

MCAS Communicator

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

September 2013

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

A Message from Dr. Eason-Watkins

I would like to congratulate our students, teachers, and staff for an *outstanding* start to the school year! I visited many of our schools on the first day, and saw students dressed for success, on task, and learning from day one. This is due to the preparation of our school principals, teachers, counselors, secretaries, nurses, IAs, paras, computer techs, and many others. Special thanks to our custodial and grounds staff, food service staff, and transportation staff for helping us ensure that our schools looked their best and things ran so smoothly the first day. We are taking it to the next level!

ISTEP Scores -- Coming Soon

An update on spring ISTEP scores: As we all know, the state has delayed the release of 2012-13 student scores due to interruptions and other problems that took place during computerized testing. This impacted thousands of students across the state, including 714 of our MCAS students. We were informed this week that the Department of Education plans to release ISTEP scores to schools and to parents through the online parent portal on [September 9th](#).

New Form for Travel Requests

Please use this online form when seeking pre-authorization for travel. This replaces the previous travel form attached to the 101.

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/forms%20-%20staff/Form572.pdf>

Wanted: Science Books and Magazines

MCHS Biology and Environmental science teachers are working to improve their students' literacy in science and are compiling classroom libraries. Do you have any science texts lying around your house that you no longer want? This could be anything from books/magazines/travel guides/nature guides/brochures/fiction/biographies/ etc... about biology, the environment, nature, plants, animals, heredity, ecology, the Great Lakes, Indiana Dunes, Trail Creek, etc. Send materials to the high school, attn: Stephanie Dege.

New Pharmacy Open

Did you know... Al's Franklin Street opened an in-store pharmacy this summer... Phil's Health Mart Pharmacy. Marsh Secretary Amy Maesch reports that they accept the MCAS insurance plans. (Thanks for the tip, Amy!)

CPR Training for Teachers

CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal has been scheduled for the following dates (all on Thursdays) - 9/19, 10/17, 11/14, 1/9, 1/14, and 2/20. All training will take place at Mullen and will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m., so plan to arrive a few minutes early. The fee is \$35 cash (please bring exact change) or check (payable to Opportunity Enterprises). To register, contact Linda Bechinski at lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us. Please note: If you sign up for CPR training, please let Linda know a couple days in advance if for any reason you are not going to be able to make it.

Team MCAS Polos

Want a "Team M.C.A.S." navy blue polo shirt? They are available for purchase from Reprographic Arts, 1017 Franklin Street, (219) 872-9111. Cost is \$12.50 (\$14.50 for 2XL and above).

Fellowship Opportunity

Lilly Endowment Inc., an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation, is pleased to announce its Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program for 2014. The Endowment will offer up to 100 grants of \$10,000 each to Indiana's public and private school teachers (including guidance counselors and library/media specialists), principals and assistant principals for projects of the individual's choice. This fellowship is for YOUR professional growth and renewal... it's the opportunity of a lifetime! Deadline for proposals is **November 1**. For more info: <http://www.teachercreativity.org/>

Teacher Grant Opportunity

The Kids In Need Foundation Teacher Grants provide K-12 educators with funding to provide innovative learning opportunities for their students. Teacher Grant awards range from \$100 to \$500 and are used to finance creative and imaginative classroom projects. For more info visit: <http://www.kinf.org/grants/index.php>

More Grants...

Indiana Senator Joe Donnelly has compiled several grant opportunities for educators... check out his Education Grants Newsletter here:

http://email.capitolenews.com/q/I-mtcNkUgQKHAsVbPuXEuiCAgcZwZ5kyHytY1uD_Ni_v0HHQ328L-GST2

Teacher Store - Free Classroom Supplies

Great news! Michigan City Area Schools has been approved and added to the database for the Feed the Children organization's "Indiana Teachers' Store". Classroom teachers from MCAS are now eligible to visit the store one time per month and select free items needed for their students and classrooms. The store is accessible on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM (Eastern Time) at 22365 Elkhart East Boulevard in Elkhart. VERY IMPORTANT: you must have our code number when shopping...it is **1510**. Please note that is only for classroom teachers... administrators, counselors, classified staff, substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, computer techs, media specialists, etc. are **not** eligible.

Club Discovery - Middle School After School

Club Discovery is the Safe Harbor after-school program at Barker, Elston, and Krueger. They are very excited about their expanded programming this school year! You may have heard them on WEFM or WIMS promoting their program...which is a great supplement to the curriculum and academic goals of our middle schools. Club Discovery provides tutorial support; homework assistance; computer access; environmental science; life science; drug, tobacco and alcohol prevention advocacy; flow drumming; STEM programming and robotics; music; STEAM programming; performing arts; leadership and character development and decision making. Club Discovery is held **Monday – Thursday, 2:15 – 5:30**. If you can, stop by and visit one of our sites! Contact Team Leader Allen Williams for more info at awms1600omega@yahoo.com.

Club Inspire-Michigan City High School Afterschool Program

CLUB INSPIRE (formerly known as Cafe Read a Latte) is the after school program at Michigan City High School. The program inspires students to be successful by offering math tutoring, homework help, credit recovery, use of the computer lab, academic enrichment

and a variety of other inspirational enrichment opportunities, including robotics, Tech Club, Book Club, creative activities led by Lubeznik Center for the Arts, and Music Recording Studio. Our new **College and Career Readiness** program offers a readiness curriculum and monthly field trips to colleges and businesses. Transportation is provided by Michigan City Area Schools transportation department. It takes place in the cafeteria from immediately after school until 5:30 **Monday** through **Thursday**. There is a one-time \$5 registration fee. Contact Sherri Silcox at [873-2026](tel:873-2026) x 8744 for information.

Hours for Ours Mentoring Program

Hours for Ours is a school-based mentoring program partnering MCAS students with caring adult mentors. H4O operates in seven elementary schools: Edgewood, Knapp, Lake Hills, Marsh, Joy, Pine, and Niemann; all three middle schools: Barker, Elston, and Krueger; and Michigan City High School. Mentors meet with their mentees at lunch time on designated days, or tie in with Safe Harbor and meet after school hours. Research proves that mentoring helps to maximize student achievement, increase class attendance and promote constructive social behavior. For more information, or to apply to be a mentor to our students, contact Sherri Silcox at [873-2026](tel:873-2026) x 8744.

Athletic Dept. News

Lots is happening in the Wolves Athletic Dept! Here's an update from MCAS Athletic Director Bear Falls:

- The new middle school programs that were added two years ago are starting to generate larger numbers on the high school teams. This is a great indication that the feeder system is taking shape. We are hoping middle school soccer can be added soon...
- The Coaches Handbook is undergoing an update... it will be available for all coaches online this year.
- The Elementary seasons for basketball and soccer are now longer, which will help students with fundamentals. This year the First Tee Golf program will expand to more schools at the elementary level. Stay tuned for more on this exciting program!
- Coach Tim Bumber has returned to lead the Girls' Cross Country team. MCAS also welcomes new Head Coaches Andrew White (Girls Golf) and Brian Meyer (Boys Golf).

Data Resource

Need data about Hoosier children and youth? Check out the Indiana Youth Institute Data Center! <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#IN/2/0>

WAY TO GO

Congrats to Elston Theater Teacher **Aaron Garrett**, who is a finalist in the 2013 Hoosier Star competition! (MCHS Freshman Julia Wahl is a finalist in the youth division). Be sure to come to the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra concert for the Hoosier Star finals on **September 14** and cast your vote...for tickets visit: <http://www.hoosierstar.com/>

Congrats to **all of us** -- MCAS was honored once again this week as a "Cornerstone" company for the United Way! This means we were among the top 20 companies in LaPorte County based on employee giving to the United Way for 2012. Watch for more info soon on this year's United Way campaign...including the annual car wash challenge.

Transportation's **Dave Hack**, MCHS Principal **Wendel McCollum**, and MCAS School Board Member **Marty Corley** were all featured recently as the LaporteCountyLife.Com "Life that Matters". Check out their profiles here:

<http://www.laportecountylife.com/community/serving/32640-a-la-porte-county-life-that-matters-dave-hack>

<http://www.laportecountylife.com/community/education/31846-a-la-porte-county-life-that-matters-wendel-mccollum>

<http://www.laportecountylife.com/community/serving/32400-a-la-porte-county-life-that-matters-marty-corley>

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pine Elementary Magnet School for the Visual and Performing Arts invites MCAS staff to attend the opening of its new **Fine Arts Gallery** on Tuesday, [September 3](#) from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. This gallery features the work of several artists; currently on exhibit are three works on loan from Purdue North Central, including a striking painting of a Coyote by Jeff Hamm, a series of international photographs by Rebecca Janes, and a large wall sculpture by George Sugarman that was installed in the school library last year. (On exhibit outside the building are the "Owl and Pussycat" sculpture by Richard Kiebdaj and a new "Art is for the Birds" sculpture garden project created by Pine students, staff and parents under the direction of artist Deborah Landry, made possible by a grant from the Michigan City Enrichment Corp.) The Pine Fine Arts Gallery Opening will feature activity stations surrounding these works. Don't miss it!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Look for MCAS school buses (and Transpo staff!) at the **10th Annual Stuff-a-Bus** event on [Saturday, September 14th](#) from 9 am to 3 pm at both Al's on Karwick and Al's on Franklin Street. The goal of the event is to completely stuff the two buses (mainly with prepaid bags of food) for the Salvation Army Food Pantry, which is quite bare right now. Bags are just \$5.00 ... or bring your own food donation. Thanks in advance for your help!

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.

Chris Kiser is also walking in honor of her sister, Jennifer, in Chicago on Sept. 29th in the **Step Out Against Diabetes Walk**. All proceeds go toward diabetes research and treatment. If anyone would like to make a donation they can send it to Chris at Joy. Checks can be made payable to the American Diabetes Association.

An outstanding lineup of speakers will be part of this year's **Purdue North Central Sinai Forum!** The 60th season features Obama Administration's senior advisor, Robert Gibbs; Pulitzer Prize winning FOX and PBS political panelist, Charles Krauthammer; "Siri" creator (and MCAS Elston alum!) Dag Kittlaus; "Prairie Home Companion's" Garrison Keillor; cancer specialist/radiologist, Dr. Margaret Cuomo; and historian to the Senate for the past 30 years, Richard A. Baker. All programs will start either at 3 p.m. or 7 p.m. (CST), at Elston Middle School's Performing Arts Center or Michigan City High School. **Please let your students know - students presenting a valid student I.D. are admitted FREE!** For ticket info and a complete schedule visit: <http://www.sinaiforum.org/>