

MCAS Communicator

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

January 2015

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

A Special Message from Dr. Eason-Watkins

I want to thank all MCAS employees and students for the outpouring of support for this year's Salvation Army Christmas campaign. Over the past month, many of you contributed food items, supported bell ringing and/or assisted with the sorting and distribution of toys and supplies for hundreds of families across Michigan City. Our school community truly cares and I am honored to serve with you! Have a joyous holiday, knowing that your donations have blessed many.

NEW! "Winter Packets" for Students

Check it out! MCAS Literacy and Curriculum Coaches have created new online "winter packets" for each grade level. (Look for the snowflake icon on every school home page!) These are resources and activities designed to reinforce the new Indiana CCR standards and help kids prepare for the new ISTEP coming this spring. An email will be sent to all families over break linking them to these packets. A great tool for parents and students over winter break, on weekends, or yes ... if we happen to have a snow day this winter. (A great teacher resource, too!)

<http://educateMC.net/winter>

Healthy U @ Work

Follow the link below to read Working Well's December Newsletter:

http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_december2014.pdf

United Way Prize Winners

Congratulations to the lucky winners of this year's incentive prizes in the MCAS United Way Employee Giving Campaign. This year, we raised over \$20,000 as a district! THANK YOU to all who donated – your dollars are having an impact right here in LaPorte County.

- **Gift Basket Winners:** Camilla Dabagia (Knapp) and Linda Bechinski (MCHS/Coolspring)
- **Dinner with Dr. Eason-Watkins:** Kelly Tokoly-Rothermel (Barker) and Judy Troske (Barker)
- Buildings with Highest % Giving (**winners of donuts for staff!**): Ad Building (33%) and Knapp (24%)
- Building winning the **Championship Traveling Trophy** (combo of highest % and \$ amount): Barker

Dual Credit/AP Workshop

The Michigan City High School Parent Network is sponsoring an AP/Dual Credit workshop on Tuesday, [January 13th](#) at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Middle and high school parents and students are encouraged to attend this workshop, which will give an overview of concurrent enrollment and AP classes for next school year, and will explain how families can save thousands in college tuition through the dual credit program. Representatives from

the MCHS guidance department, teaching staff, and PNC will be present to answer questions and provide information.

W2 Update from Payroll

W-2s will be issued as usual again this year - they will be printed and sent to employees on paper. (Previously we announced they would online only, but this has changed.) Employee Access does have the ability to print a W-2, so if you lose yours you'll be able to go online and print.

American Fidelity Insurance Meetings

American Fidelity Insurance reps will be in all buildings in January. It is mandatory that employees meet with a rep, so please be sure to sign up for an appointment in your building.

COMMUNITY LINKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date

Junior Achievement invites YOU to form a team for their upcoming "Bowl a Thon". This will be held in Michigan City at City Lanes on Saturday, [January 31](#) and in LaPorte at Thunderbird Lanes on Wednesday, [February 4](#). Call [219-508-4676](tel:219-508-4676) or email lisa.scheller@ja.org to reserve your lane or for info about event sponsorship opportunities. Download a flyer about the event here: <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/JABowlThon2015.jpg>

Auto Discount Offer

Arnell Chevrolet and Arnell Kia in Chesterton are offering an incentive through [January 2](#) that allows MCAS staff to purchase new Chevy and Kia vehicles at supplier pricing. They will also offer special pricing to staff on used vehicles. See below for details (school ID or paystub is required). <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/ArnellEducatorDiscount.pdf>

COMMUNITY BACKPACK

There are new postings on our "Community Backpack" page!

- Info about the Wolves Boys and Girls Basketball "elementary & middle school nights" (**TONIGHT** 12/19 and 1/31)
- LaPorte County Parks winter programs
- Coming very soon: Information about YMCA programs at the new Michigan City Elston location

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>

A Request from the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce – Shop Local!

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=2e1b4ffc-3b07-4e7f-a5b3-be7bd78507b7&c=30e62470-dfe5-11e2-8d9a-d4ae529a8575&ch=30e97fd0-dfe5-11e2-8d9a-d4ae529a8575>

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!