

MCAS Communicator

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

May 2019

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

THANK YOU, Food Service Staff

On Friday, May 3, Food Service will celebrate "School Lunch Hero Day." We appreciate our food service professionals and the key role they play in ensuring our students receive healthy meals that are served with a smile. Be sure to thank YOUR school lunch hero!

THANK YOU, Teachers

May 6-10 is a very special week for teachers, as schools nationwide celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. THANK YOU to our outstanding classroom teachers and other certified staff members for all you do. Team MCAS is incredible!

THANK YOU, Nurses

May 8 is National School Nurses Day. We greatly appreciate all that our nurses do to keep our students healthy and ready to learn. Be sure to give your school nurse a special shout out next Wednesday!

CPR for Certified Staff

CPR class for certified staff in need of license renewal will be held on Thursday, May 16 at 3:15pm at Mullen (100 Manny Court). The cost is \$50, cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions at the class. Classes last approximately 2 hours. CPR books are available to borrow from any nurse's office if you need to review prior to the class. Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski in advance to reserve your spot, or with any questions - lbechinski@educateMC.net.

Food Service News

The Food Service department will again offer free meals to all children 18 years of age or younger this summer. Breakfast and lunch will be available at the high school and Lake Hills during summer school. We will also have an open site with breakfast and lunch at Knapp Elementary and we will be servicing some of our local parks along with private organizations. Watch for a new addition to the Summer Program, the "Kids Cruisin' Cafe," which will be reaching out to more areas offering lunch to kids that depend on our meals during the school year. More info on summer food service locations will be published on our website and by local media during the month of May. ALSO: On May 2 we will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo in each school cafeteria, with a special fiesta menu. Enjoy!

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:
<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//August%202018/2018%20You%20are%20not%20alone%20poster.pdf>

May EAP Newsletter: Infidelity- "Affair-Proofing" Your Marriage

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//May%202019/2019MayEAPNewsletter.pdf>

May "EAP" Webinar

Please register for "Affair Proofing Your Marriage" and "How To Eat Less Junk Food" on May 15, 2019 12:00 PM CDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6981558386185447938>

Retirement & Wall of Fame Dinner

It's time to reserve your seat at the 2019 MCAS/MCEA Retirement and Wall of Fame dinner! The event will be held on Monday, June 3 at Blue Chip in the Orleans Ballroom (upstairs). This year, we will honor our 16 retirees and four inductees to the MCAS Wall of Fame: Kathy Brill, Robert "Bear" Falls, Chuck White, and Walt Zmuda. The dinner reservation deadline is May 17th. (Please remember, checks should be payable to MCEA, not MCAS.)

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/664/retirement%20dinner%20reservation%20form%202019.pdf>

Patriotic Parade

Michigan City's Patriotic Parade is Saturday, June 29. If your group or organization would like to take part, please complete the form below. (Note: As always, MCAS will have a unit participating, and all are welcome to march along with us.)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4757XBSByzSD_D4VX3qzbH1s-6d746jd5JScs76CKq4m4XQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1

Attention, SUPERS

Are you following @MCASSupers on Twitter? It's #MCASIncredible!

Hey U.G.L.Y Announces Contests

The anti-bullying organization "Hey U.G.L.Y." (Unique Gifted Loveable You) is now holding several contests, for ages 7-17. (Several Michigan City students have won in the past.) Deadline for entries is May 31. Essay - Video - Acronym - Photo- Poetry. Cash prizes! Visit their website and view "contests" for details: <http://heyugly.org/contests/>

Free Shoes!

Thank you to all who are participating in Krueger's "Changing Footprints" shoe collection program. Changing Footprints is a nonprofit that receives donations of gently used shoes and then finds people who need them. Any MCAS school is invited to have a shoe collection bin in their building. Plant Planning has graciously offered to pick up the shoes from each building and bring them to Krueger where they will be sorted and picked up by a Changing Footprints volunteer. For each pair of shoes, Changing Footprints will give us one pair of like-new shoes in return for our students and community members in need. If you are interested in having a collection bin at your school but need a container, email Daisy Lee at DLee03@mcas.k12.in.us.

How you can request FREE shoes for your students: You can request shoes for your students through the link below (you do not need to be a collection location to receive free shoes). We will send out shoes from Krueger once a week via school mail to the staff member that submits the request form. We currently have around 300 pairs of gym shoes, winter boots, and dress shoes available. To respect the privacy of your student, there is no need to put their name on the form. - <https://goo.gl/forms/FoDY3X3wun2psbjz1>

South Shore Maker Faire

Do you have a student group or individual who is a "maker"? Please encourage them to **apply now** to exhibit at the June 22 Mini Maker Faire that is coming to Michigan City! Maker Faire is the "Greatest Show (and Tell) on Earth" and it will feature inventors, innovators, coders, artists, artisans, etc. of ALL AGES. Please take a minute to check out the Maker Faire website at the link below. LaPorte Co. CTE is an organizing sponsor of this event along with many community organizations, and financial sponsors are needed. Please contact

Kevin McGuire if you have a connection with a company that may be interested in sponsoring this type of event at any level.

<http://southshore.makerfaire.com>

Help Lake Hills this Saturday!

Lake Hills needs help this Saturday, May 4th, sprucing up the back area of the school and back of Mullen. Let's pitch in to help them prepare for the new STEM Outdoor Learning Lab! Details are here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//May%202019/cleanup%20Mullen.jpg>

Lake Hills 10th Anniversary Celebration

Lake Hills STEM Magnet School invites YOU to help celebrate 10 years in our new building! Students, families, former students and their families, the community, our STEM supporters, and the neighborhood -- EVERYONE is invited! The fun will take place on **Wednesday, May 22, from 5:00-6:30pm**. Enjoy free food, music by a DJ and the Soul Steppers, bubbles, displays, hands-on activities, hula hoop contests, and MORE. You can also see progress on the new Outdoor Learning Lab. This will take place outside, in the back of the school. Please bring a blanket or chair to sit on to eat.

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//May%202019/Lake%20Hills%20Celebration%20Invitation.pdf>

Volunteer Opportunity for Students, Adults

Saturday, May 4, is the Lakefront Career Network's third annual Day of Giving, which will be held at Reins of Life (9375 W County Road 300 N). Volunteers of all ages are needed! Please register online through the link below. Select "external user" which may require you to confirm your email. Once back on the Comcast website, the event to search for is "Reins of Life, Michigan City." When it asks you who invited you to the project, select "Organization" and then enter "Lakefront Career Network" for the host organization. For each volunteer that registers ahead of time, Comcast will make a donation toward the cost of supplies for the event, as well as a donation to Reins of Life. There will be projects for all skill levels, so all ages are welcome. If you have difficulties registering online, no worries - you can come between 8-8:30 the morning of the event. Supplies will be provided; plan on getting dirty. The event lasts until about 1 or 2 pm and lunch is provided. Questions, email Anthony Novak at agnovak@nlkj.com or call the Michigan City Chamber at 219-874-6221.

[CLICK HERE to register](#)

Salvation Army Needs Food/Cooks

The Mens' Shelter at the Michigan City Salvation Army is seeking individuals or groups to drop off a cooked dinner for 25-30 people. (You can adopt one day or multiple days anytime, from immediately through October!) The need for this is especially great, as a past donor that dropped off food 4 nights each week is now unable to provide this. Contact Jessica O'Brien at Jessica_O'Brien@usc.salvationarmy.org, [\(219\) 874-6885](tel:2198746885), if you can help.

Donut Eating Contest

The 4th annual Donut Eating Contest benefiting the Salvation Army is Friday, June 7 at 10am. Again this year, MCAS will be competing against the Michigan City Police and Michigan City Fire Depts, along with the LaPorte County Sheriff's office. Please contact Betsy Kohn if you are interested being a member of our 4-person team. GO TEAM MCAS!

Summer - Info Central!

Looking for information about summer school, "summer of innovation camps" for middle school students, summer food service, summer Wolves sports camps, summer community

camps (including [Safe Harbor Summer Camp](#))... well, look no further. It's all here!

Bookmark and share the link below:

<http://educateMC.net/summer>

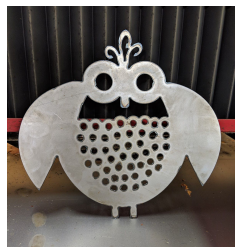
Free Technology Conference

After collaborating on the "Week of Code," La Porte County teachers completed a survey -- and the #1 result was a need for more training in computer science and coding. Teachers requested examples showing how colleagues are manipulating coding devices when practicing other Indiana Academic Standards (e.g., using Ozobots to create a timeline in social studies or using Hummingbird to create a diorama of a desert ecosystem). The result? A free summer conference on **July 30 and 31** at PNW that will help teachers from districts across our county incorporate technology to motivate and engage students! This conference has been designed to benefit teachers new to these skills or teachers that would like to expand their current skill level. Registration goes live TODAY on the La Porte County Public Library website. Teachers should log into their Libraries 360 account and register for the FREE sessions they would like to attend. Questions? Contact Kevin McGuire, kmcquire@educateMC.net.

Plus: Summer of eLearning

The IDOE's "Summer of eLearning," sponsored by the Office of eLearning, offers high-quality professional learning in Indiana with a focus on STEM, classroom technology, and computer science. The summer list of available conferences can be found here for those interested in attending:

<https://www.doe.in.gov/elearning/summer-elearning-list>



Metal Art for Sale!

Welding student Michelle Kazmierzak recently won first place at the SkillsUSA State Competition, in the Welding Sculptures category. Now, Michelle has created a version of the sculpture she won at state with, designed using a CNC plasma cutting machine. The Welding program is selling these for \$15 each (they are 10" x 9 1/4") and funds will benefit student participation in future SkillsUSA contests. The art can be spray painted or the metal can age/rust naturally, as desired. Interested? Contact Welding instructor Ray Goss, rgoss@educateMC.net

Speech and Hearing 101

The Michigan City Human Rights Commission is hosting a "Better Hearing and Speech 101 Forum" on Thursday, May 9 at 5:00pm at Michigan City High School. The Forum will give families an opportunity to learn more about the signs & symptoms associated with hearing loss & communication disorders, and it will provide information about therapies and devices offered at Michigan City Area Schools. Presenters will include Director of Student Support Services Stacy Attar, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Educators Susan Baldwin and Lori Jones, and Speech Language Pathologists Allison Hauser and Collin Oswald. One of our high school students, Candice Parish, will share her experiences as a hard of hearing student. Following the forum, our high school's American Sign Language Club will present "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" during the band's Pops Night concert in the auditorium, which begins at 7 p.m.

Athletics News: DAC Unified Track Meet

On May 9, beginning at 4:30, our Athletic Department will host the Duneland Athletic Conference Unified Track meet. We are thrilled to welcome students with and without special needs from all of the DAC schools. All will be competing together in track and field events. Although there WILL be winners, there will be NO losers, as students cheer on their teammates and athletes from across the region.

Office Max/Office Depot Coupon

The Michigan City Office Max/Office Depot has shared this coupon with us, which can be used by any MCAS staff member. Watch for special offers from them in future issues of Communicator!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//May%202019/OMAX%20Coupon.pdf>

Ann Taylor Event/Coupon

The Ann Taylor Outlet store is having a special event for educators on Sunday, May 5 from 6-8pm. Details are here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//May%202019/AnnTaylor.jpg>

Superhero 5K (or 1 mile in Heels!) for Stepping Stone

The Stepping Stone Shelter is inviting MCAS "superheroes" (students, staff, and athletic teams) to take part in its annual fundraiser -- a mile race in high heels OR a 5K fun run. This event takes place on May 18 at Kesling Park in LaPorte. Entry fee is only \$25 (or any amount welcome that is pledged). Information and pledge form is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//May%202019/SteppingStoneSuperheroRace.pdf>

Swale Music Fest

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Swale Music Fest - a great way to kick off your summer! Follow this link to [purchase](#) tickets for this event, which takes place June 8 at Westcott Park in Michigan City. Check out the event on [Facebook!](#)

SAVE THE DATES - GIVE BACKS & OTHER EVENTS FOR TEAM MCAS!

1. Pine Elementary is having a **blood drive** on Friday, May 24th from 1:30-6:00pm. Register here:
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=pineelem>
2. Barker Middle School's PTO invites members of the public to attend its annual **Craft and Vendor Fair** this Saturday, May 4, from 9:00am to 2:00pm in the school gym.
<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//May%202019/BarkerVendorFair.pdf>
3. The MCAS Transportation Department will hold its annual **Mother's Day Flower Sale** on Friday, May 10th from 9am to 5pm at the Service Building on Woodland Avenue. Funds raised help the transportation department fund activities such as their Haunted Bus at Howl o Ween, parades, and more. Don't miss this - beautiful flowers!
<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//May%202019/2019%20Plant%20Sale%20Flyer.pdf>
4. MCHS Athletics is partnering with Franciscan to offer **Sports Physicals** for \$20 at the high school on Friday, May 17. Proceeds will go to the Athletic Dept. Please help spread the word!
<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//May%202019/physicals2019.pdf>

WAY TO GO!

- Congratulations to Associate Superintendent **Wendel McCollum**, who was honored last Friday by the Michigan City Human Rights Commission as its "Unsung Hero."
- Congratulations to MCHS Government and Economics teacher **Alexander Uryga**, who has been named among Michiana's 40 under 40 for 2019 by the South Bend Regional Chamber of Commerce. Alex will be honored in South Bend on May 23.
- Congratulations to MCHS Principal **Candy Van Buskirk**, who was honored by the TRIO and Educational Opportunity Programs of Purdue Northwest in Hammond on Friday as a "TRIO Champion." TRIO now serves more than 100 first-generation college, low-income, and underrepresented students from our high school.

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

- HEY U.G.L.Y contest info
- Healthy Minds Mental Health Fair (May 30)
- Soul Steppers Kiddie Prom (May 3)
- Southshore Mini Maker Faire (June 22)
- House of Hope Baseball and Softball
- Notre Dame Summer Science Programs
- LaPorte County Parks Summer Programs
- **And more!**

Calendar Reminders:

May 2 - Career & Technical Education Awards Night, Elston Holdcraft Auditorium 6pm
May 6-10 - Teacher Appreciation Week
May 7 - Election Day (SCHOOL IN SESSION)
May 9 - Pops Nite band concert @MCHS, 7pm
May 10 - MCHS Prom
May 14 - Senior Awards Night @ MCHS, 6:30pm
May 17 - Showcase Concert @ MCHS, 7pm
May 30 - Last Day of School for students!
June 3 - Retirement/Wall of Fame Dinner @ Blue Chip
June 5 - July 2 - Summer School (Monday - Friday)
June 5 - Adult Education Graduation, Elston Holdcraft Auditorium, 6pm
June 9 - MCHS Graduation, noon
July 15 - Online registration opens for the 2019-2020 school year
July 30 & 31 - On site registration
July 30 & 31 -Technology in the Classroom Training @ PNW, 9-3:15
August 8 - Back to School Rally (Gill Field, 3-7pm)
August 12 - First Day Presentation to Instructional Staff
August 14 - First Day of School 2019