

MCAS Communicator

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

November 2018

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

American Education Week

This month, we will join school districts and communities across the nation in celebrating American Education Week, November 12-16th. 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!

Advance Tickets on Sale

The Wolves will play in the IHSAA football sectional finals TOMORROW in LaPorte at Kiwanis Field; kickoff is at 7pm. Tickets are \$6, and they are on sale at the Michigan City High School Athletic Office from 7:30am to 3pm.

From Payroll

November pay dates are November 9th and November 21st.

Food Service News

The MCAS Child Nutrition program will be celebrating Thanksgiving with a turkey dinner for the students and staff, on November 14. We will be serving turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry jell-o, rolls, and pumpkin mousse. The Food Service Department is thankful to be a part of the Michigan City school family and wish you all a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving Holiday.

Spread the Word: Mentors Wanted!

Safe Harbor's Hours for Ours Mentoring Programming is seeking mentors for elementary and middle school students. Being a mentor means taking one day a week to share lunch and play a game with a student. Mentors are **not** counselors, tutors, or saviors. Mentors **are** a friendly face who visit once a week for 30 minutes. Mentoring is rewarding and fulfilling for both mentor and student. To become a mentor today, email info.h4omentors@gmail.com.

CPR for Certified Staff

A CPR class for certified staff in need of license renewal will be held on Wednesday, November 14th at 3:30pm at Mullen (100 Manny Court). The cost is \$50, cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions at the class. Class lasts 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 for this class, or with any questions - lbechinski@educateMC.net.

United Way Update

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the MCAS United Way campaign. Your contribution makes a real difference in our community! If you have not made a donation

and are interested [there is still time!](#) Your building secretary should have pledge forms. If not, contact Sherri Silcox at 8740 or ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us. To live better we must live united.

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>

EAP Newsletter - November: Ten Ways to Transform Your Marriage

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202018/2018NovEAP.pdf>

November EAP Webinar

Please register for 10 Things To Transform Your Marriage and Pelvic Health-What is Normal on Nov 21, 2018 1:00 PM CST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4928957089922296579>

Attention, Music Lovers!

Exciting news: 46 Michigan City High School choral students will sing the world premier of a Symphony this Saturday, November 3. The students will combine with 150 other choir students from across the region to sing Johan de Meij's Symphony #5, under the direction of Mr. de Meij himself. The symphony is inspired by Lord of the Rings. The concert will be held at Valpo University this Saturday - November 3 - at 5pm; adult tickets are \$25, seniors are \$20, and students are \$10. Purchase tickets here:

<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=vuca>

Exciting News Re: Advanced Placement

Michigan City High School is among three finalists for the AP-TIP IN school of the year! Principal Candy Van Buskirk, Associate Principal Jeremy Lugbill and Dr. Eason-Watkins will attend a press conference tomorrow at the University of Notre Dame, when the winner will be announced. We are honored by this distinction and are excited about the rapid progress our students are making on AP through the AP-TIP IN partnership!

AP Conference Nov 10

Students from across northwest Indiana who are enrolled in AP courses will gather at Michigan City High School on Saturday, November 10, for an AP Student Conference. Students will attend sessions on topics designed to help them be more successful on AP math, science, English and Spanish exams. Sessions are run by highly qualified instructors from across Indiana who have a great deal of experience with Advanced Placement exam content and success strategies. The AP Student Conference is another resource made possible thanks to Michigan City's AP TIP-IN grant and partnership.

Veteran's Day Program

Michigan City High School invites veterans -- and members of the public -- to attend its Veterans Day Program, which will be held on Friday, November 9th at 1:30 p.m. in the high school gym. Guests should park in the rear of the building and enter by Athletics. The featured speaker this year will be State Senator Mike Bohacek. The MCHS JROTC is coordinating this program and band and choir students will perform.

What in the World is Urinetown?!

The Michigan City High School theatre department will be presenting its fall musical, "Urinetown" at 7:00pm on Friday and Saturday, November 9 and 10th, and at 2:00pm on Sunday, November 11th. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. For those who may not be familiar with this musical, Urinetown is a satirical comedy about a fictional society in the midst of a severe water shortage. It satirizes the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, and municipal politics. Check it out!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202018/Urinetown%20posterBK.pdf>

Lead Testing Pilot

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 14th at all elementary buildings, from 3:15 to 7:15pm. At two buildings, Knapp and Marsh, we will be offering free lead testing for all kindergarteners. We have selected these schools as part of a pilot testing program due to their location in neighborhoods identified as high risk, mainly based on the age of homes and the possible presence of lead-based paint in those homes. Partners in this effort include the LaPorte County Health Department, HealthLinc, and the Mayor's Committee on Lead, which will be providing information for parents and has secured bikes as incentive prizes for testing, thanks to Partners for Clean Air and the Bike Stop.

Online Continuing Ed Courses

Follow the link below for info on online, self-paced, continuing education courses offered cooperatively with Trine University. Questions? Email info@virtualeduc.com.

https://www.virtualeduc.com/email-marketing/Fall_18/trine.html

Celebrate Fall in the UAD

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association invites you to celebrate fall in the Uptown Arts District on Saturday (Nov 3). Horse and buggy rides, crafts, games, music, food and much more!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202018/UADFall.png>

"Tickets at Work" Perk

Did you realize that as an MCAS employee, you can receive discounts through Tickets at Work (formerly known as Ticket Monster)? Discounts include attractions, theme parks, shows, sporting events, movie tickets, hotels, shopping and much more. It's simple; you can access [TicketsatWork](#) with your same Ticket Monster username and password. If you haven't signed up yet, go to [TicketsatWork](#) and use our company code, **MCAS** to get started. Take a look at the expanded offers available to [you here](#).

Tommy Hilfiger Discount for MCAS

The Tommy Hilfiger Outlet store is offering MCAS employees a 15% off your entire purchase, valid until January 31, 2019. Print and bring this ad at time of purchase or show via a mobile device:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202018/Tommy%20Hilfiger%20Corporate%20Partnership%20Discount.pdf>

YMCA Discount for MCAS

Did you know that as an MCAS employee you receive a 25% discount on YMCA membership? Visit the Elston YMCA today to check it out!

Designer Purse Bingo

Bring your friends and join Junior Achievement serving LaPorte County for a night of bingo, wine, purses, cocktails and FUN tomorrow, Friday, November 2! Pay at the door (\$30) ... but please register in advance at the link below:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/lappurbin/>

SUPPORT TEAM MCAS WITH THIS GIVE BACK!

- Eat at **Five Guys TODAY (Nov 1)** to support the MCHS Cityzen student newspaper!
<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202018/FGposter1CN.pdf>

WAY TO GO!!

- Krueger Science teacher **Kevin Jones** completed his 2nd Chicago Marathon this year. His time of 3:52:26 was a 28 minute improvement over last year's time; in the two years that he's been doing the Chicago Marathon, he has raised over \$2000 for the Girls on the Run Chicago organization.
- Coolspring counselor **Yveline Hulse** has been selected by the Indiana School Counselor Association as the Exemplary Elementary School Counselor of the year! She will be honored at an awards luncheon in Indianapolis on November 16.
- Congrats once again to the 2018 MC Chamber Educators of the Year: **Bob Eghbali** (Marsh counselor), **Daisy Lee** (Krueger teacher), **Mike Maesch** (Knapp teacher), **Tess Pavloff** (Edgewood teacher), and **Sheri Tuesburg** (Edgewood Teacher)
- Congrats to all who are part of the **MCHS Early College** program and the **Barker STEM Challenges** program -- winners of "Shining Light" awards from Chamber!
- Congrats to Herr **Dan Ruth** (MCHS German teacher) and **Peggy Thomas** (Edgewood principal) -- winners of Lifetime Achievement Awards!
- Representatives from both **Barker** and **Lake Hills** have been invited to attend a STEM celebration and public release of the Indiana STEM Strategic Plan at the Indiana Statehouse next Friday. Our STEM certified schools are models for other schools across our state!
- CTE Director **Audra Peterson** was a panelist at the Manhattan Institute's Heartland conference at the Columbia Club in Indianapolis last week. The conference, which also featured Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb, highlighted CTE programs serving as pathways to the workforce.
- Congratulations MCHS teacher Phil Mason, who was named **High School Coach of the Week** by the Indianapolis Colts earlier this month. The Colts Youth Football Commissioner visited MCHS on October 10 to recognize him and speak with some of our players. The Colts will also honor Coach Mason at its December 16 game vs. the Dallas Cowboys.

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

- Foster Parenting information (foster homes are greatly needed!)
- Regional K-12 Chess Tournament (at **Barker** on Nov. 17!)
- Host an exchange student
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

- November 9-11 - MCHS Fall Musical "Urinetown"
- November 10 - AP Conference at MCHS
- November 14 - Elementary Parent/Teacher conferences
- November 19-23 - Thanksgiving Break (no school)
- December 6 - One City One Sound

- December 24 - Winter Break Begins