

# MCAS Communicator

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

## June 2013

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

### **Dance TONIGHT for Trevon**

Help MCHS student Trevon James raise funds for his participation in the Legends Drum and Bugle Corps this summer! A benefit dance will be held today, [May 31](#) from 7-10 p.m. at the Uptown Center for the Performing Arts in Michigan City, 903 Franklin Street. Admission is \$5.00. (Not interested in staying for the dance? You are welcome to drop off donations!)

### **Water Festival TOMORROW at Krueger**

Krueger Middle School hosted more than 900 elementary school students for field trips this week, leading tours at various learning stations along its new Forest Management Path and Bird Habitat Trail. The public is invited for tours and many *other* activities at Krueger [this Saturday \(June 1\)](#) from 10 am to 2pm, as the school kicks off Coastal Awareness Week with a "Water Festival." Along with trail tours, there will be canoe and kayak demonstrations, fishing activities, water games, free food and much more. Please come!

### **Retirement Dinner**

The MCAS/MCEA Wall of Fame and Retirement Dinner will be held on [June 6](#) at Blue Chip. Reservations are due [TODAY](#) - Call (ext. 8365) or email Betsy Kohn immediately if you need to make a reservation and have not already done so. Congrats to our retirees!

### **Staff Dress Code**

The Dress Code Committee's report was presented at [last Tuesday's](#) Board Meeting; the Board will likely be updating the staff dress code as it reviews policies this summer. For a summary of changes that are likely to come for next fall, view the presentation here: [http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/Staff%20Dress%20Code\\_board%20presentation\\_May%202013.pdf](http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/Staff%20Dress%20Code_board%20presentation_May%202013.pdf)

### **PreK Job Fair**

The LaPorte County YMCA has openings for lead teachers and assistants for its Pre-K program in our schools next fall. They will have a job fair at the MCAS Administration Building on [Thursday, June 27](#) in the Board Room from Noon to 2:00 p.m. Interested candidates should bring a resume and come prepared to fill out an application.

### **Online Registration is Coming!**

This summer, families will be able to register students for next school year online - using the RDS Parent Access portal! Registration dates for families with no address changes are [July 8-August 8](#). We will also have on-site registration ([August 7](#) and 8 for elementary, [August 8](#) and 9 for middle/high school), and will have computers available at schools in late July/early August for those who do not have online access. Watch for more info on this coming soon!

### **Robotics News**

MC Robotics Team 3936 finished as a Midwest Regional Finalist, placed 18th out of 54 teams in Indiana for the season, and qualified to participate in the 1st Indiana State

Championship. One of Indiana's best defensive robots in the competition this year, the Firehawk was selected by the Munster Robotics Team to participate on their alliance in the finals at the State Competition. The team has continued to grow and improve since earning the prestigious Rookie All-Star Award during the 2012 season, and is looking forward to the future with Lego Robotics, SeaPerch, the underwater robotic challenge, and Firehawk, version 3.0. Any area student interested in participating on a robotics team at any level should contact Safe Harbor at [873-2026](tel:873-2026).

### **Mentoring Matters!**

Hours for Ours celebrated another successful year matching students in our district to caring community adults with a "standing room only" end of the year Mentoring Celebration. 115 students were matched with mentors in the district during the 2012/13 school year. In addition, some H4O mentors shared their talents with Safe Harbor afterschool students in specialties such as tutoring, yoga, gardening, character development, and robotics. Students shared their feelings about their mentoring relationship on surveys posted around the room. They included:

- *"My mentor is an awesome person! He keeps me focused on my goals. I am so lucky to have him as a mentor and guide. He has made a great impact on my life outside of school and inside school."*
- *"I used to be in the "eap room" every day. When my mentor came I became a really good person."*
- *"My mentor has helped me in many ways with my problems."*
- *"Ten years of pure joy and happiness!"*

**Please consider beginning a mentoring relationship with a student next fall! Call Hours for Ours at [873-2026](tel:873-2026).**

### **Safe Harbor Summer Adventure Camp**

Registration remains open for the 2013 Safe Harbor Summer Adventure Camp. Parent orientation will be held for all participating families [Tuesday June 46:00p.m.-7:30p.m.](#) at Joy Elementary. Camp runs [June 17](#) to [July 26](#) from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, [Monday](#) through [Friday](#), with breakfast and lunch included, and cost is \$130. Registration forms are available from Safe Harbor Site Coordinators or call [873-2026](tel:873-2026).

### **Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House**

For the third year in a row, our students, along with their families and our MCAS staff, collected pop tabs to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. The funds from the recycled aluminum tabs benefit seriously ill or injured children by helping provide a "home away from home" for them and their families while they are hospitalized or receiving outpatient medical treatment.

During the 2012/13 school year, we collected:

- 4.75 garbage cans of pop tabs
- 475 pounds of pop tabs
- 601,825 pop tabs

Congratulations to the staff and students at **Coolspring** for collecting the most pop tabs this year and earning a special visit from Ronald McDonald in the fall. Honorable mention goes to Marsh and Springfield. Fun Fact: In the past three years our district has collected 2,601,825 pop tabs! Many thanks to Doug Schroeder and Brian Logman for picking up the pop tabs from our schools, to Sam Lubeznik and the staff at McDonald's for helping us recycle them, and to Safe Harbor and Hours for Ours staff for coordinating collections at each school. Keep collecting this summer!

### **CPR Training for Teachers - Spring and Summer**

Teachers in need of CPR training for license renewal can take the required class at Opportunity Enterprises, which is located at 2801 Evans Ave, Valparaiso. Classes will be offered on the following **Wednesday** mornings, from 8-9:30 a.m.: **May 8** and 22; **June 5** and 19; **July 3**, 17 and 31; **August 14** and 19. If you would like to participate, please contact Jason Kegebein in advance at **219-464-9621** x280 or [jason.kegebein@oppent.org](mailto:jason.kegebein@oppent.org). (Note: They advise that you should take the class at least 4 weeks before you need documentation; cards are not issued immediately.)

### **Summer Printing**

It's that time again! If you have items that need to be printed this summer for use next fall, please visit: <http://www.educatemc.net/graphics>

You'll find the link to the summer printing request form right next to the giant smiley **sun**. A download page will open. Download the form to your computer, fill it in with your requests, click the "Submit Form" button on the upper right, and follow the instructions that will appear. That's it! Questions? Contact Allison Payne at ext. 8319.

### **Online Continuing Ed**

Several online self-paced, continuing education courses are offered cooperatively with Trine University. For more info:

<http://www.virtualeduc.com/e-announcements/trine.htm>

### **GT and High Ability Certification**

Purdue University offers educators courses for a Graduate Certificate of Gifted, Creative and Talented Studies

with High Ability Licensure for Certified Indiana Teachers. For more info:

[http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/GERI\\_Licensure\\_Flyer\\_April2013.pdf](http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/GERI_Licensure_Flyer_April2013.pdf)

### **Office Max Coupon**

Office Max in Michigan City is planning a Teacher Appreciation Event **August 3-5**. Download the coupon here to save 25% during this event:

[http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/Teacher Appreciation Event.pdf](http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/Teacher%20Appreciation%20Event.pdf)

### **Jazzercise Discount**

Did you know that Jazzercise (522 Franklin Street) offers a discount to MCAS employees? Jazzercise is an effective, total-body conditioning program ...that will help you feel great, look terrific and bring new energy to your life. Each 60 minute workout blends dance and muscle toning movement choreographed to **today's** hottest music, including Top 40, country, funk, hip... they offer cardio classes, body sculpt classes low impact and Juniors classes. They also offer **FREE** babysitting at 9:00 AM **Monday - Friday**.

Pricing: Regular for 12 months: \$50 Join Fee \$40/month on EFT

**Discount pricing for MCAS: \$25 Join Fee \$35/month on EFT**

Summer Special Pricing: \$99 for 3 months. Offer expires **6/7/13**

### **Green Project Funding**

In celebration of Earth Day 2013, the **Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation** announced it will match up to \$25,000 in donations to "green" classroom projects

on **DonorsChoose.org**. Projects qualifying for this offer focus on reducing waste and single-use plastics in schools and communities across the country. The Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation will fund 50% of qualifying projects that offer students hands-on engagement with recycling, waste reduction, and solutions to plastic pollution. Examples

include student-driven recycling and compost efforts, creative "upcycling" projects, and promotion of reusable water bottles and bags. Projects may include up to \$400 in materials and will be selected at the discretion of the foundation. For info:  
<http://help.donorschoose.org/app/fundingopportunities>

### Way to Go!

Congrats to Krueger Assistant Principal **Vera Jones**, who received the Environmental Education Award at the Calumet Summit. This award honors her commitment to sustainability and environmentalism, and it was presented at a two-day summit of scientists, educators, and civic leaders sponsored by the Field Museum. Vera was also named Principal of Krueger for next school year; she'll be taking over for Martha Birkholz who is retiring (we'll miss you, Martha!)

### School Announcements

#### Eat at Carlson's and Help Out!

Pine School is having a "give back" at Carlson's Drive in on **June 4th**. Visit the link below for a coupon...

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net//site/Default.aspx?PageID=2&PageType=17&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=1&EventDateID=11695>

### THANK YOU

"Safe Harbor and Hours for Ours want to thank all of the individuals who have helped support all of the programs or activities over the past year. Hats off to all of the MCAS personnel for helping and supporting our programs. It may have been in providing snacks and special dietary needs of our students, helping us with the technology requests, rearranging transportation schedules and the numerous plant planning work orders -- all of your efforts do not go unnoticed. We are very thankful and grateful for all of your help. Only through your efforts can we do what we do." The Safe Harbor staff

### Community Announcements

#### Poetry "Slam Camp" for Middle Schoolers

The Michigan City Public Library will hold a Poetry Slam Camp **June 17-20** (10am-3pm Daily) and **June 22** (Performance Night at 6pm). This camp is for students leaving 6th Grade through leaving 8th Grade and is sponsored by the library and PNC. Students meet daily at the library. A \$5 sign up fee gets the student lunch each day, a field trip to PNC, and a T-shirt and all materials provided! SLAM CAMP 2012 was a Huge Success. Please spread the word to students who might be interested...they can visit or call the library at **219-873-3049** to sign up.

Students entering grades 6-8 are invited to apply for the **Michigan City Police Dept. Youth Leadership Academy**, which will take place **June 24-28**. The academy will feature speakers on leadership topics, team building activities, a SWAT team demonstration, cardboard boat designing, crime scene investigation, a K-9 demo, a tour of the MCPD, and much more! Download the documents on "Community Backpack" for more info and an application. **Deadline for applications is June 3 at noon.**  
<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=76>

**Art Scholarships** are available to assist Michigan City students in taking art instruction, through the The Michigan City Public Art Committee. Visual art classes or individual art instruction for qualified children between 5 and 18 years of age will be funded. Over \$5,000 dollars in scholarships are available! The maximum grant request per individual is \$200.

Funds will be available for instruction in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, collage, crafts such as beading, mosaic work and weaving, art camps or any combination of these taught by a legitimate instructor. The committee will not fund music, writing, dance, or drama instruction. Applicants must show financial need and take instruction from an art provider located in the Michigan City city limits. The deadline for applying is at least 30 days before the instruction is scheduled to start. Applications are available at the LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Marquette Mall, 4073 S. Franklin Street. Submission can be made to Jane Daley at the location or you can contact her via email and the applications will be sent to you. [jane@michigancitylaporte.com](mailto:jane@michigancitylaporte.com)

The **Relay For Life** will be held **June 22-23, 2013** at the La Porte County Fairgrounds. The Relay would like to see a lot more youth involvement in this event! If anyone would like to start/join a team, volunteer, make a donation, become a business sponsor, or would like more info on the special ceremony for survivors, contact Kim Olesker, ACS Staff Partner at [kim.olesker@cancer.org](mailto:kim.olesker@cancer.org) or email MCHS teacher Katie St. Germaine at [kstgermaine@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:kstgermaine@mcas.k12.in.us). This could be a great volunteer opportunity for school groups. For more info: <http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/relayforlife2013.pdf>

The Second Annual **Runnin' 4 Prestin 5K** will be held Sept. 21. This event is in honor of Prestin Butcher, a 12 year old boy who is continuing his fight with brain cancer. All proceeds will go toward pediatric cancer research. For much more info and a race application, visit <http://bkiserck1.wix.com/runnin4prestin> or the facebook page Runnin 4 Prestin. For more info, contact Chris Kiser at Joy School, x6308.

**THIS SUNDAY (June 2)** from 4-8 p.m. P.A.V.E. (People Against Violence Everywhere) will be having a **"Party in the Park"** in Washington Park. Come kick off a month of Peace In The City with music, food, and Information on summer events for kids and their families. Visit Community Backpack to download a flyer about Party in the Park - hope to see you there! <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=76>