

# MCAS Communicator

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

## November 2013

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

### **Yard Sign Recycling!**

Safe Harbor is heading up an effort to recycle "schools worth saving/i love my school" yard signs. Please help by collecting any yard signs you see in the community and dropping them off at the Safe Harbor office at Mullen (8:30-5:00, [Monday-Friday](#)). Stakes will be recycled, and signs will be re-used in a variety of creative ways for art projects and etc. Thank you for your help!

### **CPR Training for Teachers**

The next CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal is set for Thursday, [November 14th](#). Right now, there are only two signed up, and we must have a minimum of five to offer the class. Please contact Linda Bechinski at [lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us) **asap** if you are interested in attending. The training will take place at Mullen and will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$35 cash (please bring exact change) or check (payable to Opportunity Enterprises).

### **Craft Show**

The Michigan City High School Parent Network will hold its annual Holiday Art and Craft show [THIS Saturday, November 9](#), from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria. Admission is free, and a variety of items will be available, including lunch and a bake sale.

### **American Education Week**

American Education Week is [November 18-22](#)! This is an annual week set aside each year to spotlight public schools and education. Two special days to note: Be **SURE** to thank our Education Support Professionals for all they do on Wednesday, [November 20th](#), 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 22](#)) is Substitute Educators Day... so remember to thank a sub!

### **MCAS 100% Campaign**

Covering Kids & Families of LaPorte County has partnered with MCAS to provide enrollment assistance to our students, their families, and staff in need of health coverage. The "MCAS 100%" Campaign is designed to ensure access to free or low-cost health insurance coverage. For more information, please contact Nakia Bonds, Covering Kids & Families Enrollment Specialist. Nakia can help enroll families and individuals into Medicaid, CHIP, HIP and the Affordable Care Act Marketplace programs, assist with re-certifications, or answer any general questions.

Contact Nakia at [nakia@healthycommunitieslpc.org](mailto:nakia@healthycommunitieslpc.org) or [\(219\)877-4292](tel:(219)877-4292).

### **Safe Harbor - Green Thumb Update**

The Edible Education Committee comprised of school staff, after-school staff, administrators and our many volunteers have submitted grants to the Whole Foods Foundation. These grants would fund composting/hoop houses at Krueger, aquaponics at Barker, and a vertical vegetable/herb garden at Lake Hills. We're working on other grants to cover "specialty gardens" at Edgewood, Joy, Marsh and Knapp. Clean up of the garden areas at these schools has already started. Thanks to all, especially the Plant Planning Department. Please keep your collective fingers crossed that we receive these grants!

Lake Hills and the Safe Harbor program received a grant from the Unity Foundation for a collaborative project that partners with the MCAS Food Service Department and Green Spirit Farms. The grant calls for the installation of the Volksgarden Rotary Garden Unit. Students will learn some basic engineering, titration, and mathematical & science principles associated with this pioneering alternative method of food production. More to come on this exciting project!

### **United Way - One More Day!**

The deadline was extended for the MCAS United Way employee giving campaign; completed forms are due **TOMORROW (Friday)**. Please see your school/building secretary to turn in your form/donation. Early reports indicate that MCAS donations are down this year, so please consider helping our local nonprofits by making a contribution to this important cause! Please contact Herb Higgin or Sherri Silcox with any questions or if you need more info.

### **WAY TO GO!!!**

Congrats to Barker Teacher **Amy Hamann**, who was honored by Supt. Ritz in Indianapolis last week as a state finalist in the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching!

Congrats to **Dr. Eason-Watkins** and **Kathy Kane**, who were both inducted into Northwest Indiana Society of Innovators!

Congrats to the teachers and staff at **Krueger**, which received an Indiana Governors Award for Environmental Excellence!

Congrats to Krueger Assistant Principal **Karen Puchalski**, who ran the Chicago Marathon!

Congrats to MCHS and A. K. Smith teachers **Ralph Gee, Candy Feare, Samantha Greenwood, Rory Boone, Doug Robertson, Bruce Stahl, Jane Neulieb, and Tabitha Hughes**, who received Teacher Innovation Grants for classroom projects/equipment through the Unity Foundation!

Congrats to **Marsh Elementary** - winner of the 2013 Red Ribbon Week display contest!

### **SCHOOL and COMMUNITY NEWS**

Spread the word... Fannie May in Michigan City (Rt. 20 and 421) has a "**Chocolate for As**" program...any student who brings in a report card with at least one A will get a free chocolate bar of their choice. No coupon necessary.

Savja Santana, a 5th grade student at **Joy Elementary** in Jan Ferraro's GT class, has been selected to be a Student Ambassador for People to People. In **June 2014** she will travel to

Alaska on a study trip with 39 other students from Indiana. In order for her to travel, she needs your help to raise \$5000. If you would like to help Savja obtain her goal, please send your donation to: Savja Santana, Student Ambassador, in care of Jan Ferraro at Joy Elementary School. Any donations are greatly appreciated!

**First Trust Credit Union** has announced two \$1,000 scholarship opportunities for graduating seniors who are children of First Trust members. Please visit the MCHS Guidance Dept. web site at <http://educatemc.net/scholarships> for more info about the Virginia Stevens Career Scholarship (awarded to a student pursuing an associate's degree, certification, apprenticeship, or licensing in a specialized field) and the Del Lonzo Scholarship (awarded to a student who exemplifies scholastic excellence, personal integrity, and active participation in/service to school and community). While you're there, check out the many other scholarship opportunities available to our students....

The **Boys & Girls Club** has announced a 5-on-5 basketball intramural league for girls in grades 6-8. Deadline for signups is **TOMORROW!** For more information and an application form, visit Community Backpack:  
<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>