

MCAS Communicator

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

February 2017

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

Black History Month Exhibit

Safe Harbor is hosting the Black History Month Exhibit again this year at the Mullen Building presented by Mr. Allen Williams and the Michigan City Black History Month Committee. The theme this year is "Looking Back. Moving Forward." The exhibit features a collection of informative displays, activities, documents, artifacts and audio/visual materials - including new exhibits on Muhammed Ali, Hidden History (Figures and Astronauts), Barak Obama and many others. The exhibit dates are Feb 1 - Feb 28. Call 873-2026 to schedule a school, group or personal tour of the exhibit. Public viewing will be 1:00 pm - 4:00 during the week; weekend tours are available on a walk-in basis from 10:30 - 12:00 pm on Saturdays and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Sunday. An extension of this exhibit will also be featured at Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts (717 Franklin St. Michigan City). Opening night is First Friday, February 3, 6pm - 9pm. Safe Harbor has planned a Family Night on February 15th from 6pm till 8pm at the Mullen Building. Food will be served and students will be presenting Black History themed projects. Students and families will also have a chance to participate in activities, win prizes, and tour the Black History Month exhibit!

Black History Month Quiz Bowl

A Black History Month Quiz Bowl contest will take place in the Indiana Room at the Michigan City Library on Saturday, February 11, 2017 from 10a-1p. Teams must register by THIS Friday...the form is here:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/feb17/MCQBEntryForm2017andFlyer.pdf>

Black History Month Essay/Poster Contest

Reminder: Deadline for entries for the MC Human Rights Commission's Black History Month Contest is also this Friday. Here is the form:

http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/feb17/Black%20History%20Month%20Flyer_EntryForm.pdf

Bookworm, Food Drive - WOW

This year, students from the A. K. Smith Facilities Maintenance Class (along with Transportation and Food Service Dept. volunteers) weighed all the food collected through the district-wide holiday food drive for the Salvation Army in December. Incredibly, we delivered 3,996 pounds of food (2 short of 2 tons!). Way to go! In addition, the MCHS National Honor Society "Operation Bookworm" drive collected 1,568 books for kids and teens in our community. Congrats to Edgewood, which collected the most books (504)!

Keep Voting for Tess!

Edgewood Kindergarten Teacher Teresa Pavloff is featured as one of PCMG's Star STEM Teachers this quarter. She will receive a minimum of \$600 in funds for her classroom... but with your vote could receive as much as \$2,000 and a chance at a \$10,000 grand prize. Please take a moment to vote for her! (You can vote up to 3 times through March from the same email address.) Here's the link: <http://www.pcmg.com/n/navLinks-687>

Text Alerts

Remember, MCAS text alerts are now an option for staff, community members, parents, and students to learn about closings/delays. Sign up here: <http://educateMC.net/texts>

Valentine's Day Gift Idea

The "Music in the City" concert benefiting Michigan City Area Schools student athletics is set for Friday, February 10th at 8:00 p.m. in the Blue Chip Stardust Event Center. The concert will feature Journeyman-A Tribute to Eric Clapton. Tickets are \$25 and \$10, and are available through Ticketmaster online, or at the Blue Chip "Gift Box" store. Please note that this concert is for age 21 and over. Please help us spread the word about this! A .jpg flyer for sharing on social media and email is here:

http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//Jan17/0117Music%20In%20The%20City%20Concert%20Flyer_Sponsors.jpg

Art Teachers' Show

Don't miss the annual MCAS Art Teachers' exhibit at the Lubeznik Center. You'll see work from many of our talented art teachers, representing schools across our district! The show will be featured through March 18; an opening reception is this Friday, Feb 3 from 5-8pm as part of Michigan City's monthly First Friday event.

January Healthy U @ Work Newsletter

Drug & alcohol facts, kiwis, the dangers of sitting, and more...

http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_january2017.pdf

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:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816EAP.pdf>

This month's EAP Newsletter: The Power of Authenticity

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/feb17/2017FebEAPNews.pdf>

EAP Webinar: Authenticity, Menopause Fitness

The next EAP webinar will be at noon on February 15. Please register for Power Of Authenticity and Fitness Tips For Menopause on Feb 15, 2017 12:00 PM CST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9025985889254320898>

CPR Classes

CPR classes for teachers in need of license renewal will be held Thursday, Feb 23 and Thursday, April 27. Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, 100 Manny Court, adjacent to Lake Hills Elementary. The fee is \$40 cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions. The certification lasts two years.

Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski (lbechinski@educatemc.net) to sign up, if you haven't done so already. Also, the American Heart Association has written new workbooks and there is one available in every school's nurse's office for review if needed. If you borrow one, please remember to return.

Sumdog Contest Info

This Friday (February 3rd) is the start of Sumdog's Northwest Indiana math contest. It's free to enter and runs for six days, ending the following Thursday. Students can play online either at school or at home using the website or the app.....and there are prizes up for grabs. The contest is aimed at grades K - 8, but other students are welcome to participate if the teacher feels that the level is appropriate. Learn at: https://www.sumdog.com/enter_contest For any questions, contact contests@sumdog.com

Drifters Spring Fling - for Scholarships

The Michigan City Drifters is having a Spring Fling on Saturday March 4 from 7pm to 12 am at the Moose Family Center (1180 Franklin Street). Appetizers and desserts provided along with a cash bar. Music provided by D.J. Hot Mix. Proceeds will benefit our student and teacher scholarships. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Please contact Edgewood principal Peggy Thomas for tickets. 873-5893.

Tips from H&R Block

Our friends at H&R Block have prepared some tips for educators re: tax credits, deductions and changes. Read them here:

<http://educatmc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/feb17/HRB.pdf>

Barker Craft Show Vendors Wanted

Barker Middle School's Spring Craft Show is Saturday, April 22. They are seeking vendors and crafters; cost is \$25 for 10x10 space and an 8ft table. Flyer with more info is here:

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/jan17/0117barkercraft.png>

Cookies and Canvas at Joy

The Joy School Association is having a "cookies and canvas" fundraiser event on February 6 at 5:30. Space is limited! Sign up using the form below:

<http://educatmc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/feb17/Cookies%20and%20Canvas.pdf>

WAY TO GO!

- Congrats to Lake Hills, which received a "STEM Stars" award and a 3D printer last week from a company called 1st Makerspace. Read more about it here: <http://educateMC.net/lakehills>
- Congrats to Krueger Art Teacher **Sarah Quartuccio** who received a grant recently through DonorsChoose.org - which involved student murals on ceiling tiles in her room and the nearby hallway (check them out next time you visit)!

Give Backs - EAT, support, repeat!

February 7 - Five Guys - for MCHS Alpha Yearbook

<http://educatmc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/feb17/FGposter1YB.pdf>

February 16 - Five Guys - for MCHS Theater Dept.

<http://educatmc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/feb17/2017FebEAPNews.pdf>

February 21 - Hacienda - for Pine Elementary

(check Pine's website calendar and Facebook closer to the date for required coupon!)

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

- Pop Warner Flag Football
- "Give Kids a Smile" free dental services day at Healthlinec (Feb 20)
- Feb 11 Family Program at Lubeznik Center
- Parks & Rec Baseball and Softball Signups
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

- Feb 3 - March 18 - Art Teacher Show at Lubeznik (Opening reception Feb 3 5-8pm)
- Feb 10 - "Music in the City" benefit concert at Blue Chip
- Feb 20 - Famous Americans Day (no school unless snow day makeup)
- Feb 21 - Promise Scholarship Info meeting at MCHS (6:30pm)

- Feb 27 - Magnet School Applications for 2017-18 available
- Mar 1 - Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:15 - 7:15pm)
- Mar 1 - Kindergarten Roundup (10am - 6pm)
- Mar 15 - Secondary Parent/Teacher Conferences (2:30 - 5:30pm)
- Mar 15 - Wolf Pack Roundup (BMS/KMS/MCHS - 5:30 - 6:30pm)
- Mar 31 - Magnet School application deadline

The 2017-18 School Year Calendar has been approved by the School Board. Here is a PDF version (printed copies will be available at schools later this spring):

[http://educatenc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/calendars%20and%20map/MCAS Calendar1718.pdf](http://educatenc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/calendars%20and%20map/MCAS%20Calendar1718.pdf)
