

MCAS Communicator

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

March 2017

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

Wall of Fame

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2017 MCAS Wall of Fame, which honors former MCAS employees for their outstanding service to students. The nomination form is available online at <http://educateMC.net/wof> - along with more information and a list of past winners. Please note that this year, rules have been revised because retirees are sometimes called back to service: They now specify that the date of separation is the person's official retirement date, not to include any subsequent employment by MCAS. Deadline for nominations is March 27.

Wolf Pack Roundup

Krueger, Barker, and Michigan City High School will hold "Wolf Pack Roundup" on Wednesday, 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!

Disability Awareness Month

March is "Disability Awareness Month" and the Michigan City Human Rights Commission is stopping by PLCs today at the Ad Building to say "thank you" and provide some refreshments for MCAS educators who serve students with special needs. Kudos to all of our teachers, paras, IAs, administrators, and support staff who are so committed to serving our students with disabilities.

Retirement Dinner Date

Save the date! The annual MCAS Retirement & Wall of Fame Dinner is May 31 at Blue Chip. Reservation forms will be distributed to all staff sometime in April.

Basketball Sectional Info

MCHS is hosting basketball sectionals this year; City defeated Valpo last night in the first round. The Wolves will play Merrillville next - the game is Friday (3/3) at 6:00pm. Please note that this is an IHSAA event, so MCAS staff ID badges and season passes will not be honored. Admission price is \$6 for one game or \$10 for all games in the sectional series (series tickets are on sale in the MCHS athletic office for purchase in advance). Go Wolves!

IDOE Friday Update

Indiana State Supt. of Instruction Dr. Jennifer McCormick sends out a weekly update for educators via email. If you would like to subscribe, visit this link:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/INDOE/subscriber/new?gsp=INDOE_1

The Time Is Now

Safe Harbor's Hours for Ours mentoring program is seeking new mentors! This is the perfect time of year to become your mentoring journey. Don't miss out on this opportunity to brighten your week and become someone who matters to someone who matters! Call 873-2026 or email amay@educatemc.net for more information.

Robotics Team News

Do you have students, friends or family members who are interested in STEM or robotics? Michigan City Robotics Team 3936 will be participating in two competitions during the month of March that are FUN, FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. They are:

March 4,5--FIRST Tippecanoe Event, William Henry Harrison High School, 5701 N 50 W, West Lafayette, IN. For info: <http://www.indianafirst.org/2017-tippicanoe>

March 11,12--FIRST St. Joseph Event, Penn High School, 56100 N. Bittersweet Rd., Mishawaka, IN 46545. For info: <http://www.indianafirst.org>

For additional information contact Sherri Silcox @ 219-873-2026 x 8740 or ssilcox@Educatemc.net

Keep Voting for Tess!

Edgewood Kindergarten Teacher Teresa Pavloff is featured as one of PCMG's Star STEM Teachers this quarter. She will receive a minimum of \$600 in funds for her classroom... but with your vote could receive as much as \$2,000 and a chance at a \$10,000 grand prize. Please take a moment to vote for her! (You can vote up to 3 times through March from the same email address.) Here's the link: <http://www.pcmg.com/n/navLinks-687>

Text Alerts

Remember, MCAS text alerts are now an option for staff, community members, parents, and students to learn about closings/delays. Sign up here: <http://educateMC.net/texts>

Art Teachers' Show

Don't miss the annual MCAS Art Teachers' exhibit at the Lubeznik Center. You'll see work from many of our talented art teachers, representing schools across our district! The show will be featured through March 18.

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:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816EAP.pdf>

CPR Classes

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held Thursday, April 27. Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, 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) to sign up, if you haven't done so already. Also, the American Heart Association has written new workbooks and there is one available in every school's nurse's office for review if needed. If you borrow one, please remember to return.

MCPD Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Michigan City Police Dept., will be held on Saturday, April 8 in Fedder's Alley/Washington Park. Donations are needed (to purchase candy and prizes) and volunteers are also needed to help fill eggs on April 5 from 8am to noon at the Senior Center and to "hide" 50,000+ eggs on the morning of the event. Please see the flyer below for details about the event, donating, and volunteering!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/march%202017/EasterEggHunt.pdf>

AK Scissorsy Specials

Don't miss the March specials from our Cosmetology students at the "A.K. Scissorsy" salon: Haircuts \$5, Pedicures \$5 and Deep Conditioning with Scalp Treatment \$5. They are located at 317 Detroit Street (Elston entrance). Please call for an appointment 219-873-2121.

Drifters Spring Fling - for Scholarships

The Michigan City Drifters is having a Spring Fling on Saturday March 4 from 7pm to 12 am at the Moose Family Center (1180 Franklin Street). Appetizers and desserts provided along with a cash bar. Music provided by D.J. Hot Mix. Proceeds will benefit our student and teacher scholarships. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Please contact Edgewood principal Peggy Thomas for tickets. 873-5893.

Barker Craft Show Vendors Wanted

Barker Middle School's Spring Craft Show is Saturday, April 22. They are seeking vendors and crafters; cost is \$25 for 10x10 space and an 8ft table. Flyer with more info is here: http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/jan17/0117barker_craft.png

Online Continuing Ed

Trine University has partnered with VESi to provide online courses that are available for professional growth points (PGPs). Follow this link to learn more: http://www.virtualeduc.com/trine/?utm_source=trine&utm_medium=email&utm_content=image&utm_campaign=whenandwhere

Special Section on Hoosier History

The Northwest Indiana Times recently published a 24-page section jam-packed with facts about Hoosier and Northwest Indiana history. You'll learn about where Littleville was, right here in the Region, which famous actress was from Lowell and which major force in Major League Baseball had a farm in LaPorte County – and much, much more. Here's a link to the content:

http://www.nwitimes.com/edition/special-sections/how-much-do-you-know-indiana/edition_5936df5c-22ec-5da0-853d-d30f5228fd0a.html

Note: Teachers interested in receiving the print or digital version of the Northwest Indiana Times may sign up online at <http://www.nwitimes.com/app/nie/>

JA Bowl A Thon Time

The annual Junior Achievement Bowl a Thon will be held on Saturday, April 22 in Michigan City at City Lanes. Please let JA Director Lisa Scheller know if you have a team that would like a registration packet! Cell:(219) 508-4676, lisa.scheller@ja.org

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/march%202017/JABo_wlaThon.pdf

Power of Children Awards

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is accepting nominations for the 2017 "Power of Children" awards. The awards celebrate young people in grades 6-11 who help to make the world a better place. Recipients receive \$2,000 and a college scholarship. Deadline for nominations is March 19; for more information and to nominate a student visit:

<http://childrensmuseum.org/poca>

Hilfiger Discount for MCAS

MCAS employees receive a discount at Tommy Hilfiger Outlet stores nationwide. Simply print and bring this ad at the time of purchase, or show via a mobile device. This discount is valid until April 30, 2017.

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/march%202017/Q1_CorporatePartnerships_English.pdf

Galveston Breakfast Saturday

MCHS Girls Tennis is having its popular "Galveston Breakfast" fundraiser this Saturday, March 4 from 9am to Noon. Tickets are \$8 at the door, \$7 in advance from any team member.

WAY TO GO!

- Congrats to Barker, Hours for Ours, and MC Robotics, which all received grants from the Michigan City Enrichment Corps!
- Congrats to Barker and MCHS for receiving grants to support Project Lead the Way engineering courses!
- Congrats to Springfield Elementary, which has won the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's College GO! Grant Contest. As part of their prize, students from Springfield, Krueger, and MCHS will be featured in next year's *Learn More Indiana* magazines!

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

- Easter Egg Hunt Info
- Elston YMCA programs (Co-ed Baseball, Basketball, K-6 Soccer and more)
- Pop Warner Flag Football
- Parks & Rec Baseball and Softball Signups
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

- Mar 1 - Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:15 - 7:15pm)
- Mar 1 - Kindergarten Roundup (10am - 6pm)
- Mar 15 - Secondary Parent/Teacher Conferences (2:30 - 5:30pm)
- Mar 15 - Wolf Pack Roundup (BMS/KMS/MCHS - 5:30 - 6:30pm)
- Mar 27 - Wall of Fame nomination deadline
- Mar 31 - Magnet School application deadline
- April 3-7 - Spring Break
- April 14 - Good Friday (no school)
- April 21-23 - Spring Play ("Odd Couple") at MCHS
- May 26 - Last Day for Students
- May 31 - Retirement/Wall of Fame Dinner

- June 4 - MCHS Graduation, 12 noon
- June 7 - Adult Ed Graduation, 6pm
- June 12 to July 20 - Summer School (Mon-Thurs, no classes week of July 4)

Here is a PDF version of the 2017-18 school year calendar:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/shared/calendars%20and%20map/MCASCalendar1718.pdf>