

MCAS Communicator

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

November 2019

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

Important Calendar Change

Due to a large number of staff planning to attend the "[Red for Ed Action Day](#)" in Indianapolis on Tuesday, November 19, MCAS will not have school. This day will NOT be an eLearning Day. Instead, it will be made up on Presidents Day (Monday, February 17). We will be informing parents and posting this information on social media later today!

Scheduled eLearning Days

Reminder: MCAS will have scheduled eLearning Days on Tuesday, November 5 (Election Day) and on Monday, December 9.

Educators of the Year!!

The Michigan City Chamber of Commerce has announced the recipients of its 2019 Educator of the Year Awards: CONGRATULATIONS to MCHS teacher **Mike Tsugawa**, who has been selected as a 2019 Outstanding Educator and to the **Compressed Air Academy** (teachers Jeff Rochowiak and Ralph Gee), which will receive this year's "Shining Light" award for innovative programs. Please consider supporting them by attending this year's awards banquet, which will be held on Tuesday, November 12 at 5:00pm at Blue Chip. [Tickets are available from the Chamber office or online here.](#) Feel free to share - this is open to the public. (**Hurry - dinner reservations deadline is next TUESDAY 11/5.**)

And MORE Accolades... WAY TO GO!

- Edgewood teacher **Michelle Sickles** has been named Teacher of the Year by the Michigan City Rotary Club! She was honored yesterday at the club's "Service Above Self" awards program.
- Edgewood teacher **Courtney Barber** is Open Up Resources EL Teacher of the Month. Read more about Courtney and our new EL curriculum here: <https://news.openupresources.org/open-up-resources-el-education-k-5-language-arts-teacher-of-the-month-courtney-barber-0>
- Krueger teacher **Kevin Jones** ran his 3rd Chicago Marathon last month. He raised over \$1900 for the Girls on the Run organization and set a new personal record finishing the 26.2 mile race in 3:45:02. Wow!
- Virtual Academy and Elston Pathways teacher **Mary Rapier** was selected by Edmentum to serve on a panel discussion earlier this week about social-emotional learning best practices. Congrats!
- The following MCHS and AK Smith educators have received grants for projects through the Unity Foundation's Teacher Innovation Fund: **Sue Cleveland, Laura Daly, Adam Goebel, Denise Ndukwu, Ashley Kohler, Mary Koselke, Cheri Whitler, Amy Wojasinski-Labis, and Ashley Zahrt.** Way to go!
- Barker teacher **Mariah Pol** authored a lesson that is a winner in the University of Arizona's Center for Middle Eastern Studies annual lesson plan competition. She received books for her classroom and her lesson is featured on the University's website!

Sectionals Reminder

The Wolves will host our crosstown rival the LaPorte Slicers TONIGHT (11/1) at Ames, for the first game in football sectionals. Because this is an IHSAA post-season game, Staff IDs and season passes cannot be honored. Tickets are \$6 at the gate or can be purchased in advance from the MCHS Athletic Dept. (today til 3:30pm). Kickoff is at 7pm. GO WOLVES!

Canterbury Educator Nights

Canterbury Theatre (807 Franklin) is offering all MCAS staff half-price (\$10) tickets this Friday and Saturday for its production of "**Spinning Into Butter.**" This thought-provoking play takes place on a fictional college campus and addresses themes of racism and more. More info is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202019/Educators.pdf>

Safe Harbor THANKS YOU



Safe Harbor would like to thank the MCAS community for all of their support throughout the year and at our 2019 Lights On Afterschool Event! We are proud to provide high quality enrichment programming to the students and families of Michigan City!

New School Board Member

Welcome to our newest School Board Member, **Jenilee Haynes-Peterson**. Mrs. Peterson was sworn in by the School Board attorney at her office on October 14th and participated in her first meeting this week. She was appointed by the Board last month to replace Joanne Tedesco, who has moved out of town.

Ghost!

The Michigan City High School Theatre Department will stage its fall musical, **GHOST**, on November 15, 16, and 17. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:00pm and a Sunday matinee will be at 2:00pm. The musical is based on the Paramount Pictures blockbuster 1990 movie "Ghost." "Break a leg" and best wishes to director Charlie Puetzer and the entire cast and crew.

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202019/ghost%20poster%20picture.pdf>

Cinderella

Many of our younger students will be performing this weekend (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) in the Disney musical **Cinderella Kids**, which is taking place at Michigan City High School. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:00 pm and Sunday at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and are available at the door.

Food Service News

Child Nutrition Services will be offering a Thanksgiving Dinner to MCAS students and staff on Thursday, November 14th. Please join us for turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry jello, and pumpkin mousse. We want to thank all of you who purchased the mini Christmas Trees. The profit from the trees will go toward student negative meal accounts. Have a great Thanksgiving Holiday!

The MCHS Akela Room - A Virtual Tour!

Michigan City High School's Social Work team has created an "Akela Room" for students. What's an Akela room? Check out this video, which was created with assistance from teachers Kelly Martin Fargo (and her Advanced Theatre Class) and Carlos Melendez: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1IbbKG76ByyXL4vBIz9qDWWSlbO7ZmZ0X>

Fill a Foxhole Project

Edgewood's Kindness Academy is participating in a project called "Fill a Foxhole." They are collecting items to send to troops who are deployed and away from their families for the holidays. Items could include toiletries, snacks, gum, crosswords, magazines, trail mix, decks of cards, notes, letters etc. Send items to teacher Michelle Sickles at Edgewood (msickles@mcas.k12.in.us, 873-2079, ext. 6258). Also, if anyone has someone they would like to ship a care package to that is serving, they can send Michelle the address and the Kindness Academy will get one to them! Deadline for this November 15.

MC Shirts for Sale - What a Deal!



A limited amount of these "MC" t-shirts are available (adult sizes) for \$5.00. Interested? See Sarah Painter at the Ad Building. Cash or checks (payable to MCAS) accepted.

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>

CPR for Certified Staff

A CPR class for certified staff in need of license renewal will be held Thursday, November 21 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.

Ivy Tech Classes at AK Smith

The LaPorte County Career and Technical Education Program is partnering with Ivy Tech to offer evening training classes for adults in Welding, Electrical, and Machining. Financial assistance (in many cases covering all costs) is available. The classes are open to adults and also to high school students age 16 and over. Register now for courses that begin in January 2020! Please spread the word. Contact Ivy Tech at (219) 879-9137, stop by their location in Michigan City at 3714 Franklin Street, or email valparaiso-workforcealignment@ivytech.edu. <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202019/IvyTechSpring2019.pdf>

Salvation Army Holiday Assistance

Do you know a family in need of assistance with food and/or toys this holiday season? Please see the link below for info and November registration dates for Salvation Army assistance:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202019/Christmas%20Registration%20Dates.pdf>

Bell Ringers, Toy Collectors Wanted

The Salvation Army's bell-ringing campaign begins November 8, and they are seeking individuals and groups to ring. Sign up for an hour or two - or an entire day! An online sign up is at <http://registertoring.com> (Note: Ringers are needed for next Saturday afternoon 11/9 at Walmart for one-hour shifts during a special toy collection drive - contact Betsy Kohn if you can assist!)

Districtwide Holiday Food Drive

MCAS is once again participating in a districtwide collection of canned food/nonperishable items. The dates for the drive are Dec 2 - 12, and food will be picked up from all participating schools on December 13. Contact Betsy Kohn bkohn@mcas.k12.in.us with any questions!

Snowflake Parade

The Michigan City Snowflake Parade takes place on Saturday, December 7. All are welcome to march along with the MCAS unit! (Look for the decorated mini bus at the lineup location.)

If you would like to enter another unit, here is the sign up information:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202019/Snowflake.pdf>

AK Smith Open House

The A.K. Smith Career Center invites parents, prospective students, and members of the public to their Open House, which will be held on Wednesday, November 6, beginning at 5:00pm. Over the next few weeks, sophomores from our high school and across the county will visit A.K. Smith as they consider their schedules for next year.

Veterans Day Ceremony

Michigan City High School will host a Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday, November 11 in the gymnasium at 1:30pm. Indiana Representative Pat Boy will be the featured speaker. This event is coordinated each year the JROTC; this is open to the public and veterans will be honored. Guests should park in the rear of the building near Athletics and enter through Door J.

Craft and Vendor Fair

The MCHS Parent Network will hold its annual Craft and Vendor fair at the high school cafeteria on Saturday, November 9, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Proceeds will benefit the post-prom. Get a head start on your holiday shopping!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202019/CraftVendor%20Fair%202019.pdf>

Compressed Air Academy

On October 21, MCHS celebrated the grand opening of the Compressed Air Academy. This program was developed in 2018 to address regional workforce needs, in partnership with the Economic Development Corporation of Michigan City, Sullair, Boss Industries, Dekker Vacuum Technologies, Sullivan-Palatek, and Vanair. The Academy currently serves 45 students. The classroom's "manufacturing flex lab" area features two donated compressors and a vacuum system, as well as a tabletop CNC, 3D computers, and industrial robotics equipment provided by Arconic and the Skill Up 3 grant. Follow this link to watch footage from the open house celebration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-Y2SIb77es>

Donors Choose

Several MCAS teachers have listed projects on Donors Choose. Check them out, and share with others who may consider supporting!

<https://www.donorschoose.org/donors/search.html?centerLat=41.6986¢erLng=-86.8822&locationName=Trail%20Creek%2C%20IN%2046360¢erZip=46360&includeNearbyLocations=true>

Design It Make It Challenge

The Indiana State Museum and TechPoint Foundation for Youth are sponsoring the 2020 Design It Make It Challenge. This is a statewide challenge for students K-12 to engage in authentic problem solving and to demonstrate their capacity to develop creative solutions that address large-scale issues. Please see the information below for more details and sign up for updates using the link in the handout. This information will also be posted on the TechPoint website soon.

https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202019/DIMIChallengeBlurb_2020.pdf

STEM Teach Breaking News!

FREE graduate courses and workshops are available through the STEM Teach IV grant managed by the Center for Excellence in Leadership and Learning. The application window for the January cycle of courses is open now through November 8 and seats will fill quickly! STEM Teach provides credentialing for dual-credit, graduate coursework in STEM, courses for adding STEM content to an existing license, scholarships for state STEM conferences, and more. Learn more and sign up for updates at www.stemteachindiana.org

Toshiba Grants for 6-12 Science

The Toshiba America Foundation is accepting grant applications from grade 6-12 teachers for innovative STEM projects. Through the program, grants of at least \$5,000 will be awarded in support of teacher-led projects with the potential to provide students with opportunities to "do science" in ways that increase their engagement with the subject matter and improve their learning. The foundation strongly encourages projects planned and led by individual teachers or teams of teachers for their own classrooms. Note: the foundation supports project-based learning and does not consider requests for computers, laptops, or tablets. Program guidelines, information about past recipients, and application instructions are here:

<http://www.toshiba.com/taf/612.jsp>

Purdue Online Masters - Special Ed

The College of Education at Purdue University now has an online MS in Special Education program. The program offers a core curriculum that focuses on mild intervention along with

six concentration options, including a focus on intense intervention. It is designed for those looking to advance their special education career or who are currently teaching with an emergency license in Indiana. For more information visit the website below or call (877) 497-5851.

https://online.purdue.edu/programs/education/masters-special-education?utm_source=campus&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=INS

Online Courses from Trine

Below is VESi's e-course announcement featuring online, self-paced, continuing education courses offered cooperatively with Trine University.

<https://www.virtualeduc.com/trine/>

Tickets at Work Deals

November deals on entertainment and more from "Tickets at Work" - remember to use our company code MCAS:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202019/NovemberTix.pdf>

Hilfiger Discount for MCAS Staff

The MCAS Corporate Partnership discount is 15% off your entire purchase, valid until January 31, 2020 at Tommy Hilfiger Outlet stores. Bring this ad with you at the time of purchase or show via a mobile device:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//November%202019/HilfigerNov2019.pdf>

Have YOU downloaded the MCAS app?

Please take a moment to visit the App Store or Google Play and download the MCAS app to your device. Follow your school and others you may want to follow, and take a look at the many great features!

Upcoming Events

- **November 5 - eLearning Day (Election Day)**
- November 6 - AKS Open House
- November 9 - MCHS Parent Network Craft & Vendor Fair (9-2)
- November 11 - Veterans Day Program at MCHS (1:30pm)
- November 12 - Chamber Educator of the Year Awards (5:00pm)
- November 13 - Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 15-17 - MCHS Fall Musical "Ghost"
- November 18-22 - American Education Week
- **November 19 - NO SCHOOL (Makeup day: February 17)**
- November 20 - Education Support Professionals Day
- November 25-29 - Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL
- December 2-13 - Districtwide Holiday Food Drive
- **December 9 - eLearning Day**
- December 12 - One City One Sound
- December 23 - Jan 3 - Winter Break NO SCHOOL

And IN CLOSING....

This month, we join school districts and communities across the nation in celebrating American Education Week, November 18-22. This is a week set aside each year to recognize the important role of our public schools and public school employees. We are thankful for our teachers and other certified staff, our administrators, and our support 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 on November 20: transportation, custodial, food service, computer techs, secretaries, IAs, paras, after-school staff, EAP staff, social workers... **all** of Team MCAS is integral to our students' success!

#MCASGiantLeaps