

MCAS Communicator

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

May 2013

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

Thank a Teacher!

Next week (May 6-10) is Teacher Appreciation Week! A big THANK YOU goes out to our teachers and other certified staff members for **all** you do for our students.

Budget Cuts & Boundary Change

A proposal was presented by Administration at the April 23 Board meeting that would level enrollment at all three of our middle schools next fall by moving some existing attendance boundaries. This proposal would affect approximately 120 of our current students (mostly students who attend Elston and would attend Krueger). It would result in an enrollment of about 500 students per middle school. Families impacted by this change will be receiving letters and automated calls later this week. The Board will vote on the proposal at its May 14th meeting. For more info and links to the Board meeting presentations on this topic and on other budget cutting measures, visit <http://EducateMC.net>.

Reminder: Wall of Fame

MCAS Wall of Fame nominations are due TOMORROW! May 2. For a link to the online nomination form and more info: <http://educatemc.net/wof>

Save the Date

The MCAS/MCEA Wall of Fame and Retirement Dinner will be held on June 6 at Blue Chip. All employees (certified and classified) are welcome to attend. Cost for the dinner is the same as last year (\$33.00); reservation forms will be available the week of May 13. Watch your email!

Networking Opportunity

The Michigan City Chamber of Commerce invites teachers and staff to attend its 2013 "Biz Expo" which will showcase area businesses and organizations. The event is Thursday, May 16 from 3-6 pm at Blue Chip. Price of admission: One business card! This is a great opportunity to connect with leaders in our community who might partner with schools. Click here for a link to your invitation:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/2013ExpoInvite.pdf>

Small Grants Tip

Looking for some funds for a classroom project or materials? Post your proposal on one of the sites below! We will be adding a link to these on our MCAS home page soon to encourage donations.

<http://www.adoptaclassroom.org>

<http://www.donorschoose.org/>

Student Art Reception Tomorrow

Don't miss the MCAS K-5 grade Art Exhibit, now showing at the Lubeznik Center! Tomorrow (May 2) there will be a special reception for this exhibit, from 5:00 -7:00

p.m. The show runs through [May 23](#). Hats off to our outstanding student artists and their teachers!

STEM Training by NASA - Coming to Mullen!

Safe Harbor is hosting a STEM training provided by Wisdom Tools and NASA. Please join us for this NASA Ignite Regional training on [Saturday, May 18](#), 2013 at Mullen (100 Manny Court), 8:45 am till 4:00 pm. This hands-on, interactive session will feature activities from NASA's Summer of Innovation curriculum and will cover a broad range of STEM topics such as robotics, solar system models, space habitats, and much more! Cost is only \$10. Here is the link to sign up:

<http://www.wisdomtools.com/events/northern-regional-training-may-18th/>

Michigan City Robotics Qualifies for State!

Michigan City Robotics Team 3936 won the Finalist Award at the Midwest Regional at UIC Pavilion in Chicago, earning a ranking of 18 out of 52 FIRST Robotics teams in Indiana and qualifying for this year's Indiana State FIRST Robotics Championship. It will be held in Indianapolis at Perry Meridian High School on [Saturday, May 18](#). It will be an excellent opportunity to see exciting competition between 120 pound robots as they shoot frisbees and climb a pyramid to earn points. Las Pumas, the New Prairie team, will scrimmage against the Firehawk on [Thursday, May 9](#). Come to Mullen and enjoy the excitement at 5:00 pm.

Help Make a Dream Come True

Trevon James, Michigan City High School senior, is realizing his dream of participating in this summer's Michigan City's Summer Festival as a proud member of the Legends Drum & Bugle Corps from Kalamazoo, Michigan. His story was featured on the front page of [Sunday's](#) News Dispatch. He has done the work he needed to be recruited and selected, but he must raise fees of \$3,000 by [May 31](#). He is working as a substitute door security staff member for Safe Harbor. In addition, he is mentoring students in the afterschool program at Joy and teaching them to play flutophone, passing on his love of music to younger students. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to Trevon and the first annual music scholarship through Safe Harbor. Contact Herb Higgin or Sherri Silcox at [873-2026](tel:873-2026), or **visit Trevon and enjoy his music at First Fridays on May 3!**

Safe Harbor Summer Adventure Camp

Safe Harbor Summer Camp is an exciting place for elementary age students, entering 1st - 6th grade next fall, to enjoy summer and prevent or minimize summer learning loss. Six weeks of swimming, field trips, science, computer and math activities, SPARK recreation, art, music, and family nights! The fun and learning never stop! Camp runs [June 17](#) to [July 26](#) from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, [Monday](#) through [Friday](#), with breakfast and lunch included, and cost is \$130. Registration forms are available from Safe Harbor Site Coordinators or call [873-2026](tel:873-2026).

MCAS Students Participate in First Friday

Michigan City Robotics Team 3936 will participate in the [May 3](#) First Fridays Kickoff by demonstrating the award winning Firehawk robot and the FIRST Lego League robot at Shoreline Art Gallery. Visit the Southern Shore Art Association and the robotics team members at 724 Franklin Street in the Uptown Art District on [Friday](#) evening, [May 3](#), 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

CPR Training for Teachers - Spring and Summer

Teachers in need of CPR training for license renewal can take the required class at Opportunity Enterprises, which is located at 2801 Evans Ave, Valparaiso. Classes will be

offered on the following **Wednesday** mornings, from 8-9:30 a.m.: **May 8** and 22; **June 5** and 19; **July 3**, 17 and 31; **August 14** and 19. If you would like to participate, please contact Jason Kegebein in advance at 219-464-9621 x280 or jason.kegebein@oppent.org. (Note: They advise that you should take the class at least 4 weeks before you need documentation; cards are not issued immediately.)

Way to Go!

- Welcome to our new insurance clerk, **Donna White**! Donna has worked in HR and insurance for many years, and comes to us from Fas-Pak, where she worked in Environmental Health and Safety. Donna's office is on the second floor at the Ad Building. Contact her for info you might need on your insurance benefits at ext. 8347 or dwhite07@mcas.k12.in.us.
- Welcome to **Scott Braun**, who will be the principal of Pine Elementary School next fall! Scott comes to us from New Prairie Middle School, where he is currently the assistant principal.
- Congrats to **Pine Elementary Magnet School, Safe Harbor, Hours for Ours** and the **Open Door Adolescent Health Center at MCHS**. All of these groups received grants in March from the Michigan City Community Enrichment Corps for special projects and programming. (Join Pine on **May 21** at 5:30 p.m. for "Family Glaze Night" when they will glaze hundreds of ceramic tiles created by community members for their new 4-season sculpture garden funded by the MCCEC grant!)

School Announcements

Elston Neighborhood "Great American Cleanup" - **Saturday, May 4** - 9 a.m. to Noon - Meet at the front door on Detroit street; please bring gloves!
<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/19/Cleanup.pdf>

The **MCHS Class of 2013** is selling Nelson Port-a-Pit chicken for the Senior picnic on **Friday, May 10** outside Walgreen's on the corner of Hwy 20 and Franklin St. The cost is \$6.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of LaPorte County (which runs a mentoring program at **Springfield Elementary**) invites you to enjoy an evening of bowling and family fun on Friday, **May 10** at Casey's Lanes in LaPorte. \$50 for a family (up to 5 people) includes food, 1 game of bowling, shoe rental, and t-shirt! Special appearance by Ronald McDonald. See flyer below for details:

http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/BFKS_2013_FAMILY_BOWLING_flyer.pdf

Community Announcements

Captain Ed's (400 E. Hwy 20) is asking the community to donate new and used children's books (in exchange for candy and/or cash) this month. All books they receive will be distributed to MCAS students! Please spread the word.

In conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Week, the **Reebok Outlet store** is offering a special coupon for MCAS Staff (and family/friends) that is good **May 6-12th**. This is for 40% off all purchases and also a for a drawing to win a fitness pack (gym bag, shoe of your choice, socks, and water bottle.) Click the link below to access it; copies are also available in staff lounge areas.

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/ReebokCouponMay2013.pdf>

Mayor Ron Meer and the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission invite you to attend the **final presentation of the Michigan City Downtown Action Agenda** at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, May 6**, at the Elston Middle School Auditorium. This is the culmination of an effort to develop a downtown economic development and revitalization strategy for downtown Michigan City for the next 5 years. This presentation is open to the public and all are invited and encouraged to attend.

The **Relay For Life** will be held **June 22-23, 2013** at the La Porte County Fairgrounds. The Relay would like to see a lot more youth involvement in this event! If anyone would like to start/join a team, volunteer, make a donation, become a business sponsor, or would like more info on the special ceremony for survivors, contact Kim Olesker, ACS Staff Partner at kim.olesker@cancer.org or email MCHS teacher Katie St. Germaine at kstgermaine@mcas.k12.in.us. This could be a great volunteer opportunity for school groups. For more info:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/relayforlife2013.pdf>

On **Sunday, June 2, 2013**, a local organization called P.A.V.E. (People Against Violence Everywhere) will be having a **"Party in the Park"** event in Washington Park. They are looking for talent of all sorts from Michigan City Area Schools students. Singers, rappers, poets, musicians, actors and actresses, are wanted! If you are interested please email Brandon Williams at bwilliams@mcas.12.in.us or call 219-221-3289.

New on Community Backpack - <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>

There are MANY events and opportunities for students and families on Community Backpack...the list below are only the most recent postings. Sports, music, arts, recreation, scouting, community events, etc. - check it out!

- Laporte Co. Symphony Orchestra Children's Chorus
- FilmAcres Essay Contest for High School Students (entry deadline **May 24**)
- Duct Tape Art Class for Kids at Lubeznik Center (**May 4th**)
- Pop Warner Signups (Ongoing)
- Cub Scout "Tiger Roar" Meeting (**June 1**)