applications. The deadline is February 21, 2014.

University of Phoenix

The University of Phoenix offers a large number of online continuing education courses for educators. Follow the link below for a complete list and more info on Feb-May courses:

http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/Feb-May_cte-schedule.pdf

Praxis Review for Admin Certification

Butler University will host a Praxis SLLA /CORE School Principal/Administration workshop for anyone who plans to take the Educational Leadership exam as part of the requirements for Administrative certification. This workshop will be held on Saturday, **February 15**, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. The workshop is led by Dr. Brent Daigle and provides an in-depth review of all the content and standards that are currently targeted on the PRAXIS and CORE certification exam. Cost is \$100. For more info:

Brent Daigle, Ph.D.

Phone: (470)-331-9414

Email: drbrentdaigle@praxisworkshop.org

Website: <http://www.praxisworkshop.org>

Registration form: <http://goo.gl/QT2nn1>