

# MCAS Communicator

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

**May 2012 - EXTRA!!**

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

## **So much news....**

We had several updates for staff, so we thought we'd send out another edition of "MCAS Communicator." Watch your in box on [June 1](#) for the final MCAS Communicator of the school year....

## **Pre-K Update**

Our district is currently in discussions with area preschool providers about offering programs at our schools in the fall - we will have an announcement about plans next week. There would likely be fees associated with this, however a sliding scale, scholarships and/or vouchers may also be available for families that qualify. Childcare may also be available. MCAS will contact all families of current 3 year old preK students and those who registered at "Pre K Roundup" this spring as soon as we have more information, and will also announce the programs through local media and on our web site.

## **Thank a NURSE!**

With all the focus on Teacher Appreciation Week and School Nutrition Employees Week, we somehow missed the fact that this was also National Nurses' Week ([May 9](#) was School Nurses' Day). SO (drumroll please...) let's thank our **amazing** school nurses for all they are doing to help keep our students safe and healthy, each and every day. We APPRECIATE you!

## **6 Words of Appreciation**

Recently the IDOE sponsored a "6 word essay contest" to mark Teacher Appreciation Week. Several MCAS teachers have had "6 word essays" submitted on their behalf by students and others... here's a sampling of some we are aware of:

"showed me my capability, loving, caring"

"Funny, smart, and a nice person"

"brilliant, wonderful, fun, thoughtful, respectful, helpful"

(Special congrats to Elston teacher Brett Parks, who was the subject of one of these essays and was invited to join teachers from across Indiana this week at a statehouse ceremony hosted by Secretary of Education Tony Bennett!)

## **Speaking of Appreciation...**

LaPorte County Commissioner Willie Milsap wanted us to pass along this message for staff during Teacher Appreciation Week: "I would like to applaud our teachers, staff, and administration at the Michigan City school system for their hard work and dedication. Their commitment to helping see our students are prepared for the future deserves kudos from the community. As the students graduate, they will be an asset and enhance the community greatly. For that I would personally like to thank all of you for your tireless efforts in this achievement."

### **Message from Payroll**

A reminder to all employees over the summer months: Please remember to login to your employee access account over the summer to keep the login/password active. Also, if you change your bank account for direct deposit, please notify the payroll office as soon as possible. Thanks!

### **Summer Printing**

It's not too early to request materials that you need to have printed over the summer! Please visit <http://educatemc.net/graphics> and click "Summer Printing" to submit your order to Allison Ruffing.

### **Summer School Central**

Summer School will be held **June 20-July 26**, with no classes on **July 4** or **5**. Information about summer school classes (including Driver Ed, which has a different schedule) is now posted online. Visit [educatemc.net](http://educatemc.net) and click on the big red button for the latest info! Note: Sports Camp info has now been posted - along with information about Community Camps, Safe Harbor Camps, and Lego Robotics Camp.

### **Sell Stuff/Buy Stuff - REMINDER**

Elston's PAWS Positive Behavior Supports Committee is planning a Community Garage Sale for **June 2nd** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Wolf Pack Gym at Elston. They will be charging \$15/table or \$25 for 2 tables, and they are offering a discount to any MCAS teacher who wants to participate (tables for \$10 each). To reserve a table or for more info, email [PAWS@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:PAWS@mcas.k12.in.us) or call Samantha Babb at [873-2030](tel:873-2030) ext. 7578.

### **Retirement Dinner June 11**

The annual MCAS/MCEA Retirement and Wall of Fame dinner will be held on Monday, **June 11** at Blue Chip; doors will open at 6pm with dinner at 7pm. This year we will honor 24 retirees... along with three inductees to the MCAS Wall of Fame: Marjorie Delehanty, Dale Ferraro, and Phyllis Long. Watch your mailbox (and email box) for more information and a registration form for the dinner. Many thanks to all those who nominated former employees for the Wall of Fame this year... and to the selection committee for their work on this. Congrats to all!

### **WAY TO GO**

Congratulations to Pine/Lake Hills Interim Assistant Principal Peggy Thomas, who has been named Edgewood Principal for next school year! Peggy has been an educator serving MCAS students for more than 30 years, and we are excited to have her in this new role. Peggy will replace Gloria Domkowski, who retires this year after 40 years of service! (Special thanks to Gloria and to the interview team from Edgewood who interviewed final candidates for the principalship.)

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Help ViVace Assai!**

MCAS teachers Derek Meilaender and Gayle Davis are founding members of a new organization called "ViVace Assai" - a non profit committed to enhancing music, literature, and theater in Northwest Indiana. (This summer, ViVace Assai plans to hold workshops in ballet and hip hop dance for Michigan City students, conducted by a celebrity choreographer.) They hope you will plan to attend their first fundraiser, a give-back night at the McDonald's on Michigan Blvd, **next Tuesday, May 15** from 4-

7pm. Bring a friend! Coupons for this event will be available at all buildings next week, or click the link below to download one:

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>

### **Free Well Water Testing**

To celebrate National Drinking Water Week (May 6th-12th), the La Porte County Health Department is offering FREE coliform/E.coli tests for residential water well owners. This service is being offered to La Porte County residents ONLY with residential water supplies (private wells) during May 14 thru May 24th. For more info, including sample drop-off locations near you, click here:

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>

### **And Finally, an Open Letter from MCHS Teacher Katie St. Germaine!**

Many of you may have heard by now that Relay For Life of La Porte County is going to be held **Saturday-Sunday, June 23rd-24th, 2012** at Michigan City High School. This is the second time that the Relay Event will be held in Michigan City.

Relay For Life is one of the American Cancer Society's largest fundraising events. The money raised at Relay is used to support the 4 Pillars of the ACS (Education, Advocacy, Research and Patient Treatment) and is used in the community where a Relay Event is held.

Relay For Life supports all forms of cancer. It also recognizes all cancer survivors and caregivers, as well as honoring the memories of those that have passed away from this disease. A person becomes a cancer survivor the moment they receive their diagnosis. Many of you may have seen advertisements about celebrating more birthdays and that is the goal of Relay For Life and the American Cancer Society.

We are trying to reach out to as many cancer survivors we can throughout the La Porte County area. If you, or anyone you know, is a cancer survivor, please encourage them to register on our website at: [www.relayforlife.org/laportecountyin](http://www.relayforlife.org/laportecountyin) or you may also show up at our Relay Event and register there. You may also submit names to me of any cancer survivors you know, as well as names of those people that you would like to recognize/honor the memory of. These are typically the names that are used/honored during the Luminaria Ceremony at Relay For Life. You may also submit the names to either Kim Olesker, ACS Staff Partner at: [kim.olesker@cancer.org](mailto:kim.olesker@cancer.org) or Laura Swanson, Survivor Chair at: [theswansonfamily@comcast.net](mailto:theswansonfamily@comcast.net)

As a member of the Relay For Life-La Porte County Committee, I would like to encourage all of you to attend our Relay Event. This is an exciting opportunity for the community of Michigan City and the MCAS schools to get involved. If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me here or at: [indyautiger@hotmail.com](mailto:indyautiger@hotmail.com)

Thank you again to all of you for your participation in Relay Events throughout the year.

Katie St.Germaine