

# MCAS Communicator

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

## November 2012

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

### **American Education Week**

American Education Week is **November 12-16!** This is an annual week set aside each year to spotlight public schools and education. Watch for a special token of appreciation for all YOU do, coming from Dr. Eason-Watkins to all buildings that week. Two special days to note: Be SURE to thank our Education Support Professionals for all they do on Wednesday, **November 14th**, which has been designated Education Support Professionals Day. Our secretaries, IAs, paras, food service, plant planning, transportation, technology, and central office support staff are essential to the success of our students! Also, Friday (**November 18**) is Substitute Educators Day... so remember to thank a sub!

### **CPR Certification**

Teachers who need CPR certification for license renewal should contact Linda Bechinski ASAP at [lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us). She is setting up another class that will be offered after school by Opportunity Enterprises. Cost is only \$30.

### **Red Ribbon Week Roundup**

Congrats to all of our schools for an outstanding Red Ribbon Week, **October 22-26**. Be sure to visit the MCAS web site at <http://educatemc.net/> to read about the activities that went on across the district... and to view photos of the Red Ribbon Week displays at many of our schools. Congrats to Barker for winning the RRW Trophy for the second year in a row!

### **Professional Development - with NASA**

Safe Harbor will host a Professional Development training **Saturday December 1** 9am-4pm at Mullen. This training is open to all Northwest Indiana educators (it is designed for grades 4-9) and is titled "Mission to Planet Earth." Registration is \$10 and includes lunch and all training materials. Anyone interested in participating can register by visiting <http://www.wisdomtools.com/events/nrtde2012/>

To download a flyer on this workshop, click here:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/NASA1DecemberFlyer.pdf>

### **Vote for Safe Harbor**

Safe Harbor has entered a "Lights on Afterschool" photo contest, sponsored by Bright House Alliance and the Afterschool Alliance. Please take a moment to vote for Safe Harbor's entry on Facebook at: <http://j.mp/S5Owr8>. Tell your friends! (Note: This will not work on district computers...this is a "take home" assignment!)

### **Safe Harbor Academic Enrichment Instruction**

New to Safe Harbor this year is Academic Enrichment Instruction for Safe Harbor students who need a little extra help in Math and Language. Instructors Becky Wildhart-Tiedeman and Michelle Wingo spend one day a week at each Safe Harbor elementary site to work with students for an hour with students receiving 30 minutes each of Math and Language Arts help in a small group setting. Please contact the Safe Harbor Site Coordinator at your school for more information.

### **Robotics Roundup**

Now is the time to join the award winning **FIRST Michigan City Robotics Team!** Competition starts in early January, so the team is gearing up by designing a website, marketing, and participating in community events. The intense build season runs for six weeks. The team will attend competitions in Chicago and Milwaukee in the spring, working toward an invitation to participate in the FIRST World Competition in St. Louis. Joining the team is a great opportunity for students interested in science, technology, engineering, and math, as well as art, photography, marketing, and business. For more information, contact Herb Higgin, at [873-2026](tel:873-2026) x 8740.

### **E-Mentoring...with NASA!**

Hours for Ours is inviting YOU to participate in our second year of NASA E-Mentoring. Join us while we: Complete College Preparation Activities, Network with NASA Professionals, Gain Access to Professional Homework Assistance (Science Fair Projects, etc.), eliminate the fear that STEM is beyond the average person's understanding and Have Lots of FUN...FUN...FUN...This year we are welcoming not only existing and new Hours for Ours matches, but we are also looking forward to science classes, clubs and other non traditional groups to join in on the fun learning experience. As always we are also in need of Hours for Ours mentors who can spend 30 minutes of one on one time with students during lunch time or after school. For more information about NASA E-Mentoring or Hours for Ours please contact Sherri Silcox, Hours for Ours Program Manager or Nakia Bonds, NASA E-mentoring Coordinator at (219)[873-2026](tel:873-2026).

### **MCESP Scholarship Fundraiser**

MCESP is selling Fannie May candy bars for their 2012/2013 scholarship fund. Each bar costs only \$1.00! They are trying to sell enough bars to give two \$500 scholarships again for this year. Please see a MCESP member (Secretaries, I.A.'s, Para's and EAP's) and support a good cause.

### **Covering Kids and Families**

If you or someone you know needs low-cost/free medical coverage, be sure to look into services offered by Covering Kids And families. Children and parents may be eligible for one of the state's health coverage plans:

- The Hoosier Healthwise program for children (ages 0–19) and pregnant women is an income eligible plan that covers a wide range of services such as medical, hospital, lab services, prescriptions and many others.
- The Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) is for adults (19–64) who have been uninsured for 6 months, do not have insurance offered at their employer and meet income guidelines. HIP covers preventive services, hospitalizations, prescriptions and many other services.

For more information and to apply for health coverage contact: Monica Cavinder, Program Director at [219-221-1559](tel:219-221-1559), [CoveringKidsAndFamilies@yahoo.com](mailto:CoveringKidsAndFamilies@yahoo.com) or visit <http://educatenc.net/site/default.aspx?PageID=7297>

**Save these Dates...**

- **November 2** - Welding student art display at "Darlings" boutique (418 Franklin Street) during First Fridays
- **November 7** - Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **November 8** - Middle and High School Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **November 10** - Craft Show at MCHS, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Parent Network
- **November 12** - Veterans Day (No school)
- **November 16, 17, 18** - MCHS Play, "See How They Run" (For more info: <http://educateme.net/Domain/20>)
- **November 26** - Pine Elementary's Art Club will begin selling Holiday/Christmas Cards featuring student artwork (\$10 for box of 12). Contact Holly Beadles ([hbeadles@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:hbeadles@mcas.k12.in.us)) for more info!
- **November 28** - Alpha Yearbook Holiday Shopping Experience, 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. in the media center. (Click here to read a flyer about this: <http://educateme.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/20/yearbook%20flyer.pdf>)
- **November 29** - MCHS Blood Drive, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please donate! (Sign up during lunch hours at MCHS)
- **November 30** - Pine School Blood Drive, 1:30 - 6:00 p.m. Please donate! (Sign up at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/>)
- **November 30** and **Dec 1**, 7:00 p.m. - "It's a Wonderful Life" - Elston Fall Play
- **December 13** - "One City One Sound" holiday mega-concert at Michigan City High School

**WAY TO GO**

- Congrats to Lake Hills STEM Elementary and MC Robotics, which were both inducted into the 2012 Northwest Indiana Society of Innovators. This is an outstanding achievement and brings positive attention to Michigan City. Read more about it on our website at <http://educateme.net/>
- Congrats to **41 MCAS Teachers** (Yes 41!!!) in grades K-8 who received Michigan City Education Foundation grants this year! Visit our web site (<http://educateme.net/>) for a complete list of the recipients, who are from Barker, Coolspring, Elston, Joy, Krueger, Lake Hills, Pine, and Springfield. Watch upcoming issues of the News Dispatch for features on some of these projects.
- Congrats to our Superintendent **Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins**, who recently received the Educator of the Year Award from the One Church One School organization in Chicago. Dr. Eason-Watkins helped establish this important partnership, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS****Holidays at Barker Mansion**

Michigan City's Barker Mansion is gearing up for field trips and educational tours. The program this winter is "White House Christmases". Learn how the Lincolns and ten other Presidents and families decorated the White House trees and the holiday traditions they observed. School holiday tours begin **December 3** and continue through **January 15**. Remember: MCAS students tour free! Call for reservations: [\(219\) 873-1520](tel:2198731520).

**Handbells are Ringing...**

Pine Music teacher Jeanne Bolen will be leading a session on handbells at the Coolspring Branch Library on **Monday**, Dec. 17 at 6:00 pm. Come sing a few carols and give those handbells a try (er...ring)!

**New on "community backpack"...**

\* A list of November programs for kids and teens, from the **LaPorte County Public Library**

\* Information about a **4-H Open House** on **November 15**

\* A flyer on a **"Pantry on the Go!"** distribution of fresh food by the Food Bank of Northern Indiana, on **November 5** at the Skwiat Legion

\* Pop Warner **Mini Cheer Camp** (Nov. 15 & 16)

Visit <http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49> for details on these and other community events!