

# MCAS Communicator

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

## March 2016

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

### **Roundup, Parent Conferences Rescheduled**

Due to last Thursday's school cancellation, MCAS is rescheduling both Parent-Teacher conferences and Kindergarten/PreK Roundup. Roundup and Parent-Teacher conferences at Coolspring, Edgewood, Joy, Lake Hills, Marsh, Pine, and Springfield Elementary Schools will be held on Thursday, March 3. Knapp will hold its Roundup and Parent-Teacher conferences on Tuesday, March 1. Roundup is from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Conferences are 3:15-7:15 p.m.

### **Snow Makeup Day**

Last day for students is now Tuesday, May 31st. Let's hope for no more snow!

### **Wolf Pack Round Up**

Krueger, Barker, and Michigan City High School will hold "Wolf Pack Roundup" on Wednesday, March 23 immediately following secondary parent-teacher conferences. Families and students in grades 5&6 are invited to visit our middle schools and families/students in grades 7&8 are invited to visit MCHS at 5:30pm for a special program, tours, etc. Please spread the word to any private/charter/homeschool families you know - all are welcome to see what is in store as students take it to the next level!

### **Wall of Fame Nominations**

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2016 MCAS "Wall of Fame." The Wall of Fame honors school employees who have made outstanding contributions to the children of the Michigan City Area Schools. Inductees are honored each spring at the annual Employee Retirement and Wall of Fame dinner (May 24th). To qualify for nomination, the candidate must have been employed by the Michigan City Area Schools for a minimum of 15 years. He or she must have been retired or separated from the school system for at least five years. Deadline for nomination is March 28, 2016. Follow this link for a nomination form: [http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/664/2016\\_WOF\\_Nom.pdf](http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/664/2016_WOF_Nom.pdf)

### **Healthy U @ Work Newsletter**

Heart health, one pot meal recipes, ask the trainer, and more!  
[http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter\\_february2016.pdf](http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_february2016.pdf)

### **CPR Class**

The CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal on Thursday, March 24th, is full. Another class is scheduled for May 17. Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, which is at 100 Manny

Court, adjacent to Lake Hills Elementary. The fee is \$40 cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions. The certification lasts two years. Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski ([lbechinski@educatemc.net](mailto:lbechinski@educatemc.net)) to sign up.

### **Sectional Basketball Tickets**

The Michigan City High School Athletic Department is selling tickets for the IHSAA Boys Basketball Sectional at Crown Point HS. The sectional is March 1-5. Michigan City is playing their opening game on March 2nd at 6pm. Tickets will be on sale beginning Monday, February 29th in the Athletic Office at MCHS. Only "season" tickets for the entire sectional will be on sale; they are \$10 each.

### **Elementary Art Show**

Mark your calendar! The MCAS elementary art show opens at the Lubeznik Center on April 1 and will run through May 16. A special reception honoring the artists (and their teachers!) will be held on April 21 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Be sure to stop by and view the work of our talented students.

### **Teacher Grant**

Anyone who lives or teaches in the Indiana Electrical Power service area, which is a subsidiary of American Electrical Power, is eligible to apply for a \$500 teacher grant. Priority will be given to projects that promote science, mathematics, technology, electrical safety, the balanced study of energy and the environment, and energy efficiency. Applicants must be teachers of pre-K through grade 12 who live or teach in the AEP service area or in a community with a major AEP facility. For complete program guidelines and application instructions, see the AEP website.

<http://www.aep.com/community/TeachersAndStudents/TeacherVisionGrants.aspx>

### **Name the Bison Contest**

United Way of LaPorte County is excited to facilitate the "Bison-ennial" Public Art project for Indiana's bicentennial. An artist will be painting a bison statue for LaPorte county, and fourth graders are invited to help name it. The winner will have an opportunity to ride with the Bison on the Bicentennial Float along with the artist. Deadline is March 7th. An entry form is here:

[http://www.lpcsc.k12.in.us/classifieds/docs/Name%20the%20Bison%20Contest\\_1.pdf](http://www.lpcsc.k12.in.us/classifieds/docs/Name%20the%20Bison%20Contest_1.pdf)

### **IUSB Ed Grad Programs**

The School of Education at I.U. South Bend will hold its monthly Graduate Programs information session on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 4 pm (Eastern) in the Education & Arts Building, Room 2112. A faculty member from the Counseling and Human Services Department will be present to offer information and answer questions about graduate degrees in counseling, elementary education, secondary education, special education, and educational leadership. For more info: Judy Gawlik, Recruiter, School of Education, [jgawlik@iusb.edu](mailto:jgawlik@iusb.edu), (574) 520-4175.

### **Arbor Day Poster Contest**

The Indiana Urban Forest Council is having an Arbor Day Poster contest. Deadline is April 29. Click here for details:

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07eca4gk15ikra0zsc/a011ail5xyi94/questions>

### **Hoosier Star**

Do you have that star quality? The La Porte County Symphony Orchestra is looking for contestants for the eleventh annual Hoosier STAR competition. Sponsored by Horizon Bank and NIPSCO, Hoosier STAR is open to amateur singers of all musical styles and age groups. This year, duet competitors are also invited to audition! Auditions will be held at the La Porte Little Theatre, 218 A Street, La Porte, IN on Saturday, March 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CDT) and Sunday, March 20 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. (CDT). For more information and to download an audition or rule form please visit [HoosierStar.com](http://HoosierStar.com) or contact [HoosierSTAR@LCSO.net](mailto:HoosierSTAR@LCSO.net) or call 219-362-9020. Applicants will be notified of their assigned audition date and time within a week prior to the auditions.

### **Breakfast at Galveston**

The MCHS Girls Tennis team is having a "breakfast at Galveston" on Saturday, March 5 from 9am to Noon. Tickets are \$6 in advance (from the athletic office or any team member) or \$7 at the door. Menu includes french toast, sausage, eggs, etc. Thank you for your support!

### **Blood Drive at Springfield**

Springfield Elementary has a blood drive Thursday, March 24th from 1:30-6:30 in the school gym. If you are interested in donating, please visit <http://www.redcross.org/give-blood> or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

### **Give Backs**

- MCHS Boys Tennis at Buffalo Wild Wings this **Thursday, March 3**, from 5-8pm. No coupon required!
- MHCS Girls Tennis, Holly's, **March 22**, from 11am - 9pm. Click here for the required coupon:  
<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/20/Hollys%20Give-back%20Coupon%20jpg.jpg>

### **Coolspring Discount Cards**

Coolspring Elementary has "community discount cards" available for purchase. They are \$10 and offer special deals to Panda Express, Papa Johns, Culver's Dunkin Donuts, Jiffy Lube, and more. Contact the school office to purchase yours today! (They expire 9/30/16.)

### **Joy "Viking Run"**

Save the date! Sign up early! Joy Elementary School is holding a 5K and "fun run" on Saturday, May 7th to support improvement of their playground and grounds. Early Bird discount and a free t-shirt for those who sign up by May 5th. Visit the event site here to download an entry registration form:  
<http://educateMC.net/vikingsontherun>

### **Calling all Bowlers**

The annual Junior Achievement Bowl-a-Thon will be held on Saturday, March 16 at City Lanes (sessions begin at 12:30 or 3:00pm). Teams of up to five bowlers are needed!

Consider forming a school or group team to help raise funds for this important program, which brings volunteers into our classrooms each year to teach students economics, business, financial literacy, and much more. For signup info please contact Lisa Scheller at [lisa.scheller@ja.org](mailto:lisa.scheller@ja.org), (219) 508-4676.

### **First Trust Scholarships**

First Trust Credit Union will award two scholarships this spring: a \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating senior pursuing a four year degree and a second \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating senior pursuing an Apprenticeship, Associates, or Certification in a selected field. Scholarship recipients must be a member of First Trust Credit Union to be eligible. Membership information and an overview of the products and services First Trust offers may be reviewed by clicking MEMBERSHIP at <https://www.firsttrustcu.com/scholarship.php> and SERVICES at <https://www.firsttrustcu.com/services.php> Scholarship applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 25, 2016. Questions? Contact Joyce Yech at [jyech@firsttrustcu.com](mailto:jyech@firsttrustcu.com) - <https://www.firsttrustcu.com/about.php>

### **Art Scholarships**

The Michigan City Public Art Committee offers up to \$200 per year for visual art classes or individual art instruction for qualified children between 5 and 18 years of age. Funds can be used for instruction in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, collage, crafts such as beading, mosaic, sewing and weaving, or art camps taught by a legitimate instructor. (The committee will not fund music, writing, dance, or drama instruction.) Applicants must show financial need and take instruction from an art provider located in the Michigan City limits. The deadline for applying is 30 days before the instruction begins. Applications are available at the LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Marquette Mall, or contact Jane Daley, [jane@michigancitylaporte.com](mailto:jane@michigancitylaporte.com)

### **Garden Show at MCHS**

"THINK, EAT, LIVE GREEN" is the theme of a garden show planned by the La Porte County Master Gardeners on Saturday, March 19, 2016. Designed as a fun and informative day for the whole family, the Garden Show will be held at Michigan City High School from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person payable at the door and children under 12 are free. The Garden Show will feature keynote speakers, seminars and demonstrations, a gardening series for children, garden and food vendors plus door prizes and raffles.

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

The Michigan City Police Department and Mayor Ron Meer will be hosting their 4th annual community-wide "Easter Egg Hunt" on Saturday March 19th in Washington Park (Fedder's Alley). Rain date is Saturday, March 26th. They are seeking donations from community partners and friends to purchase candy in bulk along with prizes. Donations can be directed to the Michigan City Police Department / Donation Fund and sent to the attention of Assistant Chief Royce Williams @ 102 W Second Street. They will also need volunteers on Wednesday March 16th from 8am till approximately 1pm to fill 50,000 eggs with candy at the Michigan City Senior Center. Visit Community Backpack for a flyer about this: <http://educateMC.net/communitybackpack>

### **Head Start Enrollment**

Head Start is enrolling students for next fall, March 7-11 To view a flyer on this, visit Community Backpack: <http://educateMC.net/communitybackpack>