

MCAS Communicator

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

January 2018

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

Welcome Back

Happy New Year to all! Reminder: Because of our "snow days" on 1/4 and 1/5, school will be in session on Monday, January 15 and Monday, February 19.

2018-19 School Year Calendar

Here is a link to a PDF of the calendar for next school year. Printed copies will be arriving at schools next month.

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/calendars%20and%20map/MCAS_201819SY.pdf

2018 Mileage Reimbursement

If you are an employee who requests reimbursement for mileage expenses, please follow the links below for 2018 information. Please note that we're not distributing this via snail mail this year! Also, the version with drop-down boxes for mileage between buildings is now available on the S:// drive. Questions? Contact Brenda Runnels, ext. 8346.

Cover Memo re 2018 Mileage:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/january%202018/Mileage%20Letter%20revision%20%20for%202018.pdf>

Excel Log sheet for reporting mileage:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/january%202018/2018Mileage%20Log%20Sheet.xlsx>

CPR Training for Certified Staff

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held Thursday, January 18. Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, 100 Manny Court, adjacent to Lake Hills Elementary. Note: Due to an increase in card fees by the American Heart Assn., the fee has increased to \$50, payable by cash or check to Dolphin Solutions. The certification lasts two years. Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski (lbechinski@educatemc.net) to sign up.

Black History Month Contest

The Michigan City Human Rights Commission has announced its annual Black History Month contest. This is a poster contest for elementary students, and an essay/poetry contest for middle and high school. Winners receive cash prizes and will be honored by Mayor Meer at City Hall. Follow the link or details and the required application form. Deadline for submissions is February 2.

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/january%202018/2018%20Black%20History%20Month%20Contest.pdf>

MLK Breakfasts

Purdue Northwest and other community partners are again hosting a community breakfast on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 15th. The featured speaker is the Honorable Gonzalo P. Curiel, federal judge in California who hails from East Chicago. On the 15th, doors open at 8:00 am and the program begins promptly at 8:30 am on the Westville Campus. The following day, on January 16th, the same program is being offered on the

Hammond Campus with the doors opening at 10:00 am and the event beginning at 10:30 am. Some of our schools have already registered to send student groups, as school is in session on this day. To register as an individual please visit www.pnw.edu/mlk-celebration.

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>

January EAP Newsletter: Families and Addiction

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/january%202018/EAP_Jan2018.pdf

January EAP Webinar

Please register for "Families and Addiction: Loving Someone Who Is Addicted" and "Situational Awareness" on Jan 17, 2018 1:00 PM CST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3812630624279652610>

Healthy U @ Work December Newsletter

Fitness Program Tips, Safe Toys, Yoga for Pain Management, Kale, and more...

http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_december2017.pdf

Text Alerts

To sign up for MCAS text alerts about weather delays/closings, follow the link below. Note: If you signed up last year and your info has not changed, you do NOT need to sign up again.

<http://EducateMC.net/texts>

FAFSA Night is Thursday at MCHS

This Thursday, January 11, MCHS will host a "FAFSA Night" from 5-7pm for seniors and their families. Financial counselors will be on hand to assist with the completion of the federal FAFSA forms for college aid. Feel free to pass this flyer along to anyone you know who may be interested:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/january%202018/FAFSA%20Night%20Flyer.pdf>

Elston/Rogers/MCHS T-Shirts

Did you know that Student Support Services students run a student store at MCHS? They are selling one-of-a-kind "one city one pack" t-shirts (see link below). The student store is open daily for 10 a.m to 12:30 p.m or they can interoffice mail you a shirt if needed. Special orders are accepted. Contact Amy Wojosinski-Labis (alabis@mcas.k12.in.us) with any questions.

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/january%202018/tshirt_form.pdf

United Way Campaign News

Congratulations to our entire district on another successful year of United Way giving. This year Michigan City Area Schools donations totaled \$17,465. Congratulations to prize drawing winners: Tula Vasilottos from Food Service and Elizabeth Bennett from Pine each won a basket of goodies, Kathleen Parker from Lake Hills won a lunch or dinner with Dr. Eason-Watkins, and Edgewood won donuts for the highest % of giving. Thank you to everyone for your generosity! **If you did not get a chance to donate and would still like to**, contact Sherri Silcox at ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us or extension 8740.

Robotics Season Under Way

The high school season of the FIRST Robotics program is starting again! The program pairs high school students with adult mentors to design and build robots that compete against one another in a high-energy environment. The exciting competitions combine the practical application of science and technology with the fun, intense energy, and excitement of a championship-style sporting event. If you know a high school student who might be interested and would like more information, contact Sherri Silcox at ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us or 219-873-2026 x 8740.

Safe Harbor's Hours for Ours Mentoring

January is National Mentoring Month! This means it is the perfect time of year to celebrate the mentors in your life and consider the impact you could have as a mentor. This National Mentoring Month, youth voices share research-backed statistics about how having a mentor can help them realize their potential and help them thrive in school, at work, and in life. MENTOR produced "If You Mentor Me..." with generous support from Nike.

<http://www.mentoring.org/our-work/campaigns/national-mentoring-month/>

To become a mentor contact amay@educatemc.net and be sure to Like the Hours for Ours Facebook page!

Safe Harbor's Lead and Seed Drug Education and Prevention

January 22-28 is National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week! Prevention partners across the country will participate in National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week, sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. This week-long health observance is an opportunity for teens to learn the facts about drug and alcohol abuse and addiction from scientists and other experts.

Way to Go!

A HUGE thank you to all who collected food for the district-wide holiday food drive. We delivered 4,273 pounds of food to the Salvation Army before winter break. This is 277 lbs. more than last year - and doesn't include Springfield's total, which was delivered to their local trustee's food pantry. Extra kudos to Transportation Staff, Food Service Staff, and the AK Smith Facilities Maintenance students who assisted on delivery day.

Give Backs - Please support these causes!

1. Hacienda, Tuesday, Jan. 16th - Support MCHS Band Boosters:
https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/january%202018/Band_Hacienda_Jan16.pdf
2. Hollys, Tuesday, Jan. 30th - Support MCHS Band Boosters:
https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/january%202018/Band_Hollys_Jan30.pdf
3. Hacienda, Thursday, Feb 8, Support Pine Elementary:
https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/january%202018/Pine_Hacienda_Feb8.pdf

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

- Host Families needed for exchange students
- LaPorte County Parks Winter Programs
- Elston YMCA Homework Help/Mentoring Program
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

- January 9 - School Board organizational meeting, 6pm
- January 11 - FAFSA Night at MCHS, 5-7pm

- January 15 - **SCHOOL IN SESSION, SNOW MAKEUP** (MLK Jr. Day)
- February 3 - AK Smith Pancake Breakfast (details coming soon)
- February 8 - Future Careers Expo at AK Smith
- February 19 - **SCHOOL IN SESSION, SNOW MAKEUP** (Famous Americans Day)
- Feb 26 - Mar 9 - ISTEP testing window
- February 28 - Kindergarten Roundup
- February 28 - Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:15 - 7:15pm)
- March 8 - Student reception for elementary art show
- March 15 - Secondary Parent/Teacher Conferences (2:30 - 5:30pm)
- March 15 - Wolfpack Roundup (5:30 - 6:30pm)