

MCAS Communicator

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

March 2018

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

Disability Awareness Month Activities

March is Disability Awareness Month! On March 7, the Michigan City Human Rights Commission will be honoring our Student Support Services and Transportation staff. Thanks to ALL who are serving our students with disabilities!

School Breakfast Week is Next Week!

March 5 - March 9 is National School Breakfast Week. The theme this year is "I Love School Breakfast". Elementary students will get "treats" every morning when they receive school breakfast. They will have a different menu for breakfast this week. There also will be fun code breaker activities and coloring sheets available. Watch the Food Service Dept. Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mcasfoodservice/> for pictures and updates!

Parent Survey

Are you a the parent of a current MCAS student? If so, please take a moment to complete the "e-learning parent survey." Thank you for your feedback!
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MCASeLearning>

Active Shooter Presentation

Below is a link to the Active Shooter presentation conducted by the Michigan City Police during last Wednesday's PLC.
<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/ACTIVE%20SHOOTER%20TRAINING%202018.pdf>

CPR Training for Certified Staff

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held Thursday, March 8. Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, 100 Manny Court, adjacent to Lake Hills Elementary. Note: Due to an increase in card fees by the American Heart Assn., the fee has increased to \$50, payable by cash or check to Dolphin Solutions. The certification lasts two years. Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski (lbechinski@educatemc.net) to sign up.

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://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816EAP.pdf>

March EAP Newsletter: About the 4 Basic Feelings (Mad-Sad-Scared-Glad)

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/MarchEAPNews.pdf>

March EAP Webinar

Register here for "4 Basic/Primary Feelings" and "Pelvic Health - The Topic No One Wants To Discuss" on Mar 21, 2018 1:00 PM CDT at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5697561892094409218>

Healthy U @ Work February Newsletter

Disconnecting... tangerines...heart health...the dangers of sitting...and more!
http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_february2018.pdf

Elementary Art Show

The Lubeznik Center is currently featuring an exhibit of artwork by students in grades kindergarten through 6, from all eight of our elementary schools. This annual exhibit is a must-see - with hundreds of drawings, paintings, sculptures and more. Families and members of the public are invited to attend an opening reception for the exhibit on Thursday, March 8 at the Lubeznik Center, from 4:30 to 6:00pm. The exhibit will then be on display through April 11th.

Teacher Guide from Lubeznik

Below is a pdf guide for teachers interested in booking field trips at Lubeznik. It contains an overview of upcoming exhibits and grade suggestions, as well as information about a hands-on art project component. Lubeznik welcomes all teachers (not just art teachers) to bring students... the Warhol exhibit next fall is an amazing opportunity!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/LCA%202018%20Learning%20Tour%20Guide.pdf>

Tall Cop Parent Presentation

The "Tall Cop" (aka Officer Jermaine Galloway) will be giving a presentation for parents (and others!) called "High in Plain Sight" on March 20 at 6:30pm at the Laporte Civic Auditorium. The topic is substance abuse prevention and this session comes highly recommended, as the speaker is very empowering and informative. Please consider attending and share information about it with others you know!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/Tall%20cop.pdf>

Wolfpack Roundup Time!

"Wolfpack Roundup" is Thursday, March 15 at 5:30pm. We invite all students in grades 5 through 8 to visit our middle schools or our high school on this date, to find out what's in store for them at the next level. All three buildings will be open for tours, a meet and greet with teachers and staff, etc. They will have a variety of informational displays about academics, clubs, athletics, and more -- including information about the Michigan City Promise scholarship. Public, private, charter, and homeschool students and their families are all welcome to attend. (This takes place immediately following secondary parent conferences.)

College Financial Planning Workshop

Michigan City High School will be holding a College Financial Planning Workshop on Wednesday, March 28, from 5pm-7pm in the high school auditorium. Panelists will include representatives from INvestEd, 21st Century Scholars, the Promise Scholarship, and local banks. Families will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding early financial planning for their students. They will also have an opportunity to sign up for the programs of interest at the event. The event is free and open to all MCAS families with students of any age -- most especially those in middle and high school.

YES we are EducateMC.net

A friendly reminder that will come in handy for you...
Our district website is <http://educateMC.net>
Also... your email works with xxxx@educateMC.net
Try it!

Save the Dates - Coding is Coming!

Plans are under way for this spring's "Week of Code" - May 4-11. Details will be coming soon!

From the Finance Office

NASCO (provider of education supplies) has extended a discount to MCAS on all orders. More information on this is here...be sure to enter the MCAS discount code when ordering:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/NASCO2018.pdf>

Hilfiger Spring Discount

All MCAS employees receive a Corporate Partnership discount of 15% off your entire purchase at Tommy Hilfiger Outlet Stores - valid until April 30, 2018. Print and bring this ad, or show on your mobile device:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/Hilfiger.pdf>

Way to Go!

- Congratulations to Marsh Elementary School teacher **Susan Shell**, who has been named a Teacher Ambassador by Donors Choose.org
- Congratulations to Barker Middle School Principal **Dan Caudle** and Curriculum Coach **Amy Hamman**, who will be presenting at the Museum of Science & Industry School Partners Recognition Event Tuesday, May 8th, representing Barker.

Give Backs and Other Fun - Please support these causes!

1. **MCHS Music Dept Discount Cards** are now on sale for \$10! Follow this link to see the many local businesses participating. Contact any band/choir student or Michelle Howisen at MCHS.
<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/MusicDiscountCard.pdf>
2. The **Galveston Breakfast** for Girls Tennis (the one and only!) is this Sunday from 9am-Noon. See you there!
<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/Galveston%20Breakfast.jpg>
3. **"MC" Neckties for Sale!** Show your City Pride in these dapper microfiber neckties, for sale to benefit the MCHS Swim Team. Cost is \$20, checks or cash to MC Athletics. To purchase contact Coach Mel Kovenz at MCHS - mkovenz@mcas.k12.in.us. Here's a photo ... better in person:
<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/Neckties.jpg>
4. Eat at **Chipotle** on Tuesday, March 20 to support **Pine Elementary School**:
https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/Pine_Chipotle.pdf

IMPORTANT UPDATE - DATE CHANGE!

There has been a date change for the 2018 Triviafest supporting the MCHS Band. The Triviafest will take place Friday, March 16 at the St. Joe Club in Michigan City. Doors open at 6pm and trivia begins at 7:00pm. There will be food, drinks, and a large number of GREAT prize raffles. Don't miss this event, hosted by local triviamaster Mark Kline. Teams are greatly needed... Please support our marching band and have a fun evening! To sign up, form a team of 8-10 and email Betsy Kohn at bkohn@educateMC.net. Please share the flyer below with others who may be interested:

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/TriviaFlyer_Band_newdate.pdf

Community Events/Announcements

The **Michigan City Commission on Women** invites you to attend an International Women's Day Celebration at City Hall on Thursday, March 8 at 5:00pm. This event will feature guest speakers, a special video, and an outdoor interactive experience with the "Life Is Beautiful" sculpture. A press release with much more info is here:

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/March%208th%20Internation%20Women%20Event_2.28.18.pdf

And a flyer about this event is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/WomensDayFlyerFINAL.jpg>

Do you like purses? You'll love the United Way's fundraiser on March 15th "**Power of the Purse**". Read more about it here:

<http://unitedwaylpc.org/powerofthepurse>

Junior Achievement is also having a **Trivia Night**...theirs is on Friday the 13th (of April). Here is the flyer with more info:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202018/LaPorte%20Trivia%20Night-01.jpg>

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

- Easter Egg Hunt at Washington Park - March 24th
- MC Parks & Rec Baseball and Softball Signups - Deadline April 1
- Youth to Youth Grants Available (for youth led projects) - Due March 6
- 2018 Hoosier Star Auditions - March 24
- Grace Learning Center Tutoring Program
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

- March 8 - Student reception for elementary art show (4:30 - 6:00pm)
- March 15 - Secondary Parent/Teacher Conferences (2:30 - 5:30pm)
- March 15 - Wolfpack Roundup (5:30 - 6:30pm)
- March 28 - Solar Project Open House at Barker (9am)
- March 29 - Magnet School application deadline
- March 30 - No School - Good Friday
- April 2-6 - Spring Break
- April 16 - May 4 - ISTEP Window
- April 20, 21, 22 - MCHS Spring Play (7pm Fri/Sat, 2pm Sun)
- May 4-11 - "Week of Code"
- May 31 - **SCHOOL IN SESSION, SNOW MAKEUP**
- June 1 - **SCHOOL IN SESSION, SNOW MAKEUP** (Last Day of School)
- June 4 - Retirement & Wall of Fame Dinner at Blue Chip

- June 11- July 19 - Summer School
- July 2-5 - NO SUMMER SCHOOL week of July 4
- July 24 & 25 - Rollover
- July 26 - Online registration opens
- August 2 & 3 - On Site Registration