

MCAS Communicator

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

March 2014

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

Calendar for 2014-15

The MCAS Board of Trustees approved the calendar for next school year at its last meeting. Here are the highlights:

- August 18 & 19, 2014 - Teacher Work Days
- August 19, 2014 - Freshman Orientation (half day required for all 9th graders)
- August 20, 2014 - First Day of School for Students
- September 1, 2014 - Labor Day (No School)
- November 26-28, 2014 - Thanksgiving Break (No School)
- December 22, 2014 - January 2, 2015 - Winter Break (No School)
- January 5, 2015 - Teacher Work Day (No School for Students)
- January 19, 2015 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day/No School (Snow Makeup Day if needed)
- February 16, 2015 - Famous Americans Day/No School (Snow Makeup Day if needed)
- April 3-10, 2015 - Spring Break (No School)
- May 25, 2015 - Memorial Day (No School)
- June 1, 2015 - Last Day for Students
- June 2, 2015 - Teacher Work Day
- June 2-5, 2015 - Snow Makeup days (if needed)
- June 7, 2015 - Graduation

Notes: Next school year, Veterans Day will be a school day, and MLK Jr. and Presidents/Famous Americans Day are both reserved for school makeup dates in event of bad weather. Also, first semester will end prior to winter break. These are departures from what MCAS has done recently.

CPR Training for Teachers

There will be another CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal on [Thursday, April 24th](#). Please contact Linda Bechinski at lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us **asap** if you are interested in attending. The training will take place at Mullen and will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$35 cash (please bring exact change) or check (payable to Opportunity Enterprises).

Early College, Honors College Coming to MCHS

Michigan City High School will be housing an "Early College" program in the fall! This "school within a school" will serve 125 incoming Freshmen. The new program, offered in partnership with Purdue University North Central and Ivy Tech, will enable high school students to earn both high school and college credits. Upon graduation, they are able to earn both a high school diploma and an Associate's Degree (60 credit hours). In addition to the Early College, an Honors College program will be offered next fall for high-ability students. The Honors College will provide students with opportunities for dual credit and Advanced Placement credit as they work toward an Academic Honors or Technical Honors diploma. MCHS will also

continue its Freshman Academy program, which was created in 2012 to assist students in need of extra academic support and remediation.

For more about these programs visit:

<http://educatemc.net/earlycollege>

<http://educatemc.net/honorscollege>

Special Ed Expo

The MCAS Special Education Department is hosting an "Exceptional Expo" on [Wednesday, March 12](#) in the Elston Wolfpack Gym from 4:30-6:30pm for families who have students with disabilities. This will be an opportunity for community agencies to display resources and materials. Students, parents, and families will gain information on services available within our community, Michigan City, and Regional area. There will also be free food, giveaways, and door prizes! Please stop by and help us spread the word.

Middle School Art Show at Lubeznik

Elston, Barker and Kreuger Middle School art students will have their work on display in the NIPSCO Art Education Studio on the lower level of the Lubeznik center from [Friday, March 7th](#) to [April 9th](#). The exhibit is titled "In the Middle". Be sure to stop by...students have worked hard to produce some fantastic pieces in both two dimensional and three dimensional media! The gallery opening reception is [Friday, March 7th](#) from 5:00pm to 8:00pm, in conjunction with First Friday. The LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra Children's Choir is also performing that evening at the Lubeznik center. Please support our talented young artists and art teachers!

Please Prevent SPAM attacks

We had another "spam" attack on our email system this week...this can occur when spammers trick our employees into clicking on links, opening attachments, or providing passwords. Remember, our MCAS Tech Dept. will NEVER ask you for your password via email. They also would like to remind employees of these security tips:

1. Use a non work related email account for personal use.
2. Use a unique password.
3. Never click unfamiliar links in emails.
4. Do not open unsolicited attachments from emails.
5. Never reply to emails asking for personal information.

More Reminders - Cell Phones and Radios

Believe it or not, soon the snow will be gone - and we'll be entering the spring rainy season. Often we experience power spikes and/or temporary outages, so please remember to remove radios from charger bases and turn off or unplug other electronics. ALSO a reminder about texting and driving...please don't!

Summer School

MCAS summer school courses will run [June 23](#) through [July 24](#). Students will attend [Monday](#) through [Thursday](#). Elementary programs will be housed at Lake Hills and will include remediation (grades K-5), iREAD remediation (grade 3), and Kindergarten Countdown. Middle and high school programs will be housed at MCHS and will include credit recovery, 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 16](#) - [July 25](#) at Joy. Sports camps will again be offered this summer (dates TBA). Transportation, breakfast, and lunch will be available. More information/registration forms for summer school will be available soon.

Save the Date

The MCAS/MCEA Wall of Fame and Retirement Dinner will be held on Monday, [June 9](#), at Blue Chip. All employees (certified and classified) are welcome to attend. Reservation forms will be available in May. Watch your email!

Club Discovery News

Elston Middle School has a new tutor for the Indiana Kids program. Her name is Kimberly Williams. Indiana Kids is facilitated by the Michigan City Boys and Girls Club in partnership with Safe Harbor. The program provides tutoring support to middle school students who are eligible based on academic performance and family economic status. Michelle Wingo, currently a student teacher within the MCAS district, also assists students with math homework at all three middle school sites. Dedicated time has been set aside one day per week at each school for her to work with students.

Reminder from Payroll

All employees should review their [March 7](#), 2014 pay and make sure their American Fidelity deductions are correct. Also check that your health and/or dental deduction show 125 if you requested them to be pre-tax.

Mammography After Hours on [April 14th](#)

St. Anthony Health Michigan City invites women of all ages who are affiliated with MCAS - employees, spouses, moms etc. - to attend a "Mammography After Hours" event on [April 14](#) anytime between 3:00 and 7:00 pm. Important: You must RSVP at [219-877-1980](tel:219-877-1980). This is a popular event - first come first served for available time slots. Free food, chair massages, and mammograms. For more info:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/MichiganCitySchools.Mammo.4.14.14.pdf>

Rotary Holding Benefit for MCAS

The Rotary Club of Michigan City is hosting a benefit dinner for MCAS on Friday, [April 25th](#). This is a "craft beer and fine wine paired dinner" at Pottawattamie Country Club. The event will begin at 5:30 with a complimentary beverage followed by a dinner with each course paired with both a craft beer and fine wine. Guests will vote after each course about which drink was the best pairing. A live and silent auction will add to the festivities. The cost of the event is \$75 per person. Sponsors who purchase tables for 8 are considered table hosts at \$700. (Table hosts will be recognized on the Rotary website and on signage at the event for their additional commitment.) Live and silent auction items are needed for this event - if you have an item please contact Lance Werner at lwerner@mcas.k12.in.us. For more info and reservations:

<http://www.clubrunner.ca/portal/Events/EVPEventDetails.aspx?accountid=4174&eid=8ecb62c6-de9b-4c4c-88aa-161dc3825c8e&tid=1>

PNC Early Childhood Conference

Purdue University North Central will host its 8th annual Early Childhood Conference on [Saturday, April 26](#), 2014 at the PNC Campus. Early Bird Registration is \$60 group rate or \$55 for groups of 5 or more. The deadline for registration is [March 28th](#). The online conference link is: <http://www.pnc.edu/gel/2014/01/31/registration-is-open-for-8th-annual-early-childhood-conference/>

WAY TO GO!

- **Krueger Middle School** has received Honorable Mention in the 2014 Magna Awards, sponsored by the National School Boards Association. This national award

recognizes Krueger's innovative schoolwide environmental science focus. Only 15 schools nationwide were recognized, from among more than 250 who went through a rigorous review process. Congrats to all!

SCHOOL and COMMUNITY NEWS

Fourth and Fifth graders are invited to take part in the **AI's Supermarket Spelling Bee**, which will be held at the store this **Saturday, March 8** at 10:00 a.m. They are limiting this to the first 12 students to register at the store (forms and rules are available at the courtesy desk). Winners will win a free bag of goodies each month for a year. Deadline for signups is **today- March 5th** - or whenever all 12 slots are filled.

The annual **United Way Dodgeball Tournament** is **May 17th**. For team registration and much more info visit this link:

<http://www.unitedwaylpc.org/dodgeball-2014>

The MCHS Girls' Tennis Team is hosting a "**Homestyle Breakfast**" this **Saturday, March 8** from 9-Noon at Galveston's. Tickets are \$6 in advance from any tennis team member or \$7 at the door. There will be eggs, sausage, pancakes, biscuits, gravy, OJ and coffee available.

This **Saturday (March 8)** is the Michigan City **St. Patrick's Day Parade**. School groups, teams, organizations, etc. are invited to take part even if you have not already pre-registered. Simply show up at the appointed time/location (see link below). For more information, contact Joan Chumley at [879-4351](tel:879-4351) or Johnny Stimley (his info is on the flyer). <http://educateme.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/IrisParadeInstrux.jpg>

Music/Band Booster discount cards are now available! They are \$10 each and feature discounts at many local restaurants and stores. Contact Marie VanSickle at MCHS to order - mvasickle@mcas.k12.in.us.

Help the MCHS Parent Network earn FREE money, save yourself money, and get FREE stuff! By clicking on the link below you can sign up for a FREE **Home Energy Assessment** and learn what you can do differently to save on energy costs and at the same time benefit the Parent Network. For each person that signs up (anywhere in the state of Indiana--so forward this link to your friends and family) the MCHS Parent Group will earn \$25. There are only two qualifications for the program: (1) your house must be built before 2010 and (2) you cannot have had this done in the last three years.

<https://webservices.goodcents.com/PROD/Applets/Authentication?projectID=60&programID=40&groupID=MCHS01202014&associateID=>

The MCHS Parent Network is having a "give back" at **Buffalo Wild Wings** on Franklin Street, **March 12** from 5-8pm. No coupon necessary; just stop by to enjoy some wings and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the MCHS parent group.

There's a lot NEW on "**Community Backpack**" -

visit <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49> for details on all of these:

- Wal Mart's "Simple Giving" collection drive... Our local Wal Mart (5780 Franklin) is collecting **toothpaste, soap, and other personal care items** **March 22- April 7th** as part of a Champions for Kids "Simple Giving" project. All items donated will be donated to MCAS for students in need!
- Dunebrook's "Nurturing Families" Parenting Workshop Series

- Trail Creek Softball/T-Ball Signups
- Parks & Rec Baseball Signups
- Art Class Scholarships
- Pop Warner Flag Football Signups