

# MCAS Communicator

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

## March 2013

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

### **School Breakfast Week**

MCAS is celebrating National School Breakfast Week this week, [March 4-8](#). The 2013 theme, "Be a Star with School Breakfast," emphasizes how eating a balanced breakfast at school can help students shine. Breakfast is free to all MCAS elementary students every day during the school year. In addition, Barker, Elston, and Krueger Middle School students will receive free breakfast [March 5-7](#), the days ISTEP+ tests will be given at their buildings.

### **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**

Did you know that as a MCAS employee, you (and your dependents) can take advantage of a free, confidential program to help you with personal concerns and connect you with legal, financial, and academic resources? Click the link below to read more about this employee benefit:

<http://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/4/20130131142008145.pdf>

### **Summer School**

MCAS summer school courses will run [June 17](#) through [June 28](#), will be off the first week in July, and will run again July 8 through 19. Students will attend Monday through Friday. Elementary programs will be housed at Joy and Lake Hills and will include remediation (grades 1-3 and 5), iREAD remediation (grade 3), project-based themes (grades 1-3), and Kindergarten Countdown. Middle and high school programs will be housed at MCHS and will include remediation, "math prep camp," Drivers Ed, Phys Ed, and basic high school credit courses. Special Ed will partner again this summer to offer a program at Reins of Life. Safe Harbor Summer Camp will operate [June 17 - July 26](#) at Joy. Sports camps will again be offered this summer (dates TBA) and Freshman Academy orientation will be held in August. Transportation, breakfast, and lunch will be available. More information/registration forms for summer school will be available soon. Position postings will be available at schools later this week - check with your building secretary.

### **Summer Professional Development**

Teachers: Are you planning a vacation around professional development this summer? Bookmark the following link for the latest updates to the MCAS professional development planned for this summer. Information about registration will also be posted here, as it is available. <http://educatcmc.net/domain/82>

### **Need Health Insurance - Know Someone Who Does?**

If you or someone you know needs low-cost/free medical coverage, be sure to look into services offered by Covering Kids and Families. Children and parents may be eligible for one of the state's health coverage plans:

- The Hoosier Healthwise program for children (ages 0-19) and pregnant women is an income eligible plan that covers a wide range of services such as medical, hospital, lab services, prescriptions and many others.

- The Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) is for adults (19–64) who have been uninsured for 6 months, do not have insurance offered at their employer and meet income guidelines. HIP covers preventive services, hospitalizations, prescriptions and many other services. Note: MCAS is working with CKF on a "100% campaign" to ensure students, parents, and staff who may qualify are aware of their options for coverage. MCAS can send home enrollment info with any uninsured student, and the parent can return it to the school for faxing to CKF. See your school nurse for details! For more information and/or to apply for health coverage contact: Monica Cavinder, Program Director at [219-221-1559](tel:219-221-1559), [CoveringKidsAndFamilies@yahoo.com](mailto:CoveringKidsAndFamilies@yahoo.com) or visit: <http://educatemc.net/site/default.aspx?PageID=7297>

### **2013-14 Calendar**

The 2013-14 school year calendar has been finalized. Visit the MCAS web site and click on the calendar icon at the top of the page to view dates. Printed calendars will be ready later this semester.

### **CPR Training**

The next CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal has been scheduled for Monday, **March 25**, at Mullen at 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$35 cash (please bring exact change) or check (payable to Opportunity Enterprises). To register, please contact Linda Bechinski at [lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto: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.

### **Social Networking Parent Workshop**

MCHS and the Parent Network invite all MCAS parents to attend a workshop on **April 16**, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the high school media center. The topic: "Safe Surfing: Social Media Tips for Parents." The presenter is Chris Mahlmann, CEO/Publisher of Ideas in Motion Media and LaPorteCountyLife.com. Don't miss this one!

### **Elementary Parent Conferences - Date Change**

Elementary Parent-Teacher conferences previously scheduled for Thursday, **March 28** will now be held on **Tuesday, March 26th**. (Middle/high school conferences are still **March 27** - no change).

### **Kindergarten & Pre-K Roundup**

Kindergarten Roundup will be held on the same day as Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences, **March 26th**. Families with children who will be age 5 by **August 1** may stop by to register anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Pre-K Roundup (for children who will be 3 by **August 1**) will also take place on the 26th, from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. Pre-K is offered at Pine, Lake Hills, Marsh, Springfield, and Coolspring, in conjunction with the LaPorte Family YMCA and Imagination Station.

### **Magnet Schools**

Pine and Lake Hills will soon be accepting applications for next school year! Paper copies of the elementary magnet school application for 2013 will be available at schools by next week, or families may apply online (the online link for applications will be live by Friday). Deadline for applications: **April 19**, 2013. Visit the following link for more information: <http://EducateMC.net/magnets>

### **MCAS Art Teachers' Show**

The Lubeznik Center for the Arts will be featuring an exhibit of work by Michigan City Area Schools Art Teachers! The exhibit runs March 15 - April 14. An opening reception will be held at Lubeznik in conjunction with the First Friday event on April 5 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The Lubeznik Center is located at 101 W. 2nd Street and is open weekdays 10-5, weekends 11-4. Be sure to stop by to view the outstanding work of our talented art teachers.

### **IUSB Educational Leadership Program**

Indiana University South Bend is hosting several informational sessions for teachers and other school staff interested in pursuing a K-12 administrator license and/or a master's degree. IU faculty and alumni will be available to answer questions about the school building administrator cohort program at IUSB. The meeting closest to us is on Tuesday, [March 19](#) at 4:00 p.m. at the Educational Services Center (1921 A Street) in LaPorte. For a flyer about this visit:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/IUSBflyer.pdf>

### **Please Consider Mentoring**

*"Thank you a million times for loving me!"* This was the ending line of a poem one of our mentors received as a gift from her mentee. **MCAS staff members make great mentors.** Commit to making even more of a difference in the life of a student than you already do, just by having lunch with them once a week. Contact Sherri Silcox, Hours for Ours Program Manager, at [873-2026](tel:873-2026) x 8744 or [ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us).

### **Robotics Open House**

Michigan City Robotics Team 3936 will be hosting an outreach Robotics Open House at Mullen on [Saturday, March 16](#) from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. MCAS staff members and their families may see the "2013 frisbee throwing, pyramid chin-up robot" that will be competing in the Wisconsin Regional at the US Cellular Arena in Milwaukee, Wisconsin [March 21-23](#). The team will also host an open house on [Monday, March 18](#) from 5:30 to 6:30 for Lake Hills families attending the Lake Hills STEM Parent Night. Feel free to stop by! The team and Firehawk Robot will compete a second time in the Midwest Regional at the UIC Pavillion in Chicago Illinois [April 4-6](#). (Safe Harbor, Hours for Ours and the Michigan City Robotics Team received a \$8,000 donation from Tim Kay of Cargill, Inc. at the McDonald's McMentoring Event on [Tuesday, February 26](#). The donation will benefit many students in the district in a variety of ways through STEM programming, mentoring and afterschool services.)

### **Club Discovery/Read -a - Latte News**

Club Discovery and Café Read A-Latte are both offering after school tutoring services that will be centered on students struggling in the area of math. If middle/high school teachers have any students who are struggling please refer them to these two programs. Club Discovery has a new mentor to begin providing specialized math services on [Monday, March 4](#). Lance Domke, a retired engineer, is excited to assist our middle school programs. Tutoring will be available 2:30p.m.-3:30p.m. Lance will visit Krueger on Mondays, Barker on Tuesdays and Elston on Wednesdays. Tutoring is available at MCHS' Café Read-A-Latte, [Monday-Thursday](#), 2:30p.m.-3:30p.m. Please contact your school's Site Coordinator for additional information and registration forms.

### **Science Olympiad**

Michigan City High School's Science Olympiad Team has qualified for state competition, and is selling t-shirts to fund their trip. If you would like to order one, cost is \$10 - email your order asap to team coaches Bob Gray or Katy St. Germaine at MCHS. Payment can be made when shirts arrive in a week or so. Go Wolves!

### **Hacienda Give Back for Pine School**

Enjoy some Mexican food on Tuesday, [March 12](#) and help Pine Elementary School! Visit the following link for a "give back" coupon for this event:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/15/Pine%20Hacienda%20Give%20Back.pdf>

### **Springfield Blood Drive**

Springfield is conducting a "Pint Sized Heroes" blood drive on [March 19th from 2:30-6:30p.m.](#) Because of weather and cancelled drives, Northern Indiana is more than 11,500 blood and platelet donations short this year. If you are unsure about being able to give blood, you can call [1-866-236-3276](tel:1-866-236-3276) to ask questions. Please visit to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code "sfieldelem" to schedule an appointment at Springfield. Please encourage family and friends to donate!

### **WAY TO GO**

- Congratulations to Michigan City High School teacher **Ben Volheim** and Krueger Middle School teacher **Dave Johnson**, who have been selected to serve on the State Social Studies Standards review team. We are pleased that Michigan City will be represented as educators from across the state work to ensure high-quality social studies standards for Indiana students.
- Congratulations to **Dave Williamson**, Plant Planning Director, who was the top fundraiser for the Junior Achievement Bowl-A-Thon again this year! Dave's efforts are helping make it possible for JA volunteers to teach our elementary and middle school students about business, economics, and finance. (Thanks to all who donated and took part in the bowl a thon this year!)
- Congratulations to **Krueger Middle School**, which will be awarded an Indiana Coastal Grant in the amount of \$98,875. This grant will fund the restoration of two wetlands, a floating board walk, and related curricular materials at Krueger as the school transforms its campus into an environmental learning center for our region!
- Congratulations to the Welding Program at A. K. Smith (and Welding teacher **Kim Rosenbaum**). The Welding Program will receive the CTE Award for Excellence at a special luncheon in Indianapolis in April. This is the highest award in our state for a CTE program!

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Kindergarten Readiness Workshop**

Imagination Station is hosting a free "Train the Trainers" workshop on [March 28](#) at 6:00 p.m. for teachers/community leaders, to help them help families prepare their children for kindergarten. For more information, visit <http://educatemc.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=76>. Please note: Advance registration is required - call [\(219\) 872-6723](tel:219-872-6723).

#### **Executive Spelling Bee**

Attention, super spellers! (Or even bad spellers who want to have fun and help a good cause....) The Literacy Council of LaPorte County will hold its annual Executive Spelling Bee on [March 21](#) at 6:30 p.m. at the Silver Palace in LaPorte. Hurry! Entry deadline is [March 10th](#). For more information visit:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/SpellingBee2013.pdf>

#### **Northwest Indiana Leaders Get-Together**

NWI Leaders will be hosting a social/networking event for professionals and leaders aged 21-39 on [March 21st](#) at Blue Chip Casino. They have reserved the VIP section of Vegas Baby to enjoy the dueling piano entertainment that Blue Chip will be providing from 6-9. The purpose of this group is to be a resource for 20 & 30 year olds who want to have successful careers in our county. If you or someone you know is interested, more info can be found

on Facebook ([NWI Leaders FB](#)) or Linked In ([NWI Leaders LI](#)).

### **Favorite Place in Indiana Essay Contest**

In honor of Historic Preservation Month, Indiana's Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology is sponsoring an essay contest for 4th graders called "My Favorite Place in Indiana." Essays, ranging from 100-400 words, should tell about a historic (50 years or older) place in Indiana and why it is his/her favorite historic place. The submission deadline is [April 29](#) and judging will take place on [May 1](#). Send essays to: Jeannie Regan-Dinius, Director of Special Programs, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 402 W. Washington Street, Room W274, IGCS, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739 or email to [DHPAConnect@dnr.in.gov](mailto:DHPAConnect@dnr.in.gov). For more information about the contest call [\(317\) 234-1268](tel:(317)234-1268) or email [Assistants@dnr.in.gov](mailto:Assistants@dnr.in.gov).

### **New on "Community Backpack"...**

- Pop Warner Flag Football Signups
- Police Dept. Explorer Post for High School Students
- March Programs from the Laporte Co. Library
- Dyngus Day Dash 5K Run and Walk
- Hoosier Star Singing Competition

Visit <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49> for details on these and other community events!