

# MCAS Communicator

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

## November 2016

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

### **American Education Week**

Later this month, we will join school districts and communities across the nation in celebrating American Education Week, November 14-18th. 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.

### **AK Smith Open House**

The A. K. Smith Career Center invites students, parents, and members of the public to attend its Open House tomorrow, November 2, from 5 to 7pm. Teachers and students from all 13 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.

### **Safe Harbor at First Friday**

Safe Harbor will be featured during the November 4th First Friday Art Walk in honor of Lights on Afterschool! Lights on Afterschool is a national celebration of after-school programming and a chance to showcase the important after school opportunities available to students in our community. Safe Harbor students and staff will showcase the STEM, artistic, and character education projects they have been exploring this school year. Safe Harbor provides engaging after school programming which enriches the lives of the students in our community and empowers them to pursue their dreams. Come check out Safe Harbor at 601 Franklin St!

### **Support Our Girls**

The Girls on the Run 5K is Saturday, November 5th at Kesling Park in LaPorte. Edgewood, Pine, and Springfield have teams participating!

### **New Purdue Northwest Masters' Programs for Educators**

Purdue University Northwest is introducing two new Master of Science programs of distinction based on current development, practice, and research in the field, in Instructional Design & Technology, and in Educational Leadership. Both programs offer a 30-credit hour program that can be completed in as little as one year, offer abundant choices of electives and degree concentrations, and provide access to the latest technologies. Follow these links and get started today:

#### **Instructional Design:**

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/november%202016/IDTFlyer-new-tagged.pdf>

#### **Educational Leadership:**

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/november%202016/leadership-final-accessible.pdf>

### **Vintage Vets BBall Game**

The Elston YMCA will be hosting a second annual "Vintage Vets" basketball game - featuring Michigan City vs Laporte alumni. The date is Thursday, November 10 at 6pm in the "Red Devil" gym. General admission is \$5, or \$15 for a family. Purchase tickets in advance from the MCHS Athletic office, or by texting VINTAGE to 71777.

### **Once Upon a Mattress**

The Michigan City High School theatre department will be presenting its fall musical, "Once Upon a Mattress" this month. Performances will be held in the Michigan City High School auditorium at 7:00pm on Friday and Saturday, November 18 and 19th, and at 2:00pm on Sunday, November 20th. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

### **Wolves Tervis Mugs**

The MCHS Cityzen newspaper and Alpha Yearbook are selling "Tervis" brand cups (a high quality mug/tumbler) featuring the Wolves logo. See below for what they are offering. Orders can be placed by emailing to: [cityzen@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:cityzen@mcas.k12.in.us) Students will come to your location to pick up checks/money. (Checks payable to MCHS). Deadline for ordering is Monday, November 7.

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/november%202016/2016NovTervis-SellSheet-MCHS.pdf>

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

Nutrition Labels, National Liver Awareness month, Ask the Trainer, Fitness and Cancer Prevention, Produce of the Month: Garlic, and more....

[https://www.franciscanhealth.org/sites/default/files/documents/ww\\_newsletter\\_october2016.pdf](https://www.franciscanhealth.org/sites/default/files/documents/ww_newsletter_october2016.pdf)

### **Does Teaching Run in Your Family?**

The Hoosier Heritage Educators program is an official Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project. This statewide program is identifying educators who come from teaching families and recognizing them and their families for their dedication to Indiana's children and the profession. The project aims to encourage youth to follow family traditions and join the teaching profession. Additional information about the Hoosier Heritage Educators program, including a list of honored educators, is available here:

<http://www.heritageeducators.com/>

### **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://educateme.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816EAP.pdf>

### **This month's EAP Newsletter: Self-Compassion**

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/november%202016/2016NovEAP.pdf>

### **EAP Webinar**

The next EAP webinar will be at noon on November 16; this month's topics include "Self-Compassion and 10 Essential Easy Changes" and "Boost Mood, Essential Energy, and Reduce Stress by Tomorrow." Follow the link below to register.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2133548809237390338>

### **CPR Class**

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held on Thursday, December 1st. 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. Also, the American Heart Association has written new workbooks and there is one available in every school's nurse's office for review if needed. If you borrow one, please remember to return.

### **Sectional Playoffs Friday**

The MCHS Wolves have advanced to the IHSAA sectional finals! The IHSAA Football playoff game between Michigan City and Mishawaka is at 6:30 central time this Friday (Nov. 4) at Mishawaka. Tickets are \$6, and are available in the Athletic Office this week, Tuesday through Friday from 9-2. There is also a student fan bus available for signup in the Athletic Office for students who want a ride to the game. The student bus costs \$1.

### **Annual Craft Show is Saturday**

The Michigan City High School Parent Network will hold its annual Craft Show this Saturday, November 5th, from 9am to 2pm in the high school cafeteria. Lunch/refreshments will be available. We hope everyone will get a head start on holiday shopping at this popular annual event!

### **"Quarter Mania" on December 3**

Help the Class of 2020 through a "Quarter Mania" fundraiser on Saturday, December 3. Download the flyer below for details and information on this unique event: [http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/november%202016/2020\\_Fundraiser.pdf](http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/november%202016/2020_Fundraiser.pdf)

### **One City One Sound**

Save the Date! The annual "One City One Sound" district-wide music concert will be held on Thursday, December 1 at 7:00pm in the MCHS gymnasium. Many thanks to all of our music teachers and the many others who are working behind the scenes for this.

### **Snowflake Parade**

Save the date! Michigan City's winter "Snowflake Parade" will be Saturday, December 3. More info and a form for entering your school/organization unit to participate will be available soon.

### **Ringers Needed**

The Salvation Army needs help ringing bells this holiday season! It's easier than ever to sign up for a shift/location this year. Simply visit [www.ringbells.org](http://www.ringbells.org) to volunteer as a group or individual. **Note:** MCAS will once again be taking part in the holiday food drive for Salvation Army. All canned goods/nonperishable items will be picked up from all schools/departments on Friday, December 16. Watch for details, coming soon!

### **WAY TO GO!**

- A HUGE congrats to **Edgewood Elementary School**, which has received a five-year, \$639,000 School Improvement Grant! Edgewood will use the funds to support curriculum and professional development through a model called School Rise. The grant will also provide data analysis tools, a permanent guest teacher, culturally relevant classroom libraries, and technology to enhance student learning and parent involvement.
- Congrats to the staffs and students of **Marsh, Joy, and Springfield**, who have just finished a six-week "Battle of the Fit"! Marsh edged out Joy for the win and will

receive a \$6,000 grant from MDWise; Joy will receive \$3,000 for second place, and Springfield will receive \$2,000. Way to be fit!

- Congratulations to MCHS teacher **Mike Tsugawa**, who has been selected as Indiana's Japanese Teacher of the Year! He is now in the running for Foreign Language Teacher of the Year for our state.
- Congratulations to MCHS teacher and robotics coach **Ralph Gee**, who was inducted into the Northwest Indiana Society of Innovators on October 20th! Congrats also to **Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins**, who was inducted as a Fellow into the Society!

#### **Give Backs and etc....**

- There is a "give back" at Holly's **TONIGHT** for the Michigan City Education Support Professionals (**MCESP**). See any MCESP member (secretary/IA/para) for the required coupon!
- Pine Elementary is having a "give back" at Five Guys in Michigan City on Tuesday, November 15. Be sure to show the flyer (electronically or printed) here:  
<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/4/FGposter1PM.pdf>

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

- K-12 Chess Tournament (Nov. 19)
- Double Dutch demo & family movie night at the Elston YMCA (Nov. 19)
- Double Dutch contest at the Elston YMCA (Dec. 30)
- Boys & Girls Club after-school program info
- LaPorte County Parks Fall Programs
- And more!

#### **Reminders:**

- Elementary Parent Conferences are Thursday, November 16
- Thanksgiving Break - No School - November 23-25