

# MCAS Communicator

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

## March 2019

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

### **Thank you, Social Workers!!!**

March 3-9 is National School Social Work Week. Please remember to thank the social worker at your school for all that he/she does in support of our students and families!

### **Message from Payroll**

American Fidelity insurance deductions were not taken from paychecks this week. In March, there are 3 pay dates, and deductions are taken from only 2 checks each month. Your deductions will occur from paychecks 2 and 3 this month.

### **Food Service News**

We will be celebrating NSBW, National School Breakfast Week from March 4-8 and the theme is "School Breakfast: Start Your Engines." Eating breakfast is a great way to start your day of learning! The Food Service Department would like to say "Thank You" to everyone who bought the mini Christmas Trees in December. With the profit from the trees, they were able to pay off \$711.10 of student negative meal account balances. Anyone who would like to make a donation to our "Random Acts of Kindness" account, which pays down negative meal accounts, please call the Food Service office. A thank you also goes out to the Dunes Woman's Club of Beverly Shores, which donated \$175 to pay off all the student negative meal balances at Pine Elementary School.

### **CPR for Certified Staff**

CPR classes for certified staff in need of license renewal will be held on Thursday, March 14th and on Thursday, April 11 at 3:15pm at Mullen (100 Manny Court). The cost is \$50, cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions at the class. Classes last approximately 2 hours. CPR books are available to borrow from any nurse's office if you need to review prior to the class. Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski in advance to reserve your spot for either of these classes, or with any questions - [lbechinski@educateMC.net](mailto:lbechinski@educateMC.net).

### **Wolfpack Roundup!**

Please spread the word: Wolf Pack Roundup is Thursday, March 14 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 (following secondary middle/HS parent conferences) for tours, a meet and greet with teachers and staff, and an opportunity to receive info 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. At Michigan City High School, this event will be combined with an Athletics Open House, giving all of our student-athletes and their parents a wonderful opportunity to meet coaches and learn more about participating in sports at the high school level. There will also be a port-a-pit chicken dinner that evening at the high school (3-7pm) and tickets are available for \$10 from the MCHS Office or Athletic Office. We can't wait to meet all of our future Wolves!

### **Lip Sync Battle - Please Support MCAS!**

MCAS has a special act planned for the United Way's "Lip Sync" fundraiser on Friday, March 8. This will feature several of our teachers and administrators, and our group name is "Too Cool for School"! Please consider attending, or if you can't be present, please consider purchasing votes for MCAS. (Follow the link below, and click "votes" tab if you are interested in that option.) Thanks to the United Way, MCAS is able to offer the Open Door Adolescent Health Center at MCHS, our Safe Harbor Hours for Ours Mentoring program, and Kindergarten Countdown. Many other United-Way supported initiatives help our students and their families, as well.

<https://givegrove.com/lip-sync-battle/vote/>

### **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>

### **March "EAP" Webinar**

Please register for "Twenty-five Habits Of Happy People" and "Balancing Risk And Rewards Of Credit Cards" on Mar 20, 2019 12:00 PM CDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/363988223970533121>

### **Wall of Fame**

It's time to submit nominations for the 2019 MCAS Wall of Fame! The Wall honors former Michigan City Area School employees who have made outstanding contributions. For eligibility info, a list of past inductees, and a nomination form follow the link below. Deadline for submission is March 29.

<http://educateMC.net/WOF>

### **Retirement Dinner - Save the Date**

The 2019 Retirement and Wall of Fame dinner will be held on Monday, June 3 at Blue Chip. More details coming in future editions of the MCAS Communicator.

### **St. Patrick's Day Parade**

MCAS will be participating in the annual Michigan City St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 9th. Lineup is at 12:30pm on Washington Street, and all are welcome to march along Franklin Street with the decorated minibus and help pass out bookmarks/pencils to kids. BYOLO (bring your own leprechaun outfit!) - otherwise, wear Wolves Wear and we will have green shamrock beads for you to wear.

### **Patriotic Parade**

Michigan City's Patriotic Parade is Saturday, June 29, 2019. If your group or organization would like to take part, please complete the form below. (Note: As always, MCAS will have a unit participating, and all are welcome to march along with us.)

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4757XBSByzSD\\_D4VX3qzbH1s-6d746jd5JScs76CKq4m4XQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4757XBSByzSD_D4VX3qzbH1s-6d746jd5JScs76CKq4m4XQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1)

### **Attention, SUPERS**

Are you following @MCASSupers on Twitter? It's #MCASIncredible!

### **Healthy U at Work Newsletter - February**

Interval training, Vitamin D, Limes, and more...

[http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww\\_newsletter\\_february2019.pdf](http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_february2019.pdf)

### **Educators Needed to Score ILEARN Assessment Items**

Through March 15, current Indiana educators may apply to score open-ended items appearing on ILEARN assessments. Compensation for current Indiana educators is \$16 per hour for this opportunity. Interested educators should complete [this application](#) after carefully reviewing the entire job posting. This [flier](#) gives more info; contact [the ILEARN scoring team](#) with any questions.

### **Dance With Me Classes**

In celebration of DisAbility Awareness Month, Michigan City Human Rights Commission is pleased to announce its continued partnership with Studio M to offer "Dance with Me," a creative movement class designed for people with disabilities. The 6-week class will start on March 5 and run to April 16. The Tuesday classes will take place at 6:20 p.m. until 7:05 p.m. at Studio M located at 703 Pearl Street (behind the MC Police Department). The partnership was built with the disability community in mind but is open to ALL people so that everyone has an outlet where they can enjoy the freeing nature of dance and music. The 6-week program costs \$50 and will be led by Mr. Larry Payne. For more information about Studio M visit <http://www.studiom-dance.com/> or call (219)874-9663 OR for Dance with Me questions, contact Joanne Tedesco ([Tedescofamily@outlook.com](mailto:Tedescofamily@outlook.com) or (573)355-7855).

### **Poetry and Songwriting Contest**

The Center for Creative Solutions is celebrating World Creativity and Innovation Week 2019 by sponsoring its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Poetry Contest for high school, middle school, and elementary students. They are seeking students' poems about their lives and experiences of growing up in LaPorte County and Michigan City. What is it about our city and countryside that you love and enjoy? Any style of poetry (including song lyrics) is acceptable. E-mail entries to Ester at [thenestmichigancity@gmail.com](mailto:thenestmichigancity@gmail.com). Include with submission: full name/school/teacher's name/grade level/age. Deadline for entries is March 29, 2019. Winners will be notified in advance of an April 20 showcase at the Nest (803 Franklin), where students will be invited to present poems and prizes will be awarded.

### **Elementary Art Show**

The Lubeznik Center will once again feature 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 thousands of drawings, paintings, sculptures and more. Families and members of the public are invited to attend an opening reception for the exhibit on Tuesday, March 19 at the Lubeznik Center, from 4:30 to 6:30pm. The exhibit will then be on display through April 22.

### **Kindergarten Video**

Special thanks to Marsh teachers Susan Shell and Erin Breen for their help with a new kindergarten readiness video that we used to promote kindergarten roundup this year. If you haven't seen the video yet, be sure to watch it here - it's gone viral on Facebook! [https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/4/Kindergarten\\_Readiness\\_190213\\_540.mp4](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/4/Kindergarten_Readiness_190213_540.mp4)

### **Recycling Alert!**

Krueger Middle School has embarked upon a wide-ranging Recycling Program. They will be collecting a number of items from school and community members and will be sorting and processing them for recycling. They welcome businesses and other organizations to partner with them. More information is available on Krueger's website, and by reaching out to Environmental Science teacher Daisy Lee at [dlee03@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:dlee03@mcas.k12.in.us). Details:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202019/Krueger%20Recycled%20Items.pdf>

### **NEW Shoe Recycling Program: A Win-Win for MCAS**

Changing Footprints is a local charity that receives donations of gently used shoes and then finds people who need them. Any MCAS school is invited to have a shoe collection bin in their building on an on-going basis. Plant Planning has graciously offered to pick up the shoes from each building and bring them to Krueger where they will be sorted and picked up by a Changing Footprints volunteer. For each pair of shoes that we collect, Changing Footprints will give us one pair of like-new shoes in return for our students and community members in need. We can request the types and sizes of shoes we need to ensure that all of our students have the proper shoes that they need. If you are interested in having a collection bin at your school but need a container, please email Daisy Lee at [DLee03@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:DLee03@mcas.k12.in.us). Details:

**What kind of shoes do we accept? ALL KINDS!** Everything from swim shoes, crocs, and flip flops to dress shoes (fancy sandals, high heels, and prom shoes). We always need regular tennis (jogging) shoes, but also need all sports shoes...even cowboy boots!

**In what condition must the shoes be? ANY CONDITION!** If there are minor flaws, we may still be able to give them to people in need. If there are major problems, we send them to be ground up for use as playground surfacing.

**How you can request FREE shoes for your students:** You can request shoes for your students through the link below. We will send out shoes from Krueger once a week via school mail to the staff member that submits the request form. We currently have around 300 pairs of gym shoes, winter boots, and dress shoes available. To respect the privacy of your student, there is no need to put their name on the form. - <https://goo.gl/forms/FoDY3X3wun2psbjz1>

### **Care Closets**

MCHS and Krueger have both established "Care Closets" and are collecting personal hygiene items for students. A flyer about this is below for Krueger... MCHS is collecting similar items and they can be dropped off at the high school office. Thank you in advance for your donation!

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/march%202019/KMSCares\\_poster\\_Feb2019.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/march%202019/KMSCares_poster_Feb2019.pdf)

### **Brass Band Concert**

The South Shore Brass Band touring ensemble will be performing a free concert at MCHS on March 12th at 7:30pm. Don't miss this! Spread the word to others who may be interested!

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=55&dataid=32677&FileName=BrassBand\\_Corrected.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=55&dataid=32677&FileName=BrassBand_Corrected.pdf)

### **Environmental Grant Opportunity**

NIPSCO is now accepting applications for the 2019 Environmental Action Grant supporting restoration and education projects throughout Northern Indiana. Safe Harbor, Krueger, and MCHS have all been recipients of this award in the past. Additional information available here: <https://www.nipsco.com/about-us/community-investment/environmental-action-grant>

### **Retirement Workshop**

The Porter County Retired Teacher's Association is hosting its annual Teacher's Retirement Workshop on April 13 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Valparaiso High School at 3801 North

Campbell Street, Valparaiso. They welcome any interested school employee within 5 years of retirement to attend. Todd Wooten from Blue Sky will be discussing taxes in retirement, maximizing Social Security benefits and more. Call to reserve your spot: (219) 548-9370 by Thursday, April 11, 2019. More info:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202019/RetirementWorkshop.pdf>

### **Magnet Schools Taking Apps**

Lake Hills and Pine Elementary Schools are now accepting magnet school applications for the 2019-2020 school year. The deadline to apply for magnet school placement is Friday, March 29th.

<http://educateMC.net/magnets>

### **NAACP Gala**

The LaPorte County NAACP is holding a gala on Saturday, March 23rd at Blue Chip. Two of our MCHS students will be receiving \$1,000 scholarships and the speaker, Judge Shequita Kelly-Joubert will be discussing the topic "Restructuring the K to Prison Pipeline." Ticket info is here:

<https://shoutout.wix.com/so/28MaHdV3d?cid=cd86d565-db0f-47ec-93d6-9cd6210e2a15#/main>

### **SAVE THE DATES - GIVE BACKS & OTHER EVENTS FOR TEAM MCAS!**

March 8 - Triviafest at St. Joe Club benefiting MCHS Marching Band DETAILS HERE:

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//February%202019/TriviaFlyer\\_Band\\_2019.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//February%202019/TriviaFlyer_Band_2019.pdf)

March 27th - Give Back at Five Guys to support Pine Elementary DETAILS HERE:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202019/Pine5Guys.pdf>

April 16th - Give Back at Chipotle to support Pine Elementary DETAILS HERE:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//March%202019/PineHacienda.pdf>

April 20 - "Run with the Wolves" 5K Fun Run at Washington Park - Register HERE:

[https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/MichiganCity/RunWithTheWolves5KFunRun?fbclid=IwAR2QOfj6TIJnnnX\\_yapQVG5F6dY1GpNpS5F-xsTpLyjWDEBkzoajJwLICn8](https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/MichiganCity/RunWithTheWolves5KFunRun?fbclid=IwAR2QOfj6TIJnnnX_yapQVG5F6dY1GpNpS5F-xsTpLyjWDEBkzoajJwLICn8)

### **WAY TO GO!**

Michigan City High School teacher/Swim Coach **Mel Kovenz** was named Coach of the Year at Sectionals. Congratulations!



We salute Sodexo's **Linda Jones** for her years of service to MCAS and Sodexo! She has retired and her last day was TODAY.

The **Michigan City Community Enrichment Corporation** has notified its grant recipients of awards -Barker Middle School's Amy Hamann & Mariah Pol received a grant of \$7,000 to purchase a Google Classroom Virtual Reality Kit to infuse technology with Social Studies. In addition, Safe Harbor has received \$10,000 to support its Summer Camp program, \$5,000 to support the Hours for Ours mentoring program, and \$5,000 to assist our Robotics program with the expansion of its after-school Manufacturing Academy to Joy Elementary School. Congratulations to those involved in writing these grants; we are grateful for the support of the Enrichment Corporation.

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

- South Shore Brass Band Concert (March 12th)
- YMCA FREE Family Craft Night (March 14th)
- YMCA FREE Family Open House (March 23rd)
- Bowling Fundraiser for MC Commission on the Social Status of African American Males (April 2)
- "Dance with Me" Class (see above)
- Tutoring at Ivy Tech
- YMCA Game Night for Teens (March 29)
- Spring Break Camp at Paladin
- Hoosier Star Vocal Auditions (March 16 and 17)
- Pop Warner Tackle Football and Cheer Signups
- And more!

**Calendar Reminders:**

March 14 - Secondary Parent Conferences, 2:30 - 5:30pm

March 14 - Wolfpack Roundup, 5:30 - 6:30pm

March 13-22 - Elementary Art Show at Lubeznik Center, (Reception Tuesday, March 19, 4:30-6pm)

April 1 - 5 - SPRING BREAK

April 19 - Good Friday - NO SCHOOL