

MCAS Communicator

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

January 2019

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

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

CPR for Certified Staff

A CPR class for certified staff in need of license renewal will be held on Thursday, January 17th at 3:15pm at Mullen (100 Manny Court). The cost is \$50, cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions at the class. The class lasts approximately 2 hours. CPR books are available to borrow from any nurse's office if you need to review prior to the class. Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski in advance to reserve your spot for this class, or with any questions - lbechinski@educateMC.net.

Reminders from Technology

If you have returned to a computer or hardware that is not working correctly, please submit a work order to support@mcas.k12.in.us. Tech staff is also available at ext. 8359 from any school phone. As a reminder, if you have any issues with a specific software program, RDS, Blackboard, IReady, etc. please send those requests to support@mcas.k12.in.us and not directly to the software company. Technology will include you in any communication if necessary.

Healthy U @ Work Newsletter: December

Portion sizes vs serving sizes, spinach, snow shoveling safety, and more...

http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_december2018.pdf

Healthy U @ Work Newsletter: January

Thyroid health, kale, supplements, and the side effects of sitting...

http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_january2019.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:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202018/2018%20You%20are%20not%20alone%20poster.pdf>

EAP Newsletter - January: Dealing with Difficult Coworkers

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//January%202019/2019%20January%20Newsletter.doc.pdf>

January EAP Webinar

Please register for Dealing With Difficult Co-Workers and Prevention and Detection of Skin Cancer on Jan 16, 2019, 12:00 PM CST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6745806597866423041>

"Tickets at Work" Perk

Did you realize that as an MCAS employee, you can receive discounts through Tickets at Work (formerly known as Ticket Monster)? Discounts include attractions, theme parks,

shows, sporting events, movie tickets, hotels, shopping and much more. If you haven't signed up yet, go to TicketsatWork.com and use our company code, **MCAS** to get started. Sodexo employees are also eligible. Download this flyer for more details:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//January%202019/TAW%20Re%20Engagement%20Flyer%20MCAS.pdf>

Environmental Stewardship Award

Every year the Unity Foundation offers the Jan Nona Environmental Stewardship Award to MC area residents "who move beyond being an ordinary citizen and become involved in environmental issues in the community." Although Unity runs this award during its scholarship cycle, it is not required to go to a student but is open to any community member who fits the bill. Applicants can nominate themselves or another person. Here is the link to the application: <https://goo.gl/CiBnaC>

Elementary & Middle School Girls Basketball Clinic

The Michigan City High School Wolves Girls Basketball team will hold a mini-clinic for girls in grades K-8 at the Wolves Den Gymnasium on Saturday, January 12th from 10:00 - 11:30 am. The clinic is free and no advance registration is required; parents will be asked to complete permission slips at the door.

MCHS Mini Cheer Camp

The Michigan City High School Cheerleaders will host a "Mini Cheer Camp" that will conclude with a performance at the MCHS Wolves Boys' Basketball game on January 31. The camp is open to students in grades K-6. It will be held on January 29 and 30 from 6:00-8:00 pm, and students must attend both sessions to perform at the game on January 31. Cost is \$35 and includes a free t-shirt and ticket to the game. Registration deadline is January 16th; late registers will not receive a t-shirt. A registration form is available online at <http://educateMC.net/communitybackpack>. For more information please contact coaches Beth Penfold, bethpenfold38@gmail.com or Abby Vittatoe, vittatoe331@comcast.net.

Ivy Tech Adjunct Faculty Opening

Ivy Tech has an opening for an adjunct faculty member for *Education 101, Introduction to Teaching*. Students will explore educational careers, teaching preparation, and professional expectations as well as requirements for teacher certification. Current trends and issues in education will be examined. A qualified faculty member in early childhood education will have an earned master's degree in education or a master's degree with 18 hours in education. In addition, they will possess a professional certification in the field or a minimum of 3 years of experience K-12 education. The class will run on Saturday mornings from 08:30-11:15 am, January 14- to May 11. It pays \$39 per hour. For more info contact: Dr. Rob Jeffs, rjeffs@ivytech.edu, (765) 749-8630 [voice or text]

Food Drive Results

Thank you to all who participated in the districtwide canned food drive for the Salvation Army this holiday season. We collected a whopping 7,843 pounds of food!!! Our district is the leading source of food for this project, which serves 600+ families in need at the holiday season and will help keep the pantry stocked through January and February.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast

Purdue Northwest invites the public to attend its annual MLK Day breakfast on Monday, January 21st. The event is free but pre-registration is required at the link below. Student groups are also welcome. Rev. Dr. Theo Williams Associate Professor of Communication, Bethel College, will keynote.

<https://www.pnw.edu/mlk-celebration/>

eLearning Parent Information

Our snow makeup "eLearning Day" will be on Monday, February 18. Here's a link to some FAQs that have been provided to parents about eLearning. Feel free to share with anyone who may need this info!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/eLearning>

MC Robotics

The state champion Michigan City Robotics Team, RoboBlitz, celebrated the kick-off of another winning season on Saturday, January 5th at Mullen. Any high school student interested in joining the team is welcome. For more information about the team contact Sherri Silcox @ 219-873-2026 or ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us.

United Way - THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the MCAS United Way Campaign or participated in the annual fundraiser car wash! This year we raised a total of \$22,777.33 for United Way through individual donations, the car wash, and a \$5,000 donation to Kindergarten Countdown through Performance Services. Congratulations to drawing winners:

Basket--**Elizabeth Stahl**, MCHS

Basket--**Robin Endris**, Springfield

Dinner w/Dr. Eason-Watkins--**Andrea Frederick**, MCHS

and a tie for donuts at the building with highest %... **Edgewood** and **Knapp**

Safe Harbor Update

Safe Harbor's Hours for Ours Mentoring Program is excited to celebrate January as National Mentoring Month! Be sure to Like them on Facebook to follow their #MentoringMonth campaign all month long! Reach out to 219-873-2026 or info.H4Omentors@gmail.com to learn more about the program, refer a student for mentor services, or become a mentor!

Civics Education Contest

In recognition of Law Day on May 1, the National Center for State Courts is sponsoring a contest for elementary, middle, and high school students. Each grade group is asked to answer the following essay question (100 words or less): Should there be limits to free speech? Why or why not? Deadline is February 22 and students receive cash prizes. For more info:

<https://www.ncsc.org/contest>

"Next Level Jobs" courses

Ivy Tech and the A. K. Smith Career Center are partnering to offer technical training courses for jobs in demand in LaPorte County, in Welding, Construction, Automotive, Logistics, Electrical, IT, and much more. These evening courses are designed for adults returning to the workforce/retraining or for high school students who would like to gain a certification in a high-demand field prior to graduation. "Next Level Jobs" funding to pay for these courses is available for those who are eligible! Hurry - classes begin soon. Contact Ivy Tech for more information: Rob Jeffs, 219-879-9137 ext. 6252 or rjeffs@ivytech.edu

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=55&dataid=27210&FileName=tech%20courses%20flyer.pdf>

SAVE THE DATES - GIVE BACKS & OTHER EVENTS FOR TEAM MCAS!

(More info to come in future MCAS Communicators)

February 6 - Pine Elementary Give back at Hacienda

February 23 - Trivia Night at DAV benefiting MCHS Baseball

February 27 - Pine Elementary Give back at Papa John's

March 8 - Triviafest at St. Joe Club benefiting MCHS Marching Band
April 2 - "Run with the Wolves" 5K Fun Run at Washington Park

WAY TO GO!

WOW - Congratulations to the **48 MCAS teachers** who have received grants through the Michigan City Education Foundation and the Teacher Innovation Fund. Please take a moment to read the entire list of grant winners and their projects here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceId=22&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=27188&PageID=1>

Congrats to Barker Social Studies Teacher **Mariah Pol**, who has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship to travel to Morocco this summer. This is her 9th fellowship awarded in the last four years!

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

- MCHS Mini Cheer Camp
 - Free lead testing and remediation program
 - Ivy Tech CTE training programs at AK Smith
 - Elston YMCA programs for kids (indoor tennis, basketball, taekwando)
 - Low-cost internet for families
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

Jan 21 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL

Feb 18 - eLearning Day (snow makeup)

Feb 27 - Kindergarten Roundup, 10am - 6pm

Feb 27 - Elementary Parent Conferences, 3:15 - 7:15pm

March 14 - Secondary Parent Conferences, 2:30 - 5:30pm

March 14 - Wolfpack Roundup, 5:30 - 6:30pm

March 13-22 - Elementary Art Show at Lubeznik Center, (Reception Tuesday, March 19, 4:30-6pm)

April 1 - 5 - SPRING BREAK

April 19 - Good Friday - NO SCHOOL