

MCAS Communicator

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

March 2015

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

Spring is almost here...

Due to snow makeup days, the last day for students is now Friday, June 5th.

Save the Date!

The annual Retirement & Wall of Fame dinner is set for Tuesday, June 2 at Blue Chip. More info will follow in next month's Communicator.

From Payroll

American Fidelity deductions for the plan year 4/1/15 to 3/31/16 will begin on the 3/6/15 pay. Please review your pay and report any errors to Julie Bietry, jbietry@mcas.k12.in.us.

Sectional Tickets

Michigan City High School is pre-selling tickets through tomorrow (Wed.) for the IHSAA Boys Basketball Sectional Tournament at Merrillville High School. The Merrillville sectional will take place on March 3, 4, 6, and 7, with quarterfinal games on the 3rd and 4th, semifinal games on the 6th, and the championship game on the 7th. Michigan City's first game will be on Wednesday, March 4th at 7:30. Tickets are "season tickets" to the entire tournament, and are on sale for \$10 each.

Team M.C.A.S. - Now Admitted FREE

The high school Athletic Department is now granting FREE admission to all home high school athletic events for any MCAS employee. You just need to show your MCAS ID badge. Offer is not transferrable to friends or family (sorry). Includes free admission for the employee to all home games - regular season only (not sectionals, regionals, etc.) This is for any sport.... basketball, baseball, football, volleyball, softball, gymnastics, swimming, wrestling, tennis, track, golf, soccer.... really, we mean everything! (Please note this does not include middle school games, just MCHS.) GO WOLVES! Let's support our outstanding student athletes by filling those stands.

Wolf Pack Roundup

Parent-Teacher conferences on March 25 (secondary) and March 26 (elementary) will be open to anyone in the community who would like to stop by for information, a tour, and etc. A special "mini orientation" session for students/parents of 7th/8th graders will take place at MCHS at 5:30 on 3/25 to provide an overview of early college, honors college, dual credit, athletics, activities, and much more. We are hoping that students will "take it to the next level" and find out what is in store for them at middle and high school... including students from private or charter schools who may want to explore the many opportunities our public schools have to offer. Watch for more information on "Wolf Pack Round Up" in the media, social media, and etc.

Kindergarten Roundup

Kindergarten (and PreK) round up will be held at all elementary buildings on Thursday, March 26 from 10:00am to 6:00pm. Please help us spread the word to anyone you may know who has children turning age 5 (or 3) by August 1st! (Magnet School applications will be available at kindergarten roundup... and will also be available online beginning March 7...deadline for apps this year is April 20.)

MCAS Featured in "State of the Classroom"

The Indiana Dept. of Education has featured MCAS' Safe Harbor and Hours for Ours program in a special episode of "State of the Classroom." This is a must-see video that has already aired on Lakeshore Public TV and is now airing on Channel 98 periodically. It features Sherri Silcox, Herb Higgin, Dr. Eason-Watkins, Mayor Meer, teacher/mentor Sherry Wagner, and Shelby Mitchell, a former MCAS student (with an inspiring story!) who is now attending PNC. See it here anytime:

<http://youtu.be/qCZfwsMn4Zk>

A Special Young People's Theater performance

Veteran actors from the Young People's Theatre Company, Jr. are mentoring aspiring young actors with special needs (grades K-3). Please join them for a (free!) performance showcasing what they've learned on Saturday, March 14 at 2:00pm at the Elston Performing Arts Center.

The Diary of Anne Frank

The Michigan City High School Drama Club will perform its spring play, "A Diary of Anne Frank" March 13-15 in the high school auditorium. Friday and Saturday performances begin at 7:00pm, with a Sunday matinee at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students. This is a very powerful and impactful play based on the words and thoughts of a young Jewish girl who is forced into hiding in an attic in Nazi occupied Amsterdam. Sixth graders from across our district will be attending a special preview performance, as will some special guests from the Senior Center and Rittenhouse.

Robotics News

MCRobotic Team 3936 had its "bag" day (a universal requirement to level the competitions) in February, where Betsy Kohn provided the mandated administrator sign off. The team will be competing in district events [March 13](#) and 14 in Kokomo and March 20 and 21 in West Lafayette. The team was very excited to learn they will receive a Michigan City Enrichment Corp. grant for their off-season and during-season extra curricular activity of working on the MCHS sensory room. Web-design and marketing team members working under the advertising/marketing mentor Joe Condon developed a "New" exciting new brand for our team which included a new nickname "Robo Blitz"... some of the new slogans include "We Strike more than once" and "Sparking young minds."

VOICE-ing Concerns

Hats Off to our VOICE (middle school no-tobacco advocacy program within Club Discovery) students April Hopper and Sylvia Roberts, who provided researched testimony on the harmful effects of second-hand smoke and the effects of non- biodegradable byproducts to the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department Board. The Board voted to ban smoking at three city parks (Patriot, Gardena and Adams). On [Wednesday, March 18](#), during student lunches at Krueger and Barker, the Safe Harbor VOICE program will hold activities for Kick Butts Day, a national movement to keep kids tobacco free.

Club Discovery News

On Friday, [February 20](#), Barker's Club Discovery students took a trip to the 2015 Chicago Auto Show, thanks to donations from Harbor Chevrolet and Pine Ford. The students enjoyed

a test ride on the burn-out track, made a video about music and how it impacts their lives, and learned about horsepower, torque, and how engines are made.

Healthy U @ Work!

Click the link below to access Working Well's February newsletter... read up on heart health and determine what "color" you are....

http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_february2015.pdf

CORE Administrator Exam Workshop

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) is offering a workshop on Friday, March 27, for anyone who plans to take the CORE assessment as part of the requirements for school leadership / administrator certification. The workshop is 6-9pm and cost is \$100. For more info and to reserve your spot, contact Dr. Brent Daigle (985)-400-2542, drbrentdaigle@praxisworkshop.org.

Give Back Events!

- Support the **MCHS Parent Network** on March 12 from 4-8pm at Panera Bread. Click the link below for the required coupon:
<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/20/3820%20-%20Michigan%20City%20HS%20Parent%20Network.pdf>
- Support **Pine Elementary School** on March 18 at Buffalo Wild Wings from 5-8 pm. No coupon needed!

WAY TO GO

Congrats to Safe Harbor's **Allen Williams**, who was profiled by LaPorte County Life as its "Life in the Spotlight"... read about it here:

<http://www.laportecountylife.com/features/life-in-the-spotlight/50619-a-northwest-indiana-life-in-the-spotlight-allen-williams>

Congrats to Associate Superintendent **Xavier Botana** who has been named to serve on a prestigious national committee: the National Research Council/Institute of Medicine of the National Academies for the Sciences Committee on Fostering School Success for English Language Learners: Toward New Directions in Policy, Practice and Research. Xavier is the only representative from the K-12 sector and his role is to provide a perspective on the implementation of the committee's recommendations.

MCAS has been named a "District of Distinction" by District Administrator magazine. Our district is profiled in the publication's March issue for the outstanding opportunities we offer to prepare our students K-12 for college and careers. WAY TO GO **everyone!**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Power of Children Award

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is accepting nominations for the 11th Annual Power of Children Awards. This award honors students in grades 6-11 who have developed innovative projects to help their communities. (MCHS alum Liz Niemiec was a previous winner of this award!) To nominate: <http://childrensmuseum.org/poca>

Zoobilee

The Washington Park Zoo Society invites you to attend its annual gala event, "Zoobilee" on Saturday, April 18th. The evening includes a dinner buffet, hosted bar, and silent auction

and will feature the music of Katie Todd (Lauded by iTunes as one of the "top buzz bands in the country," Katie Todd has shared the stage with Patti Labelle, Steve Winwood, Sarah McLachlan and Juliana Hatfield. Her single "In and Around" was National Geographic's theme for their "Go Green" campaign). Tickets are \$75, and table and event sponsorships are available. For info contact Amy Wojo-Labis at MCHS or visit:
<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/zoobilee-2015-tickets-15381203594>

Dodge Ball for United Way

The annual "Play4Life" Corporate Dodgeball Challenge for United Way will be held at Marquette on May 16 from 10-2. Admission for fans is free... team registration is \$400 (for a team of 8 players). To register, follow this link:
<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/unitedwaylpc/event/48323/>

NEW on Community Backpack

There are several new postings on our "Community Backpack" page!

- Pop Warner Flag Football Signups
- "Girls on the Run" at NAC
- Club Inspire Homework Help

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>