

# MCAS Communicator

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

## May 2014

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

### **Art Show at Lubeznik**

TONIGHT is the Elementary School Art exhibit opening reception! Be sure to stop by the Lubeznik Center for the opening reception tonight from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. This exhibit is in the lower level of the Lubeznik Center in the NIPSCO Art Education Studio and will be running through May 23. Don't miss it!

### **Thank a Teacher!**

Next week (May 5-9) 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.

### **School Lunch Super Hero Day, May 2**

Preparing healthy food, adhering to strict nutrition standards, navigating student food allergies, offering service with a smile... MCAS food service professionals have a lot on their plate! Help celebrate their hard work and commitment on [Friday, May 2](#) for national "School Lunch Super Hero Day." The day provides an opportunity for parents, students, school staff and communities to thank those who provide more than 1 million healthy meals to Michigan City's students each year. <http://www.schoollunchsuperheroday.com/>

### **Snow Makeup Days**

Reminder: We still have 3 school days to make up due to snow ... The last day of school for all students is currently June 6th!

### **CPR Training for Teachers**

There is just one slot left for CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal on Thursday, May 22. Please contact Linda Bechinski at [lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us) 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). More information about summer CPR training will be provided in next month's MCAS Communicator.

### **Summer Math/Science Institute – Grade 4 - 6 Teachers**

MCAS, in partnership with PNC, has created a project called "MASTERING Videos: Mathematics Applied to Science, Technology & EngineerRING Videos" for teachers in grades 4, 5 & 6. Teachers will develop problem-based learning video activities that cultivate algebra readiness and scientific reasoning skills. The goal? To foster students' curiosity by capturing everyday scenarios that raise questions, motivating them to develop a deeper understanding of math and science concepts. Check out Dan Meyer's TED Talk to get the idea: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qocAoN4jNwc>. Teachers will receive a daily stipend AND an iPad (must participate all 10 days) to help them create videos with their students in the classroom. Teachers must also participate in one day follow-up during the school year.

**Dates:** June 16 to 20 **and** July 28 to August 1<sup>st</sup>

**Time:** 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Location:** Barker Middle School

**Stipend & iPad** for the first 38 registrants!

To register, visit: <http://educatemc.net/domain/82>

### **Save the Date for Science PD**

Save the date! Indiana Science Kit Initiative training will be taking place August 14 & 15. Training will be available for teachers new to 6th grade and those who will be moving to a new grade. More information to come!

### **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. Transportation, breakfast, and lunch will be available. Click the big red button on our web site home pages for more info on Summer School!

### **Educate MC!**

Reminder... if you are directing people to our school district web site (or any related pages)...you do NOT have to tell them the long <http://www.mcas.k12.in.us> address. Our web site is accessible at: <http://EducateMC.net> - and school and dept. pages are at /name... (example: <http://EducateMC.net/coolspring> - <http://EducateMC.net/specialed>). Try it!

### **Retirement Dinner**

The MCAS/MCEA Wall of Fame and Retirement Dinner will be held on Monday, June 9, at Blue Chip. Doors open at 6:00pm and dinner begins at 7:00pm. All employees (certified and classified) are welcome to attend. Reservation forms will be available by the end of next week. Watch your email!

### **Graphics and Printing**

Due to the budget cutbacks, we are no longer providing graphics and printing services from central office. If you previously used these services, please visit the following link for more information, links to pdfs of MCAS forms, recommended vendors, an inventory of current materials, logos, letterhead templates, and more: <http://educatemc.net/graphics> (This page is also available by choosing "Graphics & Printing" under the "Staff" menu on the home page.) Thank you for your patience as we transition to outside services AND cut down on our overall printing of materials!

### **Tune In to City Pride**

Thanks to the generosity of community donors, MCAS is airing a 12-week series of radio shows on WEFM 95.9 called "City Pride." These half-hour shows, which are hosted by Ron Miller, air on Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. and are re-broadcast every other Thursday at 5:30 p.m. They are also aired on ALCO TV (Comcast Channel 99), twice daily - visit our web site for times. These shows spotlight our programs and students and are designed to raise awareness of the many opportunities we have to offer. This Saturday's show was recorded at Barker and it spotlights Project Lead the Way. Please tune in!

### **Scholastic Warehouse Sale**

Scholastic will be having a big warehouse sale in Hammond May 20-22. More info is here: [http://ghost.bfintranet.com/pdfs/omni\\_img\\_standard\\_pdf.php?eid=23289&template\\_name=S14\\_BigEvent&mde=R](http://ghost.bfintranet.com/pdfs/omni_img_standard_pdf.php?eid=23289&template_name=S14_BigEvent&mde=R)

### **Bus Drivers Wanted!**

MCAS is still seeking bus drivers (and subs) for next school year. Summer training will be provided and will include assistance in obtaining the required CDL license. If you know of anyone who might be interested please have them contact Val Skwiat at Transportation, 873-2127 or email [vskwiat@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:vskwiat@mcas.k12.in.us).

### **Board Info and Invites**

Reminder: Our School Board is now "paperless"! If you have invitations, school newsletters, flyers or other information please send them electronically (email, scan, etc.) to Tonya Falls ([tfalls@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:tfalls@mcas.k12.in.us)) and she will make sure they are provided to Board Members.

### **Healthy U Newsletter**

Click the link below for Working Well's "Healthy U at Work" monthly newsletter. In this issue:

- **Preventive** - A Shot At Health
- **Produce of the Month** – Kiwifruit
- **Nutrition** - Grains - The Whole Story
- **Lifestyle** - Turning Off Autopilot
- **Fitness** - Coming On Strong
- **Ask the Trainer**
- **Message from Wellness Champion**

[http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter\\_april2014.pdf](http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_april2014.pdf)

### **Barker Health Screenings**

Barker Middle School will offer its annual Wellness Screening on Tuesday, May 20th from 6:30 - 8:30am. Click on the following link for info on affordable lab tests that are available, and if you're interested, email or call for an appointment.

<http://educateme.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/33/BarkerMS%202014.pdf>

### **Ongoing Health Screening Option**

All MCAS employees, spouses and retirees regardless of insurance coverage are encouraged to participate in the 2014 Health Screenings provided by Novia Clinics (at Lake Hills).

Schedule an appointment and complete the "My Personal Wellness Report" questionnaire online at: <http://www.mcas.k12.in.us//site/Default.aspx?PageID=7095>

(Scroll to the bottom of the page to find this screening info)

### **WAY TO GO!**

- Congrats to Springfield I.A. **Robin Endris**, who was recently named Education Support Professional of the Year for Indiana by the ISTA!!!
- Congrats to A. K. Smith Director Audra Peterson, who was recently named 2014 Outstanding CTE Director by her colleagues! She will be honored at a State CTE Directors' meeting in Brown County on June 10. Audra was also recently the LaPorte County Life.com "Life that Matters": <http://www.laportecountylife.com/community/serving/40795-a-la-porte-county-life-that-matters-audra-peterson>

## SCHOOL and COMMUNITY NEWS

The **LaPorte County Community Cleanup Day** (scheduled in conjunction with the annual nationwide GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP) is **this Saturday**, May 3, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Join our high school students as we clean up our high school campus and the surrounding area! Students, parents, family and friends are all welcome to meet in the north parking lot in front of the school. Keep America Beautiful and area businesses are pitching in to provide trash bags, bottled water, snacks and more for volunteers during the cleanup. After the cleanup all volunteers are invited to a thank you lunch in Michigan City. Please bring gloves and appropriate clothing for the weather. Though an RSVP is not required, it is helpful in knowing how much water and snacks we will need. RSVP in the MCHS Guidance Office where there is a sign-up sheet or leave a message for Judy Kovalcik at 873-2044 x4579. You can also email her at [jkovalcik@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:jkovalcik@mcas.k12.in.us).

Pine Elementary is having a **"Read-a-Thon"** fundraiser to support a new reading program at their school. They are more than halfway to their \$5,000 goal. Please consider making a donation in support of their efforts... if they reach their goal, Principal Scott Braun has promised to spend the NIGHT on the school roof!! <https://www.read-a-thon.com/reader/?id=162455&src=fb>

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>

Michigan City Public Library and Purdue North Central will hold a **"Poetry Slam Camp"** June 16-20 at the Michigan City Public Library. This is a week-long program of poetry activities for middle-schoolers, focusing on self-expression and slam-style writing and performance. Registration is only \$5, which includes all activities, lunch and camp t-shirt! PNC students and professors are volunteering their time to create and lead the program. Performance night will be Friday **June 20** at 6:00pm and is open to the public. Call [219-873-3049](tel:219-873-3049) to register or for more information.

The **2014 Relay For Life** will be held at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds this year, Saturday June 21 – Sunday June 22. Relay For Life is one of the American Cancer Society's largest organized events; there will be many activities taking place at the Relay, and many MCAS students will be involved. The Relay Committee is in the process of sending out invitations to any cancer survivor. If you know of any cancer survivor, they encourage you to have them sign up on the Relay For Life-LaPorte County website. You may also submit their names and addresses to Katie St. Germaine at MCHS, and/or they may also sign up the day of the Relay event. (Survivors signing up in advance will receive a special t-shirt.) Some of the special ceremonies/activities that will be taking place at Relay include: a Survivor Lap, a Caregiver Lap, and a touching "luminaria" ceremony that takes place at 9:00pm, honoring cancer survivors and those who have passed away. For more information about Relay for Life, or to make a donation/dedicate a luminaria, email MCHS teacher Katie St. Germaine at [kstgermaine@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:kstgermaine@mcas.k12.in.us). Also: Anyone is welcome to attend the next Relay for Life Meeting for LaPorte County, on **Tuesday, May 13**, at 6:30pm. It will be held at Purdue North Central in the LSF Building in Room 002, which is the lower level and across from the bookstore.

There's a lot NEW on **"Community Backpack"**... visit <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49> for details on all of these:

- Westside Summer Sports signups (baseball, softball, t-ball) on May 10 and 17

- "Stop the Violence" essay/performance/art contest
- Free Summer Bowling at Lakeshore Lanes
- Soul Steppers "Kiddie Prom" May 2
- PNC Softball Camp
- MC Beach, Water, and Pier Safety Expo on May 23 (a great educational field trip opportunity)
- MCPD Youth Leadership Academy to MCAS for students in need!