

MCAS Communicator

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

January 2017

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

Snow Day Makeup

Due to the school closure we had in December, school will be in session on MLK Day (January 16th). If needed, another snow makeup day built into our calendar for this year is Feb 20th (President's Day).

Olivet Here Wednesday

A representative from Olivet University will be at MCHS in the library following PLCs on Wednesday, January 11th. Any staff member from any school is welcome to stop by to speak with them about online master's and endorsement programs. More info is here: <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//Jan17/0117Olivet.pdf>

Vote 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 a quarter 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>

United Way Thank You

MCAS raised a total of \$13,153.37 for the United Way this year. A big thank you to the many generous staff members who donated through the employee giving campaign, contributed at the car wash, or helped in some way. (Thanks to United Way, LaPorte County Career Center and Craig Shaman for donating items for the gift baskets!) Winners in the drawing were:

Dinner with Dr. Eason-Watkins: Tracy Lipscomb (Pine)

AK Scissory Pampering Package: Kathy Burroughs (Ad Building)

Gift Baskets: Theresa Maguire (Pine) and Nicole Parry (Pine)

Robotics News

Safe Harbor's Michigan City Robotics Team hosted northern Indiana FIRST robotics teams at Mullen on Saturday morning, January 7, when the 2017 FIRST Robotics Competition

challenge was announced. "FIRST STEAMWORKS" has high school students around the world eager to take flight and ready their contraption for competition. Part rock concert, part NASCAR, part basketball championship, FIRST Robotics is more than just robots! Kids build robots, robots build adults!

New Look for MCHS

The High School Cafeteria was given a makeover that was very successful! The students have enjoyed new serving lines, merchandise displays, and seating areas. The homemade pizza is delicious! New tables and chairs were put into place to give the feel of a college cafeteria. The Food Service Department is looking forward to the Grand Opening of the cafeteria on January 23 at 9:00 am. (Note the date change from what was previously announced.)

Have YOU Ordered Your Concert Tickets?!

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

Fun Fact

Did you know that your email address works as xxxxx@educateMC.net? It's true for all MCAS employees. Also, our website URL has a shortcut: www.educateMC.net - no need to provide people with the long "mcas.k12.in.us"

Discussion Guide for "Hidden Figures"

The Michigan City Human Rights Commission is sponsoring middle school trips to see the movie "Hidden Figures". They have also asked us to share a discussion guide on this movie with you. To access it, follow this link:

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

Rotary Poster Exhibits

Thank you to the Michigan City Rotary Club for providing the "Choosing to Participate" poster series for MCHS, Barker, and Krueger! Check it out here:

<http://educatemc.net/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=22&ViewID=047E6BE3-6D87-4130-8424-D8E4E9ED6C2A&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=24107&PageID=1>

A Note from the Unity Foundation:

"As Unity Foundation Scholarships are opening now, we wanted to share with you the Jan Nona Environmental Stewardship Award; this will go to an individual who showcases a

passion for the environment and a strong work ethic. This award is different from a lot of our others in the fact that people don't apply but rather are nominated. We've had low numbers of nominations in the past, but are working hard this year to make sure people are aware of the opportunity. We hope you can help us spread knowledge of the award so that we are awarding the person who really showcases all the same qualities Jan Nona did." More info and a nomination form is here:

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/31068-Unity-Foundation-Of-La-Porte-County>

Art Teachers' Show

Don't miss the annual MCAS Art Teachers' exhibit at the Lubeznik Center. You'll see work from many of the very talented art teachers, representing schools across our district! The show will be featured February 10 through March 18; an opening reception is on Friday, March 3 from 5-8pm. (Save the date for the elementary art show, too... that will run March 24-May 12, with an opening reception date in April TBA.)

Future Wolves Night

Come join us Friday, January 20, for a great night of basketball action as your Wolves take on the LaPorte Slicers in a girls/boys doubleheader! The girls game tips off at 5:30, followed by the boys game at 7. All elementary and middle school basketball players (future wolves!) get in FREE by wearing their uniform shirts to the game. All school teams will be recognized for attending. COME SUPPORT YOUR WOLVES!

December Healthy U @ Work Newsletter

The importance of tradition, mandarin oranges, your personal medical records, and more...

https://www.franciscanhealth.org/sites/default/files/documents/ww_newsletter_december2016.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://educatcmc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816EAP.pdf>

This month's EAP Newsletter: Preparing for Retirement

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/jan17/0117EapJan2017.pdf>

EAP Webinar: Retirement, Daily Workouts

The next EAP webinar will be at noon on January 18. Please register for Retirement and Quick Workouts You Can Do Throughout The Day To Burn Calories on Jan 18, 2017 12:00 PM CST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6798266479728974338>

AK Scissorsy Special

Follow the link below to view the January specials at the "A. K. Scissors." This is the salon operated by our career/tech Cosmetology students.

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

CPR Class

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held this Thursday, January 12. 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.

Artists Wanted

Please see the press release below, calling for area artists to submit original works for the MC Chamber 2018 Membership Guide cover:

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

Winter Learning Packet

The MCAS "winter learning packet" is now online - great for students to brush up on skills during breaks or on snow days. This is now a message choice on home pages and we'll begin promoting it to families as wintry weather approaches. Check it out here:

<http://educateMC.net/winter>

Arbor Day Poster Contest

All Indiana 5th graders are invited to enter an Arbor Day Poster Contest sponsored by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Community and Urban Forestry Program. This year's theme is "Trees are Terrific in Every Shape and Size".

<https://www.arborrangers.com/arbor-day-poster-contest/>

WAY TO GO!

- Congrats to Safe Harbor, which received a \$5,000 grant from AT&T to support the Robotics team and to purchase Chromebooks that will be used at Club Inspire afterschool program at MCHS. (The chromebooks will be used for online tutoring, credit recovery, SAT preparation and numerous robotics activities.) Safe Harbor also received \$4,167 from the LaPorte County Drug Free Partnership to provide Lead and Seed, a youth empowered approach to preventing and reducing alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs at Michigan City High School, Barker Middle School and Krueger Middle School.
- Congrats to Coolspring Elementary, which received a \$5,000 grant from Lowe's to create an outdoor science learning lab!

- Congrats to MCHS School Resource Officer Dion Campbell, who will emcee this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration Breakfast on Jan 16th at Purdue Northwest. (More info here: <http://www.pnw.edu/news/pnw-honors-mlk/>)
- Congrats to MCAS ENL Assistant Nancy Moldenhauer, who received the Hoosier Environmental Council's Frontline Advocate of the Year award in November!
- Congrats to the following teachers, who have received Michigan City Education Foundation grants for the 2016-17 school year: Tim Blekeney, Kathleen Gushrowski, Valerie Mecklenburg, Mariah Pol, Kelly Tokoly-Rothermel, Shirley Allen, Janine Peo, Kathryn Triemstra, Courtney Barber, Teresa Pavloff, Sheri Tuesburg, Michelle Sickles, Lauren Stacks, Samantha White, Amy Bartels, Andrew Dudeck, Candace Archer, Kelley Gertner, Diane Grams, Renee Hall, Erin Lozano, Janis Mitchell, DeAnna Munoz, Sheri Wagner, Penny Will, Alisa Carlson, Susan Shell, Holly Beadles, Julie Schmidt, Samantha Lakin, Samantha Kubik, Elizabeth Schreeg
- Congrats to the following Marsh teachers who received grants recently through DonorsChoose.org: **Erin Breen, Susan Cusick, Susan Shell, and Olivia Davis.**

Community and School Announcements:

MCAS Discount for Globetrotter Tickets

The legendary Harlem Globetrotters will be performing at the Wolves Den on January 24! Purchase tickets online through ticketweb.com and use the code **MOREFUN** to get tickets at the discounted rate. You can also use the attached form to purchase tickets: <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/jan17/0117Globetrotters.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>

Free Throw Contest for Ages 10-14

An Annual Free Throw Championship open to all MCAS Students, ages 10-14 yrs. will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2016 at 5:30 pm at the Queen of All Saints School Gym at 1715 E. Barker Ave., Michigan City. (Parent/Guardian must be present to participate; along with a copy of your birth certificate.) Play and then stay to eat at the Venetian Night Dinner featuring Hot Italian Food and fellowship in the cafeteria. Both events are sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #12951. For more info, call Doug Noveroske at 219-851-5462 or Tom Root at 219-898-8181 or email Tom at rootfh@yahoo.com

Support Mentoring in January

January is National Mentoring Month! Please join us in celebrating MCAS Safe Harbor's Hours for Ours Mentoring Program on January 26 at Hacienda; 20% of your purchase of meals or gift cards will go toward funding the outstanding Safe Harbor/ H4O programs. The

offer is available from open until close on the 26th. We have reserved the party room from 4:00-8:00 to gather with mentors, mentees, families and friends! We will have raffle give away items and a few surprises...all are welcome. Coupon is here:

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

MORE Give Backs - EAT, support, repeat!

January 10 - Holly's - for Springfield Elementary School

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

January 18 - Five Guys - for MCHS Girls Tennis

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/jan17/0117FGposter1MT.jpg>

January 24 - Chipotle - for Pine Elementary School

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

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

- The Elston YMCA is offering a range of programs for students and families that begin this month... baseball, basketball, chess, orator club, etc. Be sure to visit the link above to read about the MANY opportunities they are offering!
- Michigan City Basketball League for girls/boys grades K-8 (this Wolves feeder program begins Jan 22 at MCHS!)
- "Youth to Youth" grants for students (grades 5-11) for youth-led service projects, sponsored by Leadership LaPorte County.
- LaPorte County Parks winter programs
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

- Jan 16 - MLK Day (school in session - snow day makeup)
- Feb 10 - "Music in the City" benefit concert at Blue Chip
- Feb 10 - March 18 - Art Teacher Show at Lubeznik (Opening reception March 5 5-8pm)
- Feb 20 - Famous Americans Day (no school unless snow day makeup)
- 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. All dates have been entered into the online calendar... and here is a summary of highlights:

<http://educatemc.net/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=22&ViewID=047E6BE3-6D87-4130-8424-D8E4E9ED6C2A&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=24086&PageID=1>