

MCAS Communicator

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

January 2020

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

Welcome Back! Let's Make Giant Leaps in 2020!

From Payroll

The W-4 tax form has changed for 2020 and is available in Employee Access. You are NOT required to complete the new W-4 form, however, you may want to as Head of Household has been added as a filing status. There is also a worksheet for you to use to help you determine if you need to make any other changes.

New Website Editing Experience

Blackboard has updated the web page editing tool! Beginning today -- when you log in to edit pages, you'll notice a few enhancements. The upgrade makes the editing tool more user-friendly, with more "drag and drop" functions. Once you sign in, you'll also notice you can now click "edit" from any page to make changes. A few other handy features are highlighted in a video that will display the first time you sign in. (Note: Our new teachers have had this setting activated since the beginning of the school year, so if you are a new teacher you won't notice any changes!) Enjoy!

Food and Book Drive Results

Wow! MCAS collected 3.46 tons of food (6,920.8 pounds) of food last month in the Holiday Food Drive for the Salvation Army. One bus + one delivery truck were delivered to the Salvation Army by Transportation Staff, Food Service Staff, and students and staff of the Career Skills class at A. K. Smith. But that's not all - 905 books were also collected thanks to Operation Bookworm! Congratulations to Springfield, which collected the most books. THANK YOU to all who donated at all locations!

2020-2021 Calendar

In December, our School Board adopted a calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. Key dates have been entered on the MCAS website calendar; watch next month's Communicator for a one-page PDF of the calendar.

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 January Newsletter: EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing) Therapy for Trauma

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//January%202020/January2020EAP.pdf>

EAP Webinar - January

Register for "What is EMDR?" and "Skin Care for Harsh Weather" on Wed, Jan 15, 2020 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM CST at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5062024394297318401>

Healthy U @ Work Newsletter - January

Too Much Screentime, the Pros and Cons of Eating Meat, Setting Successful New Year's Resolutions and More
http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_january2020.pdf

Sensory Path

The Occupational therapy and Physical therapy team for MCAS installed a sensory path at Edgewood Elementary. They are excited about the opportunity for the students to get extra movement breaks and calming sensory input throughout the day to help improve their focus. Its use can be integrated into classroom daily routines such as when returning to class from the bathroom or specials. (Principals interested in having a sensory path should contact Beth Keehn at beth.keehn@mcas.k12.in.us.) Below is a youtube video of one of the therapy members completing the sensory pathway:
<https://youtu.be/0jWUaNN3jJk>

CPR for Certified Staff

There are two **options for CPR** for certified staff in need of license renewal:

1. CPR Classes will be offered at the A. K. Smith Career Center on the following dates, from 6:00 pm - 8:30pm (cost is \$35): January 9th, January 15th, February 12th, March 18th. If interested, register online at: www.IneedACPRcard.com. This nonprofit organization also offers classes at other locations and times. Questions? Contact David Sanders at dsanders05@mcas.k12.in.us.
2. CPR Trainer Val Skwiat offers an online option. (1) Go online to elearning.heart.org to complete the \$15 CPR course and then print out or email your completion certificate to Valorie Skwiat. (2) Call, text, or email Val to schedule a date and time of your choosing to complete the hands-on skills portion. The cost for this is an additional \$20 to receive your course completion card. Contact Val at (219) 873-2127 x 8606, Cell: (219) 874-1716, vskwiat@mcas.k12.in.us

FREE Folders and Legal Pads

MCAS has received a donation of file folders and legal pads. We have:

- 56 boxes of white legal pads, wide rule, 8.5 x 11 size (72 pads in each)
- 214 boxes of pink file folders (36 folders in each)

Please email Loretta Feidner (lfeidner@mcas.k12.in.us) to request delivery to your location (you must take at least one full box per delivery). First come, first served!

FREE Shoes for Students in Need

Krueger Middle School's Care Closet has over 800 pairs of gently-used gym shoes, winter boots, dress shoes, and cleats in all sizes available to any student in the district. If you have a student who needs shoes, please fill out this Google Form with all of the details and then The Krueger Care Closet will send you the shoes through the school mail.

<https://forms.gle/rjizNHGqihLntS419>

\$50 Incentive to Try Donors Choose

MCHS teacher Laura Daly, a Donors Choose ambassador, has shared that Donors Choose (the online classroom funding website) is having a welcome week January 12th-18th. If teachers new to Donors Choose use the following link between the 12th and 18th, \$50 will be added to their first project. Laura also has welcome codes for \$5 that she can add, as

well. This is only for teachers who have never used Donors Choose before, and they must use this link: <https://mbsy.co/DonorsChoose/244242>
 Questions? Contact Laura at ldaly@mcas.k12.in.us.

Our Dunes are Tops!

Did you know that Frommer's (the internationally known travel guidebook) declared Indiana among its Top 20 places to go in 2020, due to the Indiana Dunes? Here are links to a couple of Dunes links that may be of interest to educators:

<https://www.nps.gov/indu/learn/education/rangerguided.htm>

<https://duneslearningcenter.org/outreach>

Summer STEM for High School teachers

PNW's Hammond campus is offering a 6-week summer research program for high school math, science, and engineering teachers. No cost, plus stipends are available. The deadline to apply is 2/14/20. For more info:

<https://academics.pnw.edu/engineering/research-experience-for-teachers/>

Apply for a Fulbright

Are you an elementary, middle, or high school educator looking to grow your leadership skills; expand your access to global networks; inform research, policy, and practice; and promote mutual understanding? You may want to consider the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Research Program, which is now accepting applications. More info is here:

<https://www.irex.org/program/opportunity-us-k-12-teachers-fulbright-distinguished-awards-teaching-research-program>

Radon Poster contest

In order to spread the message about radon's health hazards, the American Lung Association is calling on Indiana students age 9-14 to create a radon poster that will increase public awareness of radon gas and encourage people to test their homes.

Information is available here:

<https://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/indoor/indoor-air-pollutants/radon.html>

Imagination Station Openings

Imagination Station has openings for lead teachers and assistants. Know someone who might be interested? More info is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//January%202020/Imagination%20Station%20Employment%20Flyer%20Updated.pdf>

Washington Park Seasonal Openings

The Michigan City Parks & Rec Department is seeking teachers/staff to work as supervisors at Washington Park this summer. They are also seeking students who would work as parking attendants. Details are here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//January%202020/MCSummerOpenings.pdf>

Design it Make It Challenge

The Design It Make It Challenge invites teams of K-12 students from around Indiana to solve real-world problems by designing, building, and/or coding a solution to issues identified in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Additional information can be found [here](#).

Online Report Cards - How To

We now have a handy step-by-step "how to" for parents explaining how to view/download/print report cards from Parent Access. Here it is - feel free to share!
<http://educateMC.net/reportcards>

South Bend Cubs Reading Club

South Bend Cub mascots' "Swoop and Stu" have announced a Reading Club, which includes free tickets for kids as incentives and a possible mascot appearance at school. Here are details:

<https://www.milb.com/south-bend/community/readingclub>

Suffrage Centennial Resources

The Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission was established to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 2020. In order to increase visibility and awareness of the 100-year anniversary, the Commission launched a [website](#), in partnership with Indiana Humanities, to house resources, recent news, and upcoming events. Check out the "resources" link at the top of the page for a link to request a free classroom poster, materials for teachers, and much more.

WAY TO GO!!

- Knapp teacher **Megan Boyter** has been named one of Curriculum Associates' 2020 Extraordinary Educators! She will be honored by CA throughout the year and will be attending the Extraordinary Educators Leadership Summit in Boston this summer.
- MCHS teacher and Assistant Football Coach **Roydon Richards** has been named the Class 5A Assistant Coach of the Year by the Indiana Football Coaches Association!
- Michigan City High School's graduation rate rose to 94.38%. Congrats to all who worked hard to compile the data and all who are working hard every day to ensure students are on track for success!

Give-Backs and Other Opportunities

2020 is a great year to enter a Trivia contest! Here are three that will be fun for beginners and veteran teams alike. Get your team together!

- It's time to register your team for **Barker** Middle School's "Trivia Night" at the DAV on **Saturday, January 18**. To sign up, email or call Deanna Munoz - dmunoz@mcas.k12.in.us or (219) 229-2005. More info is here: <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//January%202020/TriviaFlyerBarker2020.pdf>
- Interested in a February Trivia contest? The MCHS **Baseball** team is having one on **Saturday, Feb 22** at the DAV. To register call Scott Cuma (219) 781-3528, Mike Bruemmer (219) 871-9652 or Mike Galvan (219) 229-4136. Details: <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//January%202020/BaseballTrivia.jpg>
- The MCHS Marching **Band** will also have a Triviafest fundraiser - theirs is on **Friday, March 13** at the St. Joe Club. To register a team, email Betsy Kohn, bkohn@mcas.k12.in.us or call Mark Kline at (219) 362-4224. Details: https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//January%202020/TriviaFlyer_Band_2020.pdf

Upcoming Events

- January 20 - NO SCHOOL - MLK Jr. Day
- February 17 - SCHOOL IN SESSION (Presidents' Day = school makeup day)
- February 26 - Kindergarten and PreK Roundup (10am - 6pm)
- February 26 - Elementary Parent Conferences
- March 2 - eLearning Day
- March 12 - Middle & High School Parent Conferences

#MCASGiantLeaps