

# MCAS Communicator

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

## January 2016

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

### Welcome back and Happy New Year!

#### From Payroll re: W2s

W2 forms will be issued by January 31st to all employees. Current employees will receive them at their building assignment.

#### United Way Campaign Results

Thanks to everyone involved, we're happy to share the final results of our 2015 United Way Campaign. The car wash, the high school donation match by United Way, Safe Harbor Facebook food fundraiser, and administration building pizza day donations increased our campaign total from \$13,545.00 to **\$18,254.00**. Prize winners:

- Dinner with the Superintendent: Jennifer Gracyalny (MCHS) and Bette Johnston (Food Service, Springfield)
- Gift Baskets: Connie Bachmann (Lake Hills) and Brenda Bolka (Safe Harbor)
- Donuts for highest % of giving: Niemann Pre-K

#### New Mileage Form

For those staff eligible for mileage reimbursement, new forms have been posted. (Please note that the rate is different for 2015 and 2016, so be sure to use the appropriate form.)

2016: [http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/forms%20-%20staff/Form501\\_2016.xlsx](http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/forms%20-%20staff/Form501_2016.xlsx)

2015: [http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/forms%20-%20staff/Form501\\_2015.xlsx](http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/forms%20-%20staff/Form501_2015.xlsx)

#### More About Forms

Looking for a form? Remember that MCAS forms are all online in the searchable forms library here (under staff/graphics):

<http://educatemc.net/Page/6670>

#### Transition to Teaching Program

Paras, IAs, and other staff interested in learning more about becoming licensed Middle School/High School educators through the Indiana University South Bend Transition to Teaching (T2T) Secondary Education Program are invited to attend a T2T information session on Tuesday, February 2 at 4 PM on the IUSB campus. Follow the link below for details and contact Judy Gawlik (Recruiter, School of Ed) at [jgawlik@iusb.edu](mailto:jgawlik@iusb.edu) or Graduate Studies Advisor Michael Harley, [mlharley@iusb.edu](mailto:mlharley@iusb.edu) with questions or requests for additional information.

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/T2T%20secondary%20info%20session%20flier.pdf>

### **STEM Teach II Begins this Month**

STEM Teach is a project of the Independent Colleges of Indiana, funded through a grant established by the Indiana General Assembly. It brings together a group of private colleges and universities to offer STEM courses and workshops to in-service teachers. Programs primarily focus on teachers with master's degrees seeking graduate level courses in a STEM content area for dual credit credentialing. It also seeks to strengthen K-12 teachers' STEM knowledge and pedagogy to enrich STEM classroom instruction and help teachers with bachelor's or master's degrees add content areas to their current licenses.

College classes are free for K-12 in-service teachers! Tuition is waived and teachers will receive completion awards for each successfully completed (C or better) course or workshop – \$500 for a graduate or undergraduate course, \$250 for a 5-day workshop, \$500 for a 10-day workshop. Textbooks or classroom materials will be covered by a stipend to the participating teacher or host institution.

Graduate and undergraduate courses are available in content areas such as: Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Forensics, Earth/Space Science, and Technology. Classes are available online, face-to-face, or via a hybrid approach for Spring 2016, Summer 2016, Fall 2016, and Winter 2017. Course offerings will vary each semester.

Teachers can register through an online process beginning on December 18, 2015 at <http://www.stemteachindiana.org/teachers/>. Once the courses are filled, registration will no longer be available for the current semester.

If you have questions, please contact Trish Wlodarczyk at [wlodarczykt@uindy.edu](mailto:wlodarczykt@uindy.edu) with the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis.

### **MCAS Winter Learning Resources**

Again this year, we are encouraging families to visit our web site for learning games/activities that will help students keep skills sharp on snow days, weekends, etc. Follow the link for "winter learning packet" on any school home page or visit this direct link: <http://educatemc.net/winter>

### **Think FAST**

About 795,000 Americans each year suffer a stroke. That means, on average, a stroke occurs every 40 seconds! Please take a moment to learn (or refresh your memory) on stroke warning signs here:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/TakeAStandAgainstStroke-Flyer-FRA.pdf>

### **Healthy U @ Work Newsletter**

Ways to de-stress, "Can I work out if I'm sick?" and more...

[http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter\\_december2015.pdf](http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_december2015.pdf)

### **EAP Program January Newsletter**

[http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/2016\\_January%20\\_FEAP\\_Newsletter.pdf](http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/2016_January%20_FEAP_Newsletter.pdf)

### **EAP Webinar for January**

Our Employee Assistance Program is offering a webinar at noon on January 20. The topics are Workplace Boundaries (what these common workplace problems are and how to address them) and Sitting is the New Smoking (health consequences of too much sitting, and how to be more active at work/home). Register at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7743759610937516802>

### **CPR Class**

CPR for teachers in need of license renewal is scheduled for Thursday, January 14th and Thursday, March 24th. Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, which is at 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](mailto:lbechinski@educatemc.net)) to sign up.

### **Salvation Army Drive a Success**

Special thanks to all who donated and helped with the MCAS Food Drive for the Salvation Army! Be sure to visit the MCAS web site to view photos of collection day (special thanks to the MCAS Transportation and Food Service staff and the awesome students from the A. K. Smith Facilities Maintenance program who assisted!) A truckload and busload of food was collected - helping thousands in need. Also, the MCHS National Honor Society reports that a huge number of books were collected this year through "Operation Bookworm"... 851 books in all! (For the second year in a row, Coolspring collected the most, with 271 - they'll be receiving the top prize of service hours from NHS students.)

### **Club Discovery News**

Barker Club Discovery completed their eighth and final week of Tech Club on Thursday, December 17th. The eight-week club is a part of Club Discovery's college and career readiness enrichment program and consists of students forming a technology company, applying and interviewing for positions, and then producing a marketable product. Barker's Tech Club formed a record label called TME (True Music Evolution) Entertainment and their final product is a CD featuring a single song called "I'm Winning," written and recorded by the students.

### **National Mentoring Month**

January is National Mentoring Month! Studies show that children and teens who have mentors are less likely than their peers to use drugs or alcohol, less likely to act violently, more likely to graduate from high school and attend college, and have more confidence. Do you or someone you know have an hour a week to make a difference in the life of a child? For information contact Sherri Silcox at [ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us) or 219-873-2026 x 8744.

### **Michigan City Robotics**

It's not too late for high school students to join robotics! Michigan City Robotics Team 3936 will host Northern Indiana teams on Saturday, January 9, from 9 am to noon at Mullen to kickoff this year's challenge, "FIRST Stronghold." Special guests from The Valparaiso University Robotics Team will host a "world cafe" brainstorming session to help teams harvest ideas that can later be used to design and build their unique competition robot. If you know of any local students interested in robotics have them contact Herb Higgin at [hhiggin@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:hhiggin@mcas.k12.in.us) or 219-873-2026 x 8740.

## **SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Pizza for Pine**

Papa John's Pizza (3229 Franklin) is having a give-back for Pine Elementary on Wednesday, January 20th. Order pizza anytime on that day and they will donate 20% back to the school. You may order online or in-store from the regular menus or choose one of the specials. You do NOT need a coupon just mention that you are placing your order for Pine Fine Arts Elementary and the school will receive the credit.

**WIN a CAR!**

Raffle tickets are now on sale for the Sauers Ford "Give It Your Best Shot" car giveaway! 1,000 raffle tickets will be sold, and the winner of the raffle will take one shot from half court to win a new Ford Fusion. Tickets are \$5 each, and are on sale now in the MCHS Athletic Office and at Sauers Ford in Michigan City. The drawing will be held the morning of Friday, January 29th, and the shot will be taken at halftime of that evening's boys basketball game against Portage. All funds raised will go to Champions Together/Special Olympics. Buy a ticket today and support your Wolves!

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

The 21st annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration Breakfast will be held at Purdue North Central's LSF Cafeteria on Monday, January 18. Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m., and the keynote speaker is Monique Nunes, Associate Director for the Office of Multicultural Programs at Valparaiso University. Musical entertainment will be by the Michigan City Youth Choir under the direction of Cornell Burton, Jr. There is no cost to attend and reservations are not required. Also on MLK Day, PNC students will lead activities from 10:30 am to Noon at the Michigan City Public Library for ages 2-12; emcee for the program is MCHS Principal Wendel McCollum. For further information about the MLK Day Community Celebration contact Laura Odom, Associate Director of the PNC Office of Institutional Equity, at [odoml@pnc.edu](mailto:odoml@pnc.edu) or (219) 785-5545.

Have you visited MCAS's **Community Backpack** lately? Check out these recent postings at <http://educatemc.net/communitybackpack>:

- **HealthLinc "Enrollment Blitz" Day** - Jan 9
- **HealthLinc "Give Kids a Smile Day" free dental care** - Feb 15
- **LaPorte County Parks Winter Programs**
- and MORE!

**And one final note: Here is contact Info for our Employee Assistance Program... remember, you have 6 free counseling sessions per year, per person in your family.**

For appointments or immediate assistance, please call the main number for EAP: 1-800-747-7262

Michigan City:  
 301 West Homer Street  
 Michigan City, IN 46360  
 219-861-8696  
 Fax; 219-877-1078  
 Hours: Monday: 10:30-7:00  
       Wednesday: 8:30-5:00  
       2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays: 8:30-5:00

Corporate Office  
 1515 Dragoon Trail  
 Mishawaka, IN 46545  
 1-574-254-6219  
 Hours: First and Third Tuesdays: 9:30-6:00 EST

Chesterton: Franciscan Omni  
801 Michael Drive; Suite D  
Chesterton, IN. 46304  
219-921-1285  
Fax: 219-395-8897  
Hours: Thursday 10:30-7:00, Friday: 8:30-5:00

---