

# MCAS Communicator

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

## May 2017

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

### **With Appreciation**

Schools and communities across the nation are celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week this week (or in some cases, next week). This is also School Nutrition Employees Week. May 10 is School Nurse Appreciation Day. A huge THANK YOU to ALL for everything you do every day for our students!

### **Food Service News**

May 1st through May 5th is National School Nutrition Employee Week. We would like to recognize all our employees who work in the Food Service Department for their hard work and dedication. May 5th is also School Lunch Hero Day! Between preparing healthy meals for students, adhering to strict nutrition standards, navigating student food allergies, and offering service with a smile, school nutrition professionals are true heroes.

This summer is the 2nd year that the summer feeding program will also be mobile and feeding at various parks and outdoor locations. Our summer feeding program will run from June 5th - July 28th. We will kick off our program with an event at the new Cleveland Park behind the Michigan City Police Department on June 8th, from 3 - 6 pm. More information and details will be sent home with students and published in the media.

### **Dodgeball Players Wanted**

Dodgeball enthusiasts: Dr. Eason-Watkins is looking for volunteers to be part of her dodgeball team! (She is entering an MCAS team in the United Way dodgeball tournament on May 20th at Elston.) Would you like to be a part of the team? Contact Craig Shaman, [cshaman@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:cshaman@mcas.k12.in.us) It will be a fun day of playing dodgeball against other Michigan City businesses - and part of the proceeds will benefit MCAS elementary sports.

### **Week of Code a Week Away**

MCAS is partnering with the Economic Development Corporation of Michigan City, the Unity Foundation, Horizon Bank and the Michigan City Women's Commission to hold a citywide "Week of Code" for students and community members May 6th through 12th. To kick off the week, Michigan City High School will host a two-day weekend computer coding boot camp (May 6 & 7) for adult community members (ages 16 and up). The following week, students from kindergarten through high school will take part in age-appropriate coding units and activities during the school day. All programs will be led by MCAS classroom teachers or by instructors from the "1150 Academy" a non-profit organization founded with the aim of closing the gap in the nation's technology skills. Visit the Week of Code web page for much more information, including a link to sign up for the Intro to Coding "boot camp," which costs only \$20 and includes lunch: <http://educateMC.net/code>

### **You're Invited!**

Please help us celebrate the culmination of the Week of Code at a Coding Celebration on Friday, May 12 at Lake Hills, 3:30pm. Students, teachers, and community partners will all be there; there will be refreshments and activities for kids. The next phase of coding in Michigan City will be unveiled... Coder Dojos! Don't miss this!

### **Speaking of Coding...Free "Coding in the Classroom Workshops"**

Through a generous donation from the Unity Foundation, the LaPorte County Library has purchased coding and robotics curriculum kits. Beginning this fall, teachers can borrow these kits for up to 6 weeks for classroom instruction. So that educators feel equipped to use these kits, the Library is providing Coding in the Classroom Workshops. Registration is required for these free workshops. Devices and training supplies will be provided. Workshop Lesson Plans including IDOE Computer Science standards will be given to attendees. To reserve your spot, email your name, school, the grade you teach, and the workshop you will attend to [libraries360@laportelibrary.org](mailto:libraries360@laportelibrary.org)

#### **Bitsbox Educator Workshop (Grades 3-6)**

Wednesday, May 3 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Main Library, 904 Indiana Ave. - Spark Labs

Bitsbox teaches students how to create apps using JavaScript. The Coding Basics Curriculum Kits teachers can borrow include 30 identical superhero-themed workbooks. After this workshop, teachers will have a basic understanding of JavaScript using Bitsbox, know how to create bulk accounts in Bitsbox, and have the resources they need to teach students JavaScript.

#### **Lego WeDo 2.0 Educator Workshop (Grades 2-4)**

Wednesday, May 10 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Main Library, 904 Indiana Ave. - Spark Labs

LEGO Education WeDo 2.0 curriculum teaches robotics, coding, and engineering as well as life, physical, earth, and space sciences. Projects in the free software total more than 40 hours of instructional content. After this workshop, teachers will know how to use the Lego WeDo software to teach with chromebooks, iPads, and PCs. Teachers will also understand the building directions for the physical robots and how to build the block-based code to program the robots.

#### **Ozobot Educator Workshop (Grades K-12)**

Wednesday, May 17 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Main Library, 904 Indiana Ave. - Spark Labs

Ozobots are miniature smart robots that can follow lines or roam around freely, detect colors, and can also be programmed. After this workshop, educators will know how to calibrate the ozobots, access hundreds of lesson plans, and teach students OzoBlockly, static codes, and flash codes.

### **MCAS Wellness Screenings**

Reminder: Working Well will be on site for wellness lab screenings/blood draws on the following dates/times:

- Thursday, May 4th from 6am to 8am – Michigan City High School (Library)
- Friday, May 5th from 6:30am to 8:30am – Joy Elementary (Gymnasium)

Information about cost, what tests are included, AND a link to register online can all be found at the link below. (If you have any questions not covered on this two-page flyer, contact Linda Bechinski, [lbechinski@educateMC.net](mailto:lbechinski@educateMC.net).)

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/MCAS\\_Wellness%20Check2017.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/MCAS_Wellness%20Check2017.pdf)

### **Retirement & WOF Dinner**

It's time to make reservations for the annual MCAS Retirement & Wall of Fame Dinner on May 31 at Blue Chip. This year we will honor five former employees on the Wall of Fame -- Bennie Edwards, Phil Freese, Carolyn Manuel, Sally Roberts, and Kathy Smidt. Follow the link below to register for the dinner by May 19. (**Please note** that since this form was

created, we have 5 additional retirees... Patricia Risner, Lorraine Shroyer, Carlotta Cooper, Jeanne St. Peter, and Marie Carpenter).

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/retirement2017>

### **Disaster Drill at MCHS**

LaPorte County Emergency Management Services will be staging a mock car accident disaster at Michigan City High School on Wednesday, May 10 at 9:45 am in the south parking lot. The program will serve as a training exercise for first responders, and will also help raise awareness among our prom-going students about the possible tragic results of driving under the influence. Participants will include Michigan City High School students, the Michigan City Fire Department, the Michigan City Police Department, Lutheran Air Helicopter Service of Stark County, and the LaPorte County Sheriff's office.

### **AK Scissory May Specials**

Cosmetology students at the "AK Scissory" Salon are offering pedicures, manicures, and facials for just \$5.00 each! Call for an appointment today: 219-873-2121. AK Scissory is open on Saturdays and is located at 317 Detroit St (former Elston Building); parking is across the street.

### **Ticket Monster: A New Perk for MCAS Employees!**

Ticket Monster Perks is our new entertainment benefit platform that offers you exclusive discounts on sports, concerts, theater, movie tickets and theme park tickets nationwide. Follow these three easy steps below and start saving today!

1. Go to [www.ticketmonsterperks.com](http://www.ticketmonsterperks.com)
2. Sign up & save \$5 on your first order!
3. Start browsing discount sports, concert, movie and theme park tickets nationwide!

\*If prompted, enter your company identifier: MCAS

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

### **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>

### **EAP May Newsletter: Grief - Understanding and Healing from Loss**

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/may%202017/EAPMay2017Newsletter.pdf>

### **EAP Webinar Topics - "Grief (Healing from Loss)" and "Intro to Functional Nutrition"**

Register here for the May 17th webinar (12:00 PM CDT):

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1120842532196177154>

### **PNW CARE Math Workshop: Registration Open!**

Purdue Northwest will be hosting two, two-week workshops for elementary and middle school math teachers to enhance their teaching of algebra readiness. Elementary teachers in grades 3-6 and middle school math teachers in grades 6-8 are eligible to participate. Teachers only attend one, two-week workshop. The two-week workshops are only for teachers who have not attended a two-week CARE workshop. The workshops will be 8:00 – 3:00 on the PNW Campus, June 19 – June 30 or July 10 – July 21. MCAS teachers participating in the summer workshop will be paid a stipend of \$200 per day. The

workshops are made possible by an Indiana Mathematics and Science Partnership grant. For details:

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/PNW\\_CareWorkshop.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/PNW_CareWorkshop.pdf)

### **Healthy U @ Work Newsletter**

In this issue: Distracted driving, healthy weight loss, probiotics, aerobic walking, and more!  
[http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww\\_newsletter\\_april2017.pdf](http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_april2017.pdf)

### **Summer Camps, Summer School**

The Michigan City High School Athletic Department is sponsoring a series of summer camps for elementary and middle school age students -- our "Future Wolves." Information about these camps -- and about ALL of our summer school opportunities -- can be found online at [www.EducateMC.net/summer](http://www.EducateMC.net/summer).

### **Community Garden Needs Help**

The Michiana Lions Club is helping to plant a garden at Keys to Hope (10th street, near Franklin) on May 6 at 9am. They need volunteers of all ages - great service opportunity! Follow this link for more information:

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/may%202017/Lions\\_Garden.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/may%202017/Lions_Garden.pdf)

### **Parade Units Wanted**

Michigan City's summer patriotic parade is on Saturday, July 1st. All units are welcome! FILL OUT THE PARADE APPLICATION ONLINE AT

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1V5W-XFPePaMf2qEQzIzUkLcOOQINqbi\\_O0z\\_3In\\_4SY/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1V5W-XFPePaMf2qEQzIzUkLcOOQINqbi_O0z_3In_4SY/edit)

DOWNLOAD AND PRINT AN APPLICATION AT  
<http://michigancityparks.com/files/2017-Michigan-Citys-Patriotic-Parade-Application.pdf>

### **Color Run Canceled**

Due to a low number of pre-registrations, the "Color Fun Run" on May 6 sponsored by the Class of 2019 has been canceled.

### **Joy Glow Run May 19**

The Joy Elementary School Association will hold a "glow" run on Friday, May 19 at Michigan City High School. Check in for the event starts at 7:30 p.m. and the laps will begin at 8:15 p.m. Participants are encouraged to complete as many laps around the high school track as possible, either running or walking, in a 30 minute period. Participants will collect a glow bracelet after each lap -- and there will be some glowing obstacles along the way.

Registration is \$15 through May 12th, or \$20 at the event. To register:

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

### **Club Discovery News**

Barker Club Discovery students have completed a 3-week community service program at Edgewood. A critical component was to have middle school students serve as mentors to the elementary school mentees. This allowed middle school students to broaden their leadership, communication, listening and coaching skills. They also gained a better perspective of the importance of personal interactions and relationship building. Elementary students had open dialogue with individuals at the next level with whom they could relate to freely and view as role models. The program also included reading, games, crafts and recreation.

### **Club Inspire News**

The 2017 Ball State University Summer Scholars program will include over 20 students from MCHS. Students will spend a week on campus and live in a dorm. As scholars, they will experience life as a college student by attending classes daily, being a member of study groups, undergoing leadership training, performing community service, meeting and interacting with other scholars from areas throughout the state, and performing in a talent show. Students were nominated for the Summer Scholars Program through the collaborative efforts of Safe Harbor staff (Allen Williams and Vicky Burton), MCHS counselor (coordinated by Eric Ressler and Aaron Garrett), and MCHS College and Career Instructor Kathy Walker.

### **Man of the Year Essay Contest**

The Stepping Stone Shelter is seeking entries for its annual "Man of the Year" Essay contest. This is for grades 2-8, and students are asked to write 150 words or less about a male role model in their lives. Deadline is May 27. For an entry form and complete info:

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/may%202017/Male\\_of\\_Year.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/may%202017/Male_of_Year.pdf)

### **Solid Waste District Education Programs**

Sign-ups are now being taken for the 2017-2018 School year for educational programming from La Porte Solid Waste District. Many programs are available; please contact Sacha Gee-Burns, Environmental Educator, at 219-326-0014 or email her at [sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com](mailto:sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com). Summer programming is also available for summer camps and community groups.

### **Hey UGLY Acronym Contest**

Designed to get youth into the practice of turning negatives into positives, Hey U.G.L.Y. – Unique Gifted Lovable You is asking students, 7 – 19, to create positive acronyms for the words Dork, Stupid, Loser, Hate, Racism and Fag in their 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Acronym contest. (In the first year of the contest a 12 year-old from Texas transformed Loser into - **L**ove **O**thers **S**how **E**veryone **R**espect. Five years ago a teen from Michigan City converted Stupid to **S**top **T**o **U**nderstand **P**eople's **I**ndividual **D**ifferences.) An independent panel of journalists will judge the entries for the most impactful and positive acronym. Judging will take place in mid June. First prize for the winning acronym is \$250. All entries must be emailed to [PreventBullyingNow@heyugly.org](mailto:PreventBullyingNow@heyugly.org) no later than May 30. Details can be found by clicking "contests" at [www.HeyUGLY.org](http://www.HeyUGLY.org)

### **Sumdog NWI Math Contest Starts May 12**

Sumdog's Northwest Indiana math contest starts May 12th, ending the following Thursday. The contests are suitable for all students in grades K - 8, as they adapt to each individual's level. Students can play online either at school or at home using the website or the app. Visit [https://www.sumdog.com/enter\\_contest](https://www.sumdog.com/enter_contest) to enter and give your class the chance to win! For any questions, contact [contest@sumdog.com](mailto:contest@sumdog.com)

### **A Plaza for Michigan City**

Michigan City would like your opinion on a proposed downtown plaza. Please take a few minutes to complete an online survey about this here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mc-plaza>

### **Blood Drives**

**Springfield Elementary** is having a Red Cross "pint size heroes" blood drive on May 11th from 1:30 to 6:30pm, and invites you to donate. For more info, contact Springfield Counselor Deby Carpenter - and complete the info below:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//April%202017/SprinfeldBloodDrive.pdf>

**Pine Elementary** is having a Blood Drive on May 12th from 1:30-6:00. The code for online registration is "pineelem" - enter it here:

<http://www.redcrossblood.org/give/drive/driveSearch.jsp>

### Give Backs

**Pine Elementary** is having a give-back at **Panera** on Tuesday, May 16:

[https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/15/Fundraiser%20-%20Michigan%20City%20-%205\\_16\\_17%20.pdf](https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/15/Fundraiser%20-%20Michigan%20City%20-%205_16_17%20.pdf)

The **MCHS Theatre Department** is having a give back at **Five Guys** Michigan City on May 4th; 20% of sales and \$1 from every shake comes back to the Theatre to help fund future shows and improvement projects. Please show this flyer:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/may%202017/5%20guys%20may%204th.pdf>

### WAY TO GO!

- Congrats to the entire staff of **Barker Middle School**. They have received STEM Accreditation from the Indiana Department of Education!!!
- Congrats to Barker teacher **Mariah Pol**, who is one of 50 teachers in the U.S. who has received a USS Midway Institute for Teachers of History and Social Studies Fellowship. The two-week, all expenses paid fellowship takes place this summer in San Diego on the USS Midway ship.
- Congratulations to Edgewood kindergarten teacher **Teresa Pavloff**, who was received the "Star Teacher" award from PCMG, an IT services company. The company president flew to Michigan City to present Tess with a check for \$2,000 which she can use for classroom supplies and technology. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOTED FOR HER IN THE ONLINE CONTEST!

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

- MCPD Youth Leadership Academy (for current 6 and 7th graders)
- Special Ed Parent Support Group (Thursday, May 25 at Galveston)
- Kiddie Prom - Soul Steppers (Krueger, May 5)
- Indiana Extreme Elite Cheerleading Signups
- Bricks Track Club sign ups (Parks & Rec track program for kids)
- Elston YMCA programs (Pre-K Basketball, Free Throw and 3 Point Contests)
- And more!

### Calendar Reminders:

- May 6-12 - "Week of Code"
- 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)
- July 24-25 - RDS Rollover
- August 3 - On site registration (2-8pm) - also Chromebook distribution at MCHS
- August 4 - On site registration (8am-1pm) - also Chromebook distribution at MCHS
- August 9 - Chromebook distribution at MCHS (10-4)
- August 10 - Back to School Rally (3-7)

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

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