

MCAS Communicator

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

October 2017

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

Ready, Set, Give Day!

Michigan City Area Schools is taking part in the Unity Foundation's 30 hour "Give Day" event on October 6 and 7. This online event allows area agencies to increase their endowments with Unity while raising spendable dollars and competing for prizes and matching grants. MCAS is seeking support for our **"Dress for Success" school uniform program, Michigan City Education Foundation** teacher grants and our **MCHS Athletic Boosters**. Many other nonprofits that benefit our students are also participating. More information is available at www.laportecountygives.net. Anyone preferring to donate by cash or check can also do so prior to October 5th; we'll be happy to accept those donations at the Administration Building, or Unity is accepting them as well. Please support and share this info!

City vs LaPorte tickets

Tickets for Friday's football game at LaPorte are on sale at the MCHS Athletic Dept. Tickets are \$6, available daily from 9-3pm. Enter through Door J in the back of the building.

Educator of Year Nominations Due

This Friday is the deadline to submit nominations for the Chamber of Commerce's Educators of the Year awards. The recipients (1 educator, 1 lifetime achievement, 1 program) will be honored at a Chamber event in November. More information and the needed forms are here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202017/Michigan%20City%20Chamber%20EOY%20Nomination%20Form%202017.pdf>

Reminder: Unity Teacher Grants Due

It's time to apply for small grants for K-12 teachers from the Unity Foundation... Michigan City Education Foundation, Teacher Innovation Fund, and Barbara A. Carmen grants are now online with October 13 deadlines: <http://uflc.net/grants/teacher-grants/>

Food Service News

- October 9-13 is National School Lunch Week and the theme is "Recipes for Success." Our cafeterias will celebrate by offering elementary students a chef salad in addition to their sandwich on Wednesday. (It will be our own version of Panera's "Pick 2"!) Our staff will also decorate for this week and have fun coloring activities for our students.
- October 6 is Smile Day, and our students will receive a special smiley treat this day. Food Day is also celebrated in October. This year the theme is "Let's Stalk About Sprouts," featuring brussels sprouts. Watch for these tasty vegetables one day in October.
- Many thanks to our MCHS Cafeteria Staff for their dedication in attending the flyover event at Ames Field on September 15th. They got up early to show their support and make sure the students were fed!

Flu Shots

Reminder: Walgreens will be at the high school (faculty lounge area) this Thursday, Oct 5th from 12:30 to 4pm to administer flu shots. The cost is \$31.99 if you don't have insurance. Otherwise flu shots are free and Walgreens will file with your insurance. Sign up in advance with the nurse or secretary in your building. Questions? Contact Linda Bechinski, lbechinski@educatemc.net.

CPR Training for Certified Staff

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held Thursday, November 16. 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) to sign up.

Car Wash for United Way

The annual MCAS/MCFD/MCPD Car Wash for United Way raised a record-breaking \$14,749.44! Thanks to all who volunteered, coordinated, and brought cars and school buses by for a wash. The MCAS United Way employee giving campaign is now under way ... thanks in advance for your support of the United Way, which does so much to support our students and their families.

ABC7 "Friday Flyover"

Thanks to all who supported the ABC7 Chicago's "Friday Flyover" on September 15. If you haven't seen the video and info yet, check it out here:

<http://abc7chicago.com/sports/friday-flyover-michigan-city-high-school/2392126/>

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://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816EAP.pdf>

October EAP Newsletter: "Help! My Partner Is Driving Me Crazy"

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202017/October%202017%20Franciscan%20Employee%20Assistance%20Program%20Newsletter.pdf>

October EAP Webinar

Please register for HELP!! Why Is My Partner Driving Me Crazy? and Staying Healthy On The Road on Oct 18, 2017 12:00 PM CDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1573768755072859906>

Healthy U @ Work September Newsletter

Food Safety, Eating late, Positive Thinking and more....

http://images.franciscanhealthcare.org/PDFs/NWI/ww_newsletter_september2017.pdf

We're Going Solar

The MCAS School Board recently approved moving forward with a solar panel project that will fully (or partially) meet energy needs at several of our buildings. Thanks to "net metering" legislation, we will be able to finance the project and experience significant savings. In about two weeks, you'll see ground-mounted panels being installed Pine, MCHS, Joy, Niemann, the Ad Building, Barker, and Krueger. The project will be completed by the end of December. A curricular component is also available; watch for more info on that coming soon.

Open Door Opening

The Open Door Adolescent Health Center at MCHS is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant. This is a \$12/hr grant-funded position and is not a MCAS position. Please share with anyone who may be interested. For more information:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202017/Administrative%20Assistant%202017.pdf>

Howl O Ween at Ames

Don't miss 'Howl O Ween at Ames' -- a safe trick or treating opportunity sponsored by the MCHS Athletic Department. This year's Howl O Ween at Ames will take place on Thursday, October 26 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Children through age 12 are welcome to attend, and they will be interacting with high school athletes and clubs as they make their way trick or treating around Ames Field. The Athletic Department is asking a donation of \$1.00 per child, and all proceeds will benefit Special Olympics. For more info, contact Craig Shaman at cshaman@mcas.k12.in.us

'Tis Almost the Season!

The Michigan City Salvation Army is seeking volunteers to ring bells this holiday season. Individuals and groups are greatly needed, beginning in mid-November. Sign up online at <http://ringbells.org> or contact Jessica_O'Brien@usc.salvationarmy.org. MCAS will also participate once again in districtwide drives for canned food and books. More info coming soon.

Red Shield Run 5K

The Michigan City Salvation Army is hosting a 5K run/walk on Saturday, October 28. This is a professionally timed event that begins and ends at Krueger Middle School, with a course through Pottawattomie Park. Registration is \$25 (\$30 day of the event) and there is a \$5 discount for students. For more information and to register:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202017/RSR%20Flyer%20and%20Registration%20Form.Final.pdf>

Joy Glow Run

Joy Elementary School will hold its annual "Vikings on the Run Glow Event" on Friday, November 3 at the Michigan City High School track. Check in begins at 5:15pm with laps starting at 5:45; participants are encouraged to complete as many laps around the track as possible in a 30 minute period, running or walking. For each lap, participants will receive another glow bracelet. Registration is \$15 through November 2 and \$20 on race day. A sign up form is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202017/Vikings%20on%20the%20Run%20Glow%20Event%20Flyer.pdf>

MCHS Music Dept News

Congrats to the MCHS Wolfpack Marching Band, which finished its season on a high note Saturday, bringing home gold at the ISSMA Festival Class Championships. The MCHS Music Department is having its first concert on Thursday, October 12 at 7 pm in the high school auditorium. Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and \$10 for families. The concert will feature Cadet Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Beginning Boys and Girls Choirs, Concert Choir, Treble Chorale and City Singers as well as the Wolfpack Marching Band. Also, the Music Department is selling Carson's Community Days books during the month of October. The coupon books are \$5 and have over \$500 of savings inside. Contact Michelle Howisen for a booklet or more information, mhowisen@mcas.k12.in.us.

Murder Mystery Fundraiser

The Greater Michigan City Drifters are having The Wicked Murder Mystery Wine Tasting at Shady Creek on Wednesday, October 18 from 5:30 to 8. Tickets are \$45 and are available

from Edgewood Principal Peggy Thomas. For more info email DriftersWineTasting@[gmail.com](mailto:DriftersWineTasting@gmail.com).

Blood Drive

Edgewood Elementary is hosting a blood drive on Friday October 27th 1-6 pm. Go to redcrossblood.org to sign up for an appointment, or contact Cindy Gesse (cgesse@mcas.k12.in.us).

Miami (OH) University Opportunities

Miami University's Project Dragonfly is accepting applications for 2018 Earth Expeditions graduate courses that offer extraordinary experiences in 16 countries. Project Dragonfly also offers the Advanced Inquiry Program master's degree that combines web instruction with experiential learning and field study. Applications for 2018 cohorts are being accepted now with place-based experiences provided at zoos in Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, San Diego and Seattle. Earth Expeditions can build toward the Global Field Program, a master's degree that combines summer field courses worldwide with web learning communities so that students can complete the GFP master's part-time from anywhere in the United States. Tuition is greatly reduced because of support from Miami University.

<http://EarthExpeditions.MiamiOH.edu/superintendents>

Trine Online Courses

Trine University offers online continuing education courses for educators. More info is here: http://www.virtualeduc.com/trine/?utm_source=trine&utm_medium=email&utm_content=image&utm_campaign=takeoff

Hour for Ours Update

Safe Harbor's Hours for Ours Mentoring program is accepting new mentors and mentees! Please contact Abby May at amay@educatemc.net to refer a student to the program, refer a mentor to the program, or become a mentor. Mentors are needed for elementary, middle school and high school students.

Joy Cares Hurricane Project

Joy Elementary's National Honor Society is partnering with the First United Methodist Church in Michigan City to help with hurricane and flooding relief in hard hit areas. They are collecting supplies for cleaning kits and hygiene kits, and welcome donations by October 13th. A list of needed items and more info is here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s3K2CfKyFwM_ggav859OTp_RD41Y4IaPAbacY9YSC2Q/edit?ts=59c11e69

Literacy Grant for Teachers

The Northwest Indiana Literacy Coalition is offering \$200 Ken Woodruff mini-grants to support literacy activities. The application is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202017/KW%20Minigrant%202017app.pdf>

Art Instruction Scholarships Available

The Michigan City Public Art Committee (MAC) has money available for scholarships to support children and teens taking art classes outside of school. An application is here:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202017/ArtScholarship.pdf>

Five Guys Give Backs

Do you enjoy the "Five Guys" in Michigan City? If so, make plans to eat there on the following dates to support our students... no coupon is required, but you must mention the cause you are there to support:

1. The A. K. Smith Career Center's HOSA chapter - Sunday, **October 15**
2. Pine Elementary School - Tuesday, **October 17**
3. MCHS Science Olympiad Team - Tuesday, **October 24**

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

- "Red Kite Treasure Adventure" performance for children with Autism (10/8)
- Free Lead Testing for ages 6 and under by Laporte Co Health Dept.
- The U - health/fitness program for kids at Uptown Center
- 4-H Open House (10/7)
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

- October 18 - Parent/Teacher Conferences for Barker/Krueger/MCHS
- October 19-20 - Fall Break NO SCHOOL
- October 26 - "Howl O Ween" at Ames, 6:30-8:00
- November 15 - Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 17-19 - MCHS Musical "13" (7pm Fri/Sat, 2pm Sun)
- December 14 - One City One Sound

WAY TO GO

- Congrats to the following teachers, who were in the Creekness Stakes canoe race representing MCAS on September 30th, benefiting Trail Creek Week. (They did NOT finish last!): **Amy Hamann, Stephanie Dege, Andy Jasicki, Daisy Lee, Victoria Gray, Val Mecklenburg**

WAY TO GO: GREAT NEWS!

The Lilly Foundation announced Friday that MCAS has received the competitive Comprehensive Counseling Grant! The grant is \$558,800 over 4 years, and will fund a "cradle to career" initiative of social services to support our students. We also received notice that we are the recipient of a \$200,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services for Evidence Based Social Service Support. THANK YOU to Micki Webb and the MANY teachers, counselors, administrators, support staff and community members who worked on these grants.