

MCAS Communicator

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

March 2020

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

Coronavirus - COVID-19

We are closely monitoring developments regarding Coronavirus. Please visit the web page below that we have created on this topic, which will be updated as we have new information. This link will be shared later today with families via email and social media. Please ensure that you review proper cough/sneeze procedures with students!

<http://educateMC.net/corona>

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The Michigan City St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 1:00pm. MCAS will have a unit and all are invited to march with us! Come dressed in your Wolves/leprechaun finery and look for our decorated bus at the lineup location at 12:30pm.

School Social Work Week

This week (March 1-7) has been designated by the IDOE as "School Social Work Week" to honor the professionals serving social-emotional support needs in schools across the state. Please take the time to celebrate our social workers for their dedication and efforts in support of our students!

National School Breakfast Week

This week is also National School Breakfast Week. Please recognize our Food Service professionals for their service and encourage all students to participate in this important meal of the day!

Wall of Fame

MCAS is now accepting applications for the "Wall of Fame." The wall honors former employees who had a positive and lasting impact on our students. For a nomination form and a complete list of those who have previously been inducted, please visit <http://educateMC.net/WOF>. Nomination forms are also available at any school building and at the Michigan City Public Library. The deadline for nominations is March 27.

Retirement Dinner

Save the Date! The MCAS Retirement and Wall of Fame dinner will be held on May 28 at Blue Chip. Reservation forms will be available after spring break.

March School Board Meeting

Due to scheduling conflicts, the date of the regular school board meeting in March has been changed. It will take place on Monday, March 23, at 6:00 p.m.

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 March Newsletter: Spotting Trouble Signs With Your Child

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202020/March%202020%20Franciscan%20Employee%20Assistance%20Program%20Newsletter.dox.pdf>

EAP Webinar - March

Please register for : "Spotting Trouble Signs with Your Child/Teen and What To Do About Them" and "Medicare 101" on Mar 18, 2020 12:00 PM CDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/512271668523878657>

Healthy U @ Work Newsletter - February

Tally Your Toxins, Rutabaga Recipes, Heart Attack Symptoms and more...

http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_february2020.pdf

CPR for Certified Staff

There are two **options for CPR** for certified staff in need of license renewal:

1. CPR Classes will be offered at the A. K. Smith Career Center on 3/18, from 6:00 pm - 8:30pm (cost is \$35). If interested, register online at:

www.IneedACPRcard.com. This nonprofit organization also offers classes at other locations and times. Questions? Contact David Sanders at dsanders05@mcas.k12.in.us.

2. CPR Trainer Val Skwiat offers an online option. (1) Go online to elearning.heart.org to complete the \$15 CPR course and then print out or email your completion certificate to Valorie Skwiat. (2) Call, text, or email Val to schedule a date and time of your choosing to complete the hands-on skills portion. The cost for this is an additional \$20 to receive your course completion card. Contact Val at (219) 873-2127 x 8606, Cell: (219) 874-1716, vskwiat@mcas.k12.in.us

Section and Regional Basketball Info

MCCHS will take on the LaPorte Slicers in LaPorte in the first round of boys' basketball sectional play on Wednesday, March 4. Tipoff time is 7:00pm. The Michigan City High School Athletic Department will be hosting the IHSAA Boys Basketball Regional on March 14. Season passes and MCAS staff ID badges cannot be used for these games; tickets are on sale in advance from our Athletic Department. GO WOLVES!!

Kindergarten Roundup

Kindergarten & PreK Roundup has been rescheduled due to the snow day we had on 2/26. It will now take place at all eight of our elementary schools on **Wednesday, March 4** from 10:00 am to 6:00 p.m. (This date is also rescheduled parent conferences at the elementary level, for the convenience of parents already in the buildings with older siblings.) Please note that the State of Indiana has extended the entrance age for kindergarten. Children who are age 5 by October 1, 2020 will be eligible for Michigan City Area Schools kindergarten. Parents who need help determining which school their child would attend are encouraged to contact the MCAS Transportation Department at (219) 873-2127.

Wolf Pack Round Up

Wolf Pack Round Up will take place on **Thursday, March 12** at 5:30pm. All families with students in grades 5 through 8 are encouraged to visit our middle schools or our high school on this date to find out what's in store at the next level. At Michigan City High School, this

event will be combined with an Athletics Open House, giving student-athletes and their parents an opportunity to meet coaches and learn more about participating in sports at the high school level. Public, private, home-school, and charter school families are all welcome!

Wolves Wear on Roundup Day

In conjunction with the Wolf Pack Roundup on March 12, the Athletic Dept. is holding a "Wolves Wear" day at schools across the district, to benefit Future Wolves elementary athletics. Staff are invited to take part!

Summer School

MCAS Summer School will take place June 1 - June 26 (Monday-Friday). The elementary program will be at Lake Hills, and the middle/high school will be at MCHS. Safe Harbor will be at Joy. Much more information will be posted on our website at <http://educateMC.net/summer> within the next few weeks!

2020 Census Classroom Materials

The U.S. Census Bureau has a large number of educational materials for teachers K-12. These include free activities that incorporate census data into subjects such as math, geography, history, sociology, and English language arts. Check out all of the resources here: <https://2020census.gov/en/educators.html>

Lip Sync Squad

Again this year, MCAS has a group performing in the United Way Lip Sync Battle, which will be held on Friday, March 13 at Blue Chip. Team MCAS needs your support! United Way supports MCAS in many ways, including Kindergarten Countdown, the Open Door Adolescent Health Center, and the Hours for Ours mentoring program. Please consider attending and/or buying a vote for MCAS. <https://givegrove.com/unitedway/vote/>

Elementary Art Show

The Lubeznik Center will be featuring an exhibit of artwork by K-6 students from all eight of our elementary schools. Families and members of the public are invited to attend an opening reception for the exhibit on Wednesday, March 11 at the Lubeznik Center, 101 W. 2nd Street, from 4:30 to 6:00pm. The artwork will then be on display through April 15. Many thanks to our talented art teachers!

Magnet Schools Accepting Apps

Lake Hills and Pine are accepting magnet school applications for the 2020-21 school year. Lake Hills is our magnet school for STEM, while Pine centers on the Arts. In addition to K-6 students living in their neighborhood boundaries, they are able to accommodate additional students whose families are interested in these themes. For much more information and an online application, visit our website at <http://EducateMC.net/magnets>. The deadline to apply for magnet school placement is Friday, March 27.

Maker Faire Is Back

The second annual South Shore Maker Faire will be held on Saturday, June 20 at the Michigan City Public Library (100 E. Fourth Street) in the Uptown Arts District. The free, family-friendly event will be held both indoors and outdoors and will be open to the public from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Featuring both established and emerging local "makers," the South Shore Maker Faire will showcase rockets and robots, DIY science and technology, urban farming and sustainability, alternative energy, bicycles, unique craftwork, handcrafted food and drink, educational presentations, and performances. From engineers to artists to scientists to crafters, the Maker Faire is a venue for these "makers" to show hobbies,

experiments, and projects. The Call for Makers, Performers and Crafters is open now through May 29. Individuals, businesses, or groups interested in participating in this event should complete the online application at <http://southshore.makerfaire.com>. There is no cost to participate! Event sponsors are also welcome.

House of Tomorrow Project

The Construction Technology class at the A. K. Smith Career Center will be partnering with the Indiana Trust for Historic Preservation on an exciting project this spring! Experts from the Trust will be working with students and teacher Dick Bucher to restore cabinets at the "House of Tomorrow" in Beverly Shores. The project is part of the Trust's "HOPE Crew" program -- which stands for Hands-on Preservation Experience Program -- designed to educate and train a new generation of craftspeople in the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic houses. The House of Tomorrow was built for the Century of Progress' 1933 Homes of Tomorrow Exhibition in Chicago, Illinois, and it was named a National Treasure in 2016.

Transportation News

Michigan City Area Schools added five new propane school buses to the fleet last week. (Three more will be arriving this summer.) These buses are environmentally friendly, fuel-efficient, quieter than diesel, and are equipped with stop-arm cameras and other safety features. South Shore Clean Cities helped our district secure a grant from the VW settlement administered by the Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management to fund approximately 25% of the cost.

Symphony at Elston

The La Porte Symphony Orchestra continues its 47th season on March 15 with a celebration of Beethoven's 250th Birthday. Under the direction of the LCSO's 5th Music Director Candidate, Wilbur Lin, the Orchestra will perform Mendelssohn's "Hebrides" Overture, Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. The concert will be performed at the Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring Street, Michigan City, and will begin at 3:00 PM CDT. Doors open at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$20 for Adults and \$18 for Seniors and are available at www.lcso.net or by visiting the La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau. **Students with a valid ID are admitted for free.** Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

Robo Round Up!

Safe Harbor's Michigan City Robotics Team will hold an open house for 6th graders interested in Robotics on March 5, from 6-7pm at A. K. Smith. A flyer is here: <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202020/ROBO%20round%20up%20revised%20invite%201%20page.pdf>

Fulbright Teacher Exchanges

March 18 is the deadline to apply for the Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms program. Visit this website for details! <https://www.fulbrightteacherexchanges.org/>

Wolves Fleece Sale

Interested in a Wolves fleece shirt? Barker Middle School has you covered! Proceeds benefit Barker STEM programs. A link to the order form is below. Please note this is ADULT sizes only. The Dark Grey color is for Staff/Adults only, but adults MAY order the Navy and Light Grey. Tall sizes only come in the color Dark Grey. Questions? Contact Amy Hamann at Barker, ahamman@mcas.k12.in.us. [https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202020/Barker Fleece Sale.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202020/Barker%20Fleece%20Sale.pdf)

Help Krueger Recycle

Krueger Middle School is again participating in the PepsiCo Recycle Rally challenge. Last year, the school won 9th place in this national contest, which earned them \$10,000. This year they are aiming even higher and ask the community to help by collecting aluminum cans and plastic drink bottles. Items must be dropped off at the school or at one of the other participating locations, where they will be weighed for the contest and then recycled. For details, please visit <http://educateMC.net/recycling>.

Classroom Tech Grant Opportunity

Internet.Frontier.com is offering three \$1,000 grants for K-12 teachers for classroom technology. To apply, instructors need to submit a unique lesson plan explaining how they would use technology to teach social responsibility. The application deadline is May 15th, 2020. More information about this opportunity is here:

<https://internet.frontier.com/resources/education/teacher-grant/>

STEM Teach IV Announces Summer 2020 Offerings

- Do you need to take graduate courses in biology, chemistry, information technology, math, physics, or psychology to become credentialed to teach dual credit classes?
- Are you interested in learning how to infuse STEM into your daily lesson plans?
- Would you like to learn more about coding, PBL, environmental topics, 1:1 technology?
- Do you need to take classes or workshops to fulfill teaching licensing requirements for computer science, PBL, licensing renewal, or to prepare for a content area PRAXIS?
- Would you like a chance to win a STEM kit designed for a K-6 classroom?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, STEM Teach can help! On March 25, STEM Teach will open registration for Summer I graduate & undergraduate courses and workshops. Visit https://stemteachindiana.org/offerings_courses/ to view a SNEAK PEEK of all the offerings available at no cost to Indiana K-12 in-service teachers. IMPORTANT: Teachers must apply before they can register. STEM Teach will be accepting applications through March 22. Visit the application page to learn how to apply:

<https://stemteachindiana.org/apply/> and to learn more and sign up for updates visit:

<https://stemteachindiana.org/>

WAY TO GO!!

- Congrats to MCHS Counselor **Denise Ndukwu**, who is an ambassador for Raise.Me. Check out an interview of her they featured on their blog last month: https://www.raise.me/blog/educators/black-history-month-educator-voices-denise-ndukwu/?fbclid=IwAR0XnBZ0ZBUvtwUuXCB-v9su2i8YHDMziJTpGZ84cDHLN_xR8kPMt9B3dn4
- Congrats to MCHS Counselor **Linda Meyer**, who was honored for her exemplary work as a professional school counselor by the College Board in its 2019-20 Counselor Recognition Program!
- Congratulations to Edgewood kindergarten teacher **Tess Pavloff** and Barker Social Studies teacher **Mariah Pol** who have received the Lilly Endowment Teacher Creativity Fellowships! This summer, Tess will be traveling to several National Parks, using the experience to build cross-curricular connections through language arts, math, science, and art. Mariah will travel to Greece and Egypt, creating Virtual Reality curricula that allows her students to analyze world history holistically and appreciate the world's diversity.

Give-Backs and Other Opportunities

- Last chance to register for the MCHS **Marching Band** Triviafest on **Friday, March 13** at the St. Joe Club! To register a team, email Betsy Kohn, bkohn@mcas.k12.in.us or call Mark Kline at (219) 362-4224. Details: https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//January%202020/TriviaFlyer_Band_2020.pdf
- **Barker** Middle School is hosting a **Craft & Vendor Fair** on Saturday, **March 14** at the school. For info on the event and on being a vendor: <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/Barker%20Vendor%20Fair%20FINAL.pdf>
- **Knapp** Elementary School is seeking vendors for its upcoming **Vendor Fair** on **April 25**. Info is here: <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/33/february%202020/Knapp%20Vendors%20Wanted.pdf>
- The Michigan City High School **Athletic Boosters** have announced a major fundraiser that they hope will become an annual tradition, a **Spring Raffle**. Tickets are \$20 each, and ten cash prizes will be awarded, with a top prize of \$1,000. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold. These raffle tickets are on sale now in the MCHS Athletic Office.
- Pine Elementary is having a give-back event at **Five Guys** on March 24. Be sure to mention Pine when you order!
- Pine is also having a give back at **Holly's** on Tuesday, April 28. Be sure to show [THIS COUPON](#).

Upcoming Events

- March 2 - eLearning Day
- March 4 - RESCHEDULED Kindergarten Round Up
- March 4 - RESCHEDULED Elementary Parent Conference
- March 7 - MC St. Patrick's Parade (march with MCAS!) 12:30 lineup
- March 12 - Districtwide "Wolves Wear Spirit Wear" Day to benefit Elementary Athletics
- March 12 - Secondary Parent Conferences (2:30 - 5:30pm)
- March 12 - Wolfpack Roundup (MCHS, BMS, KMS) and Athletic Open House 5:30-6:30pm
- March 21 - Master Gardeners Show @ MCHS, 8-4
- April 6-10 - Spring Break
- April 24-26 - MCHS Play: Diary of Anne Frank

#MCASGiantLeaps