

MCAS Communicator

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

November 2015

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

American Education Week

American Education Week is November 16-20; 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 18, 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!!

A Special Invite from the Elston YMCA

The YMCA Elston branch is celebrating American Education Week with an "MCAS Staff Appreciation Day" on Thursday, November 19th. Stop by the Y from 2:30-8:00 p.m. to take a tour, enjoy some refreshments, and enter to win great prizes like a free month membership, free day passes, and 1/2 off swim classes. Feel free to bring your workout clothes and/or swimsuit and use the facilities...including the brand new weights and exercise equipment! (Note: The pool will be available for open swim from 6:00-7:45 pm; children under age 12 must be with a parent.). This appreciation event is open to all MCAS staff, Sodexo staff, and immediate family members. Just show your MCAS ID badge.

Basketball Movie Today

Chicago Basketball legend Ronnie Fields will be screening the documentary of his life – "Bounce Back" TODAY (Monday, November 2) at 3:00 p.m. in the Michigan City High School auditorium. Following the movie, Ronnie will be presenting his story, answering questions, and talking about his life's journey. This free screening is open to all staff, students, friends, and families.

Career Center Open House

The A. K. Smith Career Center invites students, parents, and members of the public to attend its Open House this Wednesday, November 4th, from 5 to 7pm. Teachers and students from 13 career/tech programs will be on hand to give classroom tours and share information. Several of the programs will be offering student-made items for sale, including Culinary, Welding, Construction, and Facility Maintenance.

Veterans Day Resources

Schools will be in session again this year on Veterans Day; several ceremonies and activities are planned, including a special program open to all area vets that will take place in the MCHS gym at 1:30pm. Be sure to visit the "Veterans Day Resources" link on any school home page for variety of curricular resources and activity ideas. The direct link is here:

<http://educatemc.net/Page/12046>

Thanksgiving Pie Sale

Culinary Academy students from A.K. Smith are once again selling homemade pies (apple and pumpkin) for Thanksgiving. Please order using the form below by November 18. Pickup is November 24 by 4:00pm. Payment must be made in advance. Thank you for supporting our culinary students!

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/Pie%20Flyer%202.pdf>

Calling all Princes and Princesses

The Michigan City High School Drama Club is proud to present its fall musical: Cinderella! Performances will take place in the high school auditorium on Friday, November 20 and Saturday November 21 at 7:00 pm and on Sunday, November 22 at 2:00pm. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

EAP Topic of the Month: Self-Discipline

Do you have issues with self-discipline? Follow this link to read the November EAP flyer on this topic:

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/2015%20November%20Newsletter.pdf>

Don't Forget Your EAP Benefit

MCAS now offers an EAP (Employee Assistance Program) to all staff - to assist with a wide range of personal and mental health issues (grief, stress, weight management, marriage concerns, depression, and much more). Appointments can be made for you or a family member by calling (219) 662-3730 or (800) 747-7262. Follow this link for a flyer about EAP:

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/EAP%20Flyer%2010.26.15.pdf>

CPR Class

CPR for teachers in need of license renewal is scheduled for Thursday, Nov 12th at 3:30 at Mullen, which is at 100 Manny Court, adjacent to Lake Hills Elementary. The fee is \$40.00 cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions. The certification lasts 2 years. **Important:** Please contact Linda Bechinski (lbechinski@educatemc.net) to sign up, **AND ALSO** contact her if you have already signed up for this... some of the names of those who already registered were lost.

United Way Update

Thanks go out to all of the schools who have welcomed Herb Higgin and Sherri Silcox and allowed them time for United Way presentations. They have a few more presentations to do and then will pick up the United Way enrollment forms by the 13th of November. Once again, those participating will be eligible for prizes: Lunch or Dinner with Dr. Eason-Watkins, 2 gift baskets, and donuts for the staff with the highest percentage of givers. Our goal is to again be a Cornerstone Corporate Donor; please help us reach our goal. Thank You for your continued support of United Way!

Holiday Food Drive and Volunteer Opps

MCAS will once again conduct a district-wide canned food drive after Thanksgiving to benefit the Salvation Army this holiday season. Stay tuned for details on this and on the annual "Operation Bookworm" drive! AND if you are working with a team, club, school or other organization interested in helping the Salvation Army this holiday season there are numerous volunteer opportunities - see below for a list:

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/Salvation%20Army%20Holiday%20Volunteer%20Opportunities.pdf>

(Important: Please sign up for these volunteer opps at the Salvation Army web site www.samichigancity.org)

Healthy U @ Work Newsletter

"Epigenetics", the truth about sugar, exercising after injury, and more...

http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_october2015.pdf

"Random Moments" Survey is Not Spam

Certified staff members may receive an email from "INMAC" (Indiana Medicaid Administrative Claiming) at some point this school year - this is for a study called Random Moments in Time. The email links to a brief questionnaire about what certified staff are doing at a given moment in time. It is required by the IDOE; MCAS must have 86% response rate in order to receive Medicaid reimbursement for special ed services.

Michigan City Robotics FIRST Lego League

Two Michigan City FIRST Lego League teams will be competing in a tournament at Indiana University Northwest on Sunday, November 22. FIRST Lego League introduces students ages 9 to 14 to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. *FIRST* LEGO League teams, guided by their imaginations and adult coaches, discover exciting career possibilities and, through the process, learn to make positive contributions to society. The FREE tournament will be held in the Savannah Center from 1:00 to 5:00.

Hours for Ours Mentoring Program

One caring adult paired with one child for a single hour a week can make a real difference in that child's life. If you know someone who can find one extra hour per week during lunchtime or after school, please encourage them to be that important friend to a child. We offer mentoring opportunities that everyone would enjoy, including horticulture, robotics, college and career, and special interest. Contact Sherri Silcox at 873-2026 x 8744 or ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us.

Club Discovery Gets Into Fitness

Anytime Fitness has joined the Club Discovery after school program as a community partner. Staff members from Anytime will be directing students in fitness and health related activities while also providing wellness information. The fitness program will run for 6 weeks at both Barker and Krueger and is under the direction of Kevin Scott.

Trine Online Courses

Trine University offers a number of online courses for educators; for a complete list and more info follow the link below:

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

WAY TO GO!

Lake Hills Elementary will be honored by Supt. Glenda Ritz in Indianapolis on November 17th for being among the first officially certified STEM schools in Indiana. Congrats, Lake Hills!

Congratulations to the **38 MCAS elementary and middle school teachers** who received grants from the Michigan City Education Foundation this year! Read the story on the MCAS home page for the complete list and a list of the funded projects: <http://educatemc.net>

Congratulations to **Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins**, who was honored at the Influential Women of Northwest Indiana gala last month. She was the recipient for the Education industry.

Congratulations to A. K. Smith (and MCFD instructor Kyle Kaczmierczak) for a successful grand opening of the new **Fire Science** classroom last month.

Congratulations to the **Energy Academy** team at A.K. Smith (and teacher Craig Lindgren) for being inducted into the Northwest Indiana Society of Innovators.

Congratulations to CTE Director **Audra Peterson**, who has been appointed by Indiana Governor Mike Pence to serve a two-year term on the Region 1 Works Council.

SCHOOL NEWS

Krueger Middle School's "KMS Singers" will be performing at First Friday this week (November 6) in the Michigan City Uptown Arts District. Look for them at First United Methodist (121 E. 7th Street) at 6:00 p.m. and then again at about 6:40 p.m.

Michigan City High School is having a "Give Back" at Panera on Thursday, November 12 from 4-8pm. You must present the flyer below:
<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/CityzenPanera2.pdf>

The **MCHS Parent Network** will hold its annual Holiday Arts and Craft Show this Saturday, November 7, from 9-3 in the high school cafeteria. Don't miss this popular show!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Snowflake Parade Is Back!

Michigan City is bringing back the "Snowflake Parade", which involves Santa coming to town and lighting the library tree on Franklin Street with a carol sing. This will be on Saturday, December 5th, and schools and organizations are welcome to take part. (The MCHS Marching band will be marching, and choral groups and other school groups are very welcome to participate also.) See below for more information and a form to sign up:

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/SnowflakeParade.pdf>

Michigan City Winter Coat Drive

The City of Michigan City's annual coat drive is now under way. Citizens can drop off new and/or gently worn coats and snow suits at Concord Cleaners. Concord cleans and delivers the coats to the Michigan Township Trustees Office, where they are available to those in need. The Trustees office is at 2601 East Michigan Boulevard, and hours of operation are: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. You can also reach the trustees office at 874-5201.

Have you visited MCAS's **Community Backpack** lately? Check out these recent postings at <http://educatemc.net/communitybackpack>:

- **Renaissance/Marquette Regional Chess Tournament** - Nov 14
- **4-H Open House** - Nov 18
- **Indiana Xtreme Elite Cheerleading** signups - Nov 7
- and MORE!