

MCAS Communicator

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

November 2014

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

Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day is next Tuesday, November 11 – and in a departure from past years, Michigan City Area Schools will be in session on that day. A number of resources are available for teachers and schools to make this an educational opportunity for students (to access, click on the Veteran's Day icon on any school web site home page). Several schools will also be holding special programs and activities to honor Veterans. Michigan City High School will hold a ceremony on Veterans Day at 1:30 pm, in the gym, featuring guest speaker Senator Jim Arnold. The public is invited to attend, especially veterans, who will be honored during the ceremony. For more information about the MCHS Veterans Day ceremony, contact JROTC Instructor Major Tom McGrath.

Health Insurance Day

ALSO on November 11... Covering Kids & Families of LaPorte County is partnering with the Open Door Health Center at MCHS to offer a "Health Insurance Assistance" Day. On November 11 from 9:00am to 1:00pm, CKF staff will be present at the Open Door Center at MCHS to help anyone needing information about Hoosier Healthwise, CHIP, Affordable Care Act, etc. For a flyer on this follow this link:

<http://educatemc.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=2&PageType=17&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=1&EventDateID=15980>

American Education Week

American Education Week is November 17-21; this is a week set aside each year to spotlight public schools and education. Be SURE to thank our Education Support Professionals for all they do on Wednesday, November 19, which has been designated **Education Support Professionals Day**. Our secretaries, IAs, paras, food service, custodial and maintenance, transportation, technology, and central office support staff are essential to the success of our students! Special thanks to MCESP, which presented School Board members and Dr. Eason-Watkins with an American flag at the October 28 Board meeting. This flag was flown over the White House this past summer, and on November 19 it will be flown at the Ad Building in honor of MCAS support staff!

Food Service News

Students enjoyed their tasty desserts during National School Lunch Week, and really got into the theme "Get In The Game With School Lunch!" MCAS offers nutritional lunches daily and will be celebrating Thanksgiving with a special dinner at all schools during the lunch meal. The high school and all elementary schools will be serving their dinner on **November 18th** and the middle schools will be serving their dinner on **November 19th**. The menu will be turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli, peaches, cranberries, dinner roll and pumpkin mousse. Happy Thanksgiving to all! Check out photos from School Lunch Week at the Food Service Dept facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mcasfoodservice>

CPR for Teachers

MCAS is again working with Opportunity Enterprises to offer CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal. The November class is now full. Additional classes will take place at Mullen on the following Thursdays: 12/18, 1/15, 2/19, 3/19, 4/16, 5/21. To register for one of these sessions, please contact Linda Bechinski at lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us. You must register in advance, no walk-ins. The training will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$35 cash (please bring exact change) or check (payable to Opportunity Enterprises).

MCHS Parent Network Craft Show

The annual Parent Network Craft Show is this Saturday, November 8th from 9am-3pm in the MCHS Cafeteria. There will be more than 70 vendors present, selling homemade food, crafts and gifts. This fundraiser is the perfect way to get an early start on your holiday shopping!

Go Vote, Go to Holly's

Tomorrow (November 4) is Election Day... and it's also "Give Back" day for MCESP at Holly's Restaurant. Proceeds will benefit the MCESP Scholarship Fund. Follow the link below to access the required coupon:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/4/hollysmcesp.pdf>

Give Back for the Parent Network

Holly's will also be hosting a give back event (on Nov. 12) for the MCHS Parent Network, to support Post Prom and other activities. Please follow the link below for that coupon:

<http://educatemc.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=2&PageType=17&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=1&EventDateID=15875>

OKLAHOMA!

MCHS is gearing up for its Fall Musical, "Oklahoma!" – show dates/times are Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22, at 7:00pm and Sunday, November 23, at 2:00p.m. For anyone who is not familiar with the show: This is a Rodgers and Hammerstein collaboration set in turn of the century Oklahoma territory. It chronicles a rivalry between local farmers and cowboys – complete with a love story, comic relief, and several dance numbers. Don't miss it! Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Art Teacher Show

Eight MCAS art teachers will exhibit their work in a show called "Inspired: Inspire" at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, November 14 – December 28. "We are inspired through our own work and we use that inspiration to inspire our students," explains Karrie Harbart. Don't miss this show, which will feature 2-D and 3-D works by Holly Beadles, Rita Cochran, Jean Everspaugh, Thomas Friend, Karrie Harbart, Kelly Tokoly, Susanne Vigen, and Cheri Whitler.

Bell Ringers Needed

The Salvation Army is in need of groups and individuals to help ring bells at red kettle locations this holiday season. They also need volunteers to help sort food and toys for their annual Christmas store. (This year, Dr. Eason-Watkins is the Christmas Chair for the Salvation Army campaign... and she urges everyone to help the effort!) Watch for updates in coming weeks on the annual MCAS Food drive and "Operation Bookworm" book drive for the Salvation Army. To sign up to ring bells or for any other info, contact Jennifer Merrill at Jennifer_Merrill@usc.salvationarmy.org.

Teacher Store - Free Classroom Supplies

Michigan City Area Schools is served by the Feed the Children organization's "Indiana Teachers' Store." Classroom teachers from MCAS are eligible to visit the store one time per month and select free items needed for their students and classrooms. The store is accessible on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM (Eastern Time) at 22365 Elkhart East Boulevard in Elkhart. VERY IMPORTANT: you must show your school ID, and you must have our code number when shopping...it is **1510**. Please note that is only for classroom teachers; administrators, counselors, classified staff, substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, computer techs, media specialists, etc. are **not** eligible. Also, teachers cannot bring guests (including children) to shop with them.

Homework Assistants Wanted

The Boys & Girls Club is seeking two individuals to serve as Homework Assistants during Club Discovery, at Barker and Krueger. The position is 1.5 hours per day, Monday through Thursday, in accordance with the school schedule. Interested? Call 873-2298 or stop by the BGC office to complete an application. Specifics about this position are here:

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

United Way Campaign

The MCAS United Way Employee Giving Campaign is heading into its final days! There is still time (until November 12) to turn in a pledge form to be eligible for the host of incentives that will be awarded in a random drawing. They include both a lunch and dinner with Dr. Eason-Watkins, two gift baskets, donuts for the school or department with the highest percentage of giving, and the Traveling Trophy to the All-Around Winning school or department. For those who have filled out your pledge forms, thank you very much for your support of the United Way!

Robotics News – Open House at A. K. Smith

Please join the Michigan City Robotics Team at the La Porte County Career and Technical Education Open House this Wednesday, **November 5**, from 5 to 7 pm! Aside from viewing the great opportunities at the A. K. Smith Center, the Robotics team will be showing off their new home with the grand opening of the Robotics Laboratory. Students and mentors will share off-season projects they have been working on, including a Community Service Project (sensory environment equipment for students with special needs); a Business Partnership Project (Skeletal Animatronics); and an Outreach Project (a "Showbot"). Coaches and students from the Lego Lions and Lego Vipers elementary and middle school teams will also be on hand.

Give the Gift of Mentoring

This year for the holidays, consider giving someone the gift of time. Spend one lunch hour per week mentoring a child. Encourage them, praise them, guide them and help them grow to their potential. It will be a gift to you, too. For information about Hours for Ours call Sherri Silcox at [873-2026](tel:873-2026) x 8744.

College and Career Readiness After School

Vera Gaston is the new College and Career Readiness Coach for the Safe Harbor after-school program. Monday thru Thursday, Vera travels to Marsh, Knapp, Lake Hills, and Joy to meet with students in grades 4-6, discussing work ethic, self-esteem, career goals, positive choices, attendance, communication skills and much more. Students at MCAS elementary and middle schools are also taking field trips that emphasize college and career options. (Recent/upcoming trips and guest speakers include Momma Sue's Restaurant, Dave Barnes

Farm, Rittenhouse, Edward Jones Financial, Microtel Inn & Suites, and Purdue North Central.)

Bring In Your Pop Tabs!

Collecting pop tabs is a small gesture, but it can make a big difference! In the last four years, our district has collected 3,310,712 pop tabs and donated over \$1,500 to support families with sick children at Ronald McDonald House. Safe Harbor, Club Discovery, Club Inspire and Hours for Ours will be supporting the effort once again. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their pop tab tops to school where they will be collected in classroom containers or in the school's central collection bin. The winning elementary school will be honored next fall with a special school assembly and a visit from Ronald McDonald. Past winners are Springfield, Knapp, Coolspring, and Elston.

Healthy U @ Work

Follow the link below to read Working Well's October Newsletter:

http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_october2014.pdf

Trine University Online Courses

Trine's School of Professional Studies offers a number of online continuing education courses for educators. Follow the link below for a complete list and registration info:

http://www.virtualeduc.com/trine/index.php?utm_source=trine&utm_medium=email&utm_content=image&utm_campaign=action

"Sumdog" Math Contest

The next Sumdog Northwest Indiana online math contest starts Friday **November 14** and will run until the following **Thursday**. Schools take part as a class, and compete against other classes in your school and across Northwest Indiana. It's free to take part and there are new legendary rewards for all students who answer 100 math questions. To register visit: http://www.sumdog.com/en/Contest_invitation/?hc For questions, contact info@sumdog.com

WAY TO GO!

Congratulations to MCHS Secretary **Joyce Westphal** who was recently featured as a "Life that Matters" on LaporteCountyLife.com. Here's the link to view the article:

<http://www.laportecountylife.com/community/serving/47258-a-la-porte-county-life-that-matters-joyce-westphal>

Congratulations to our **bus drivers, monitors, and Transportation office staff** for a successful School Bus Safety Week October 20-24, when they conducted drills and safety lessons for students. Special congrats to Transportation foreman **Brian Sheblosky** and mechanics **Dave Lohraff, David McIntire,** and **Steve Smith** -- our buses once again passed State inspection with flying colors.

COMMUNITY BACKPACK

There are two new postings on our "Community Backpack" page!

- Teen Court information and application
- Jim Gill "Contagious Tunes Tour" Family Concert (benefiting Imagination Station)

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