

MCAS Communicator

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

October 2018

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

Chamber Educator (and Program) of the Year

Reminder!! The Michigan City Chamber of Commerce will have an "Educator of the Year" dinner on November 6th and is now seeking nominations for outstanding educator, lifetime achievement, and shining light (for an exemplary program). This is a wonderful way to honor our teachers and programs! Please consider making a nomination and please share. [The form is HERE](#); nominations are due October 12.

Reminder: Unity Teacher Grants

It's time for teachers to apply online for Unity Foundation grants! There are opportunities for all grade levels. Deadline is October 12.

<http://uflc.net/grants/teacher-grants/>

Homecoming info

Homecoming is this Friday, October 5th! The parade steps off from the Elston YMCA parking lot at 6:00pm, heading south on Franklin to Ames Field. MCAS employees do **not** need to purchase a ticket; your staff ID will admit you to this game as it does for all regular season home games. However, tickets for the general public are on sale at the MCHS Athletic office this week - hours are 7:30am to 2:30pm, use the doors in back by the gym. (Tickets are \$6 for adults, 5 and under free.) The Athletic office is also selling "City Pride" t shirts for \$10 and "City/We are MC" yard signs for \$15. See below for shuttle info.

Shuttle to Ames

Due to reduced parking near Ames Field, the Wolves will be running a shuttle bus to and from Marquette Mall and Ames Field. The shuttle will run on all football game days from 6-7:30pm, and for 45-60 minutes at the conclusion of all games (approximately 9:30pm). The pickup/dropoff location at Marquette Mall is the south parking lot outside of the former JC Penney. The pickup/dropoff location at Ames Field is the southwest corner of Wabash and Arthur streets. The shuttle is FREE!

Food Service News

All elementary school cafeterias will be celebrating National School Lunch Week from October 15 - 19th. The theme this year is "Lots 2 Love." Visit your school cafeteria this week to see how we will celebrate and just how much there is to love! Food Services will also be celebrating the 2018 Food Day in October and this year's chosen food is "Rah Rah Radishes"! We will feature radishes in our menu this month to celebrate.

Lights on Afterschool

MCAS Safe Harbor and Boys and Girls Club of Michigan City are collaborating to celebrate the Lights On Afterschool 2018 by offering a breakfast summit for local leaders outlining the important role afterschool programs play in the lives of children, parents, schools, and communities. We are proud to be members of the Indiana Afterschool Network and Afterschool Alliance! #AfterschoolWorks

City Seeking Feedback

The City of Michigan City is holding several community input sessions on programming/activities for the new plaza downtown. Dates/times/location info is here: <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202018/Plaza-input-flyer.pdf>

CPR for Certified Staff

A CPR class for certified staff in need of license renewal will be held on Wednesday, November 14th 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.

Flu Shots

Walgreens will be giving flu shots at MCHS **this Thursday**, October 4 from 1:30 - 4:00pm. This will take place in the teacher's lounge; enter through door M (by the "horseshoe" parking area on the side of the building). All MCAS staff are welcome to come and have a flu shot - cost is \$31.99, but if you have insurance or Medicare they will bill insurance to cover the cost. Sign up sheets are with all nurses (or if no nurse in your location, see your secretary/receptionist). You can come anytime but they would like advance sign ups so they know how much vaccine to bring. Questions? Contact Linda Bechinski at lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us

United Way Update

THANK YOU to all who stopped by (or volunteered at!) the MCAS/MCPD/MCFD car wash for the United Way last Friday. (More than \$12,000 was raised, thanks in large part to a \$10,000 donation from Acme Communications.) AND NOW: The MCAS **2018 United Way Employee Giving Campaign** is underway! When you make a donation you are helping to provide solutions to the most critical needs in our community. It's easy! You may choose to make a direct cash gift, credit card donation or payroll deduction. Sign your pledge form and keep the pink copy for your records. Your name goes into a drawing for lunch or dinner with Dr. Eason-Watkins or one of two gift baskets. The school or department with the highest % of giving will receive donuts. Your donation is appreciated and will help nonprofits right here in our community, including Safe Harbor and the Open Door Health Center at MCHS.

Are YOU Registered to Vote?

Deadline to register to vote in the November 6 election is October 9.

https://indianavoters.in.gov/?gclid=CjwKCAjwxILdBRBqEiwAHL2R80V83qhdID8ibgMQSwgZuRkRr7ellnFTCBXke8oPz_Dcw1h2ktNmXxoCCEQQAvD_BwE

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>

EAP Newsletter - October: Stress

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202018/2018%20EAP%20October%20Newsletter.pdf>

October EAP Webinar

Please register for "From Surviving To Thriving With Stress: Where Is Your Balance?" and "Staying Healthy When You Work The Night Shift" on Oct 17, 2018 1:00 PM CDT at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7282937817074456323>

New Adult Ed Program

Ivy Tech Community College and Michigan City Area Schools are partnering to bring technical courses to adults at the AK Smith Center starting October 15. Courses will include Automotive, Construction, Manufacturing, Logistics, Welding and Certified Production Technician. The courses are eligible for Next Level Jobs funding and there will be no cost to qualifying participants. For more information contact Rob at rjeffs@ivytech.edu or (219) 879-9137 x 6252

Attention, Music Lovers!

Exciting news: 46 Michigan City High School choral students who are members of the City Singers and Treble Chorale are preparing to sing the world premier of a Symphony. On Saturday, November 3, these students will combine with 150 other choir students from Munster, Wheeler, Washington Township, Kankakee Valley and Lowell High Schools to sing Johan de Meij's Symphony #5, under the direction of Mr. de Meij himself. The symphony is inspired by Lord of the Rings. The concert will be held at Valpo University on November 3 at 5pm; adult tickets are \$25, seniors are \$20, and students are \$10. Purchase tickets here: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?actions=16&p=1>

Annual Craft Show

The Michigan City High School Parent Network will hold its annual Craft and Vendor Fair at MCHS on October 13. Interested in a booth? Visit the Parent Network Facebook page or email mchsparentnetwork@gmail.com. More info: <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//September%202018/Craft%20%20Vendor%20Fair.pdf>

Exchangettes Youth Grant

The Michigan City Exchangettes Club is offering a Making A Difference grant. The program awards mini-grants ranging from \$50 - \$500 to youth in 3rd-8th grades providing a community service or event in Michigan City. This can be an individual or group. Grant submission deadline is Friday, October 12, 2018. This is the link to the grant application: <https://goo.gl/6va411> If you have questions regarding your application please contact (219)879-5975 or veryirishme@gmail.com.

WGN Teacher of the Month

Because we're in the WGN viewing area, our teachers are eligible for this honor... spread the word! <https://wgntv.com/2018/07/25/wgn-tvs-teacher-of-the-month-sponsored-by-kenneth-j-allen-law-group-official-rules-2018-2019/>

Designer Purse Bingo

Junior Achievement of LaPorte County will be holding a Designer Purse Bingo event on November 2. See the flyer below for details! <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202018/Purse%20Bingo%20Flyer-01.jpg>

Howl O Ween

The Michigan City High School athletic department invites all children to attend its annual "Howl O Ween at Ames" event on Thursday, October 25, from 6:30 to 8:00pm. At Howl O Ween, children can come in costume to safely trick or treat around Ames field, receiving

treats from high school athletes and club members... and students will be engaging in a number of fun activities with them, as well. A suggested donation of \$1.00 per child will benefit the Champions Together program.

SUPPORT TEAM MCAS WITH THESE GIVE BACKS!

- **Carlson's** (get your hotdog and rootbeer before they close for the season!) This Wednesday, October 3rd. Supports MCHS Athletic Boosters:
<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202018/MCHS%20Booster%20Club%20Carlsons%20Give%20Back-1.pdf>
- **Five Guys**, Thursday October 11th. Supports Pine Elementary School:
<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202018/FGposter1PM.pdf>

WAY TO GO!!

- Artwork by Barker/Krueger Art teacher **Kelly Rothermel** is part of the Chesterton Art Center's Art Comp 2018! The exhibit was featured last month and is still on display at the gallery (115 S. 4th Street) through Wednesday.
- Our district, along with project partner Performance Services, is the recipient of a **2018 Governor's Award for Environmental Science** - in recognition of our Solar and LED Lighting project. Our energy project is the largest of its kind for any school district in Indiana!

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

- Orak "Trunk or Treat" (Oct 28)
- Halloween Fun Night at the Elston YMCA (Oct 18)
- Paladin at Barker Woods Open House (Oct 6)
- Girls Aviation Day at LaPorte Airport (Oct 20)
- Educator of the Year Nomination form (deadline Oct 12)
- "Dance with Me" program
- And more!

Calendar Reminders:

- October 5 - Homecoming
- October 13 - MCHS Parent Network Craft Show at MCHS (9am - 2pm)
- October 17 - Secondary Parent/Teacher conferences
- October 18-19 - Fall Break (no school)
- October 25 - Howl O Ween at Ames Field, 6:30-8:00 pm
- November 9-11 - MCHS Fall Musical "Urinetown"
- November 14 - Elementary Parent/Teacher conferences
- November 19-23 - Thanksgiving Break (no school)
- December 6 - One City One Sound
- December 24 - Winter Break Begins