

# MCAS Communicator

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

## November 2017

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

### Sectional Game Info

Tickets for Friday's sectional final football game at Ames (City vs LaPorte) are on sale at the MCHS Athletic Office. Tickets are \$6, available daily from 8am-3pm. Enter through Door J in the back of the high school. (Tickets will also be available at the gate, unless sold out in advance.) **Important:** Because this is an IHSAA event, MCAS staff ID badges, Wolves season passes, and DAC passes will not be honored; everyone must have a paid ticket. Also, MCAS will be running a free shuttle bus to transport fans to and from Ames Field on Friday, to make parking easier. The bus will depart from the entrance of the former JC Penney at Marquette Mall every 10 minutes between 5:45-7:15pm. The return shuttle will depart from the corner of Arthur and Wabash Streets near the stadium, from the beginning of the 4th quarter until approximately 45 minutes after the game. Gates will open at Ames on Friday at 6:00pm. Kickoff is at 7:00pm

### WAY TO GO! Educators of the Year!

Congratulations to the following members of TEAM MCAS, who have been selected by the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce as **Educators of the Year**. Thanks to everyone who submitted nominations!

- **Sharon Arndt**, Pine Elementary School
- **Jennifer Gracyalny**, Michigan City High School
- **Rachel Ward**, Knapp Elementary School
- **Amy Wojasinski-Labis**, Michigan City High School

In addition, **Dr. Jan Radford** has been selected for a Lifetime Achievement Award, and the **Lake Hills STEM Program** will be honored with the Shining Light Award for programs. The **Michigan City High School Environmental Restoration team** will be recognized in this category, as well. The "Educators of the Year" Awards Dinner is Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at Blue Chip's Stardust Event Center. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased online or at the Chamber... reservations are due THIS THURSDAY!

### Reminder from Payroll

November payroll dates will be November 10th and November 22nd

### American Education Week

Later this month, we will join school districts and communities across the nation in celebrating American Education Week, November 13-17th. This is a week set aside each year to recognize the important role of our public schools and school staff. We are thankful to our support staff and to our teachers, administrators, and other certified staff for ALL you do. Wednesday of that week is Education Support Professionals Day, so please take a moment to salute the support staff from across our district: transportation, custodial, food service, computer techs, secretaries, IAs, paras, after-school staff... all of Team MCAS is integral to our students' success.

### CTE Open House

The A. K. Smith Career Center invites students, parents, and members of the public to attend its Open House TODAY, November 1, from 5 to 7pm. Teachers and students from all 14 career/tech programs will be on hand to give classroom tours and share information. Sophomores from across the county are now visiting the Career Center as they consider scheduling options for next school year.

### **Food Service News**

Did you know that Food Service implemented Universal Breakfast at Michigan City High School this 2017-2018 school year? Both breakfast and lunch at all elementary and middle schools are already free as part of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Now our high school students may enjoy free breakfast! Students will enjoy a special Thanksgiving lunch on November 16th. The menu will be Turkey & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Roll, Cranberry Jello and Pumpkin Mousse! Yum!

### **AK Scissory November Specials**

Make your appointment now for a facial, pedicure, or color treatment. Information about the Scissory's November specials is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/november%202017/November%20specials.pdf>

### **Career Cafe to Open**

Culinary students at the A. K. Smith Career Center will have a ribbon cutting ceremony today to officially open the new "Career Cafe". The cafe, which operates out of the former Elston cafeteria/kitchen is open to the public on Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00 - 1:30, and offers several entrees and a salad bar, dine in or to go. The cafe will soon offer breakfast, too. Enter through the Elston door on Detroit Street - same door as the A. K. Scissory.

### **CPR Training for Certified Staff**

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held Thursday, November 16. Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, 100 Manny Court, adjacent to Lake Hills Elementary. The fee is \$40 cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions. The certification lasts two years. Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski ([lbechinski@educatemc.net](mailto:lbechinski@educatemc.net)) to sign up.

### **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>

### **November EAP Newsletter: "Civility and Respect in the Workplace"**

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/november%202017/November2017EAP.pdf>

### **November EAP Webinar**

Please register for Civility And Respect In The Workplace and Winterize Your Workout on Nov 15, 2017 12:00 PM CST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1005499364396392194>

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

Mental Health, Fitting in Fitness, Stress and Pain, Sunflower Seeds and more...

[http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww\\_newsletter\\_october2017.pdf](http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_october2017.pdf)

**'Tis Almost the Season!**

The Michigan City Salvation Army is seeking volunteers to ring bells this holiday season. Individuals and groups are greatly needed, beginning in mid-November. Sign up online at <http://ringbells.org> or contact [Jessica\\_O'Brien@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Jessica_O'Brien@usc.salvationarmy.org). MCAS will also participate once again in districtwide drives for canned food and books. Pickup for the districtwide food drive will be Friday, December 15th.

### **Joy Glow Run**

Joy Elementary School will hold its annual "Vikings on the Run Glow Event" this Friday, November 3 at the Michigan City High School track. Check in begins at 5:15pm with laps starting at 5:45; participants are encouraged to complete as many laps around the track as possible in a 30 minute period, running or walking. For each lap, participants will receive another glow bracelet. Registration is \$15 through November 2 and \$20 on race day. A sign up form is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202017/Vikings%20on%20the%20Run%20Glow%20Event%20Flyer.pdf>

### **Hours for Ours Update**

Safe Harbor's Hours for Ours mentoring program is seeking mentors for Barker Middle School students! It only takes 40 minutes a week to make a difference. Being a mentor is truly a fulfilling and rewarding experience that you do not want to miss. Contact [amay@educatemc.net](mailto:amay@educatemc.net) for more information.

### **Snowflake Parade**

Michigan City's winter "Snowflake Parade" will be Saturday, December 2. As always, the parade ends at the library where Santa and Mrs. Claus will be lighting the tree. All schools and groups are welcome to have a unit! A form to register is below. In addition, MCAS Transportation will be decorating the activity bus and ALL are welcome to dress up in Santa hats or etc. and help pass out pencils/bookmarks to kids.

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/november%202017/snowflake%20parade%202017.docx>

### **Don't Miss "13"**

The Michigan City High School theatre department will be presenting its fall musical, "13" this month. "13" is a coming-of-age comedy about 13-year-old Evan Goldman, who is forced to move from New York to small-town Appleton, Indiana, and must navigate a world of cool kids and nerds, first kisses and heartbreak at Dan Quayle Jr. High. Performances will be held in the Michigan City High School auditorium at 7:00pm on Friday and Saturday, November 17 and 18th and at 2:00pm on Sunday, November 19th. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

### **Correction: PERF and TRF Workshops**

A flyer sent out to MCAS staff last month indicated that the state no longer provides retirement workshops for educators on PERF/TRF. This is not correct. You can visit the Indiana Public Retirement System website for lots of information, including a calendar of retirement workshops and counseling sessions coming to our area. The website is: <http://www.in.gov/inprs>.

**Give Backs** - No coupon required unless there's a link below...mention you are there to support!

1. November 1 (TODAY!) - Five Guys, all hours of operation - Support the Wolvettes!
2. November 6 (Monday) - Chipotle, 4-8pm - Support the Wolvettes
3. November 7 (Tuesday) - Holly's, 11-9 - Support Krueger Art Dept. **Show this coupon:**

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/november%202017/Hollys.jpg>

4. November 8 (Wednesday) - Buffalo Wild Wings, 5-8pm. Support Pine Elementary School!

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

- Regional Chess Tournament for K-12 (Let's win this, Wolves!!)
- Miss Relay for Life scholarship pageant ages 14-21
- Elston YMCA Homework Help/Mentoring Program
- The "U" Health & Fitness Program at Uptown Center
- Singing Co. of LaPorte Children's Chorus
- And more!

**Calendar Reminders:**

- November 4 - Parent Network Craft Show at MCHS (9am-2pm)
- November 7 - Chamber Educator Awards (5:30pm, Blue Chip)
- November 10 - Veteran's Day Program at MCHS, vets/public welcome (1:25pm)
- November 11 - AP Conference at MCHS (8:00-12:15)
- November 13-17 - American Education Week
- November 15 - Education Support Professionals Day
- November 15 - Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 17-19 - MCHS Musical "13" (7pm Fri/Sat, 2pm Sun)
- December 14 - One City One Sound

**WAY TO GO**

- Congrats to Barker Middle School curriculum coach **Amy Hamann**, who has been named Facilitator of the Year by Project Learning Tree, an interdisciplinary environmental education program of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Amy uses Project Learning Tree as part of a course she teaches in science education at Purdue University Northwest.
- Congrats to MCHS English Teacher **Tyler Evans**, who was featured as a "Teacher of Excellence" in the Northwest Indiana Times on October 18.
- Congrats to Safe Harbor's **Abby May**, who has been selected as one of the National Afterschool Association's 2018 Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders. Abby will be featured in the Winter 2018 issue of AfterSchool Today magazine, and will receive a free registration to the NAA National Convention in Atlanta.
- Congrats to the "Week of Code" Team, which was inducted into the Northwest Indiana Society of Innovators last week. Team members from MCAS included **Kevin McGuire, Phyllis Stark, Betsy Kohn, Shelley Deutscher, Sherri Silcox,** and **Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins** - along with partners from the EDC, Chamber and Unity Foundation.