

# MCAS Communicator

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

## October 2019

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

### Have YOU downloaded the new app?

The Michigan City Area Schools app has launched! Please take a moment to visit the App Store or Google Play and download it to your device.

**(Shortcut:** Scan the code here and you will be taken to the appropriate location to download the app.) Follow your school and others you may want to follow, and take a look at the many great features!



### Food Service News

The Food Service Dept. is having a Holiday Trees fundraiser for the "Random Acts of Kindness" fund to help families pay negative meal account balances. (Please see the flyer below for information.) Each school secretary has an order sheet for the \$10 (10-12 inch) trees. ALSO: MCAS Child Nutrition Programs will be celebrating **National School Lunch Week** October 14-16. The theme for this year is "What's on Your Play List?" We will have special menu items and prizes for students. Thank you for eating school lunch!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202019/Holiday%20Tree%20Sale%202019.pdf>

### 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>

### October EAP Newsletter

How to deal with a difficult boss!

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202019/Franciscan%20Employee%20Asistance%20Program%20October%202019%20Newsletter.pdf>

### October EAP Webinar

Please register for "Smart Strategies To Successfully Deal With A Difficult Boss" and "Fitness Mistakes That Can Sabotage Your Workouts" on Oct 16, 2019 12:00 PM CDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7958351325501136642>

### CPR for Certified Staff

A CPR class for certified staff in need of license renewal will be held Thursday, November 21 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](mailto:lbechinski@educateMC.net).

### **United Way Campaign ENDS FRIDAY!**

Many thanks to everyone who has already donated to this year's campaign! There's still time to give. The campaign has been extended to Friday, October 4th. Help create pathways to success for our youth and build bridges to financial stability for adults and families in LaPorte County. Every donation matters! Turn in your completed pledge form to your school secretary. For more information contact Sherri Silcox at [ssilcox@educatemc.net](mailto:ssilcox@educatemc.net) or x 8740. <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202019/United%20Way%20Pledge%20Form.pdf>

### **Michigan City Robotics Team FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC)**

Do you know a student who could benefit from Robotics? FTC students work side by side with high school robotics state champions and professional engineers to design, build, and program an erector-set sized robot to compete in local competitions.

- 7th to 12th grade
- No prior robotics knowledge required!
- FREE!!
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, October 1st to December 17th, 5:00 to 7:00 at AK Smith Career Center

For more info contact Sherri Silcox at [ssilcox@educatemc.net](mailto:ssilcox@educatemc.net) or 219-873-2026 x 8740. <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202019/FTC%20Recruitment%20Poster.pdf>

### **Educators of the Year**

Nominations are still open for the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce 2019 Educators of the Year. Teachers, administrators, programs, and community/business partners can all be nominated for various awards that are part of this event. Please consider making a nomination! The deadline is October 14 and the awards dinner is November 12. [Here is the nomination form.](#)

### **"Howl" O Ween**

The annual Howl-O-Ween "Trick or Treat" event at Ames Field will be held on Thursday, October 24, 6:30-8:00pm. Children ages 0-13 are welcome; our high school teams and clubs will be present to pass out candy and engage young children in activities. A donation of \$1 per child is requested, which will support the Special Olympics.

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202019/Howl-o-ween%20at%20Amesbk%202019.pdf>

### **Ivy Tech Classes at AK Smith**

The LaPorte County Career and Technical Education Program is partnering with Ivy Tech to offer evening training classes for adults in Welding, Electrical, and Logistical Controls. Welding and Electrical classes will take place at the A.K. Smith Career Center beginning October 28. Financial assistance (in many cases covering all costs) is available. The classes are open to adults and also to high school students age 16 and over. If interested in enrolling, please contact Ivy Tech at (219) 879-9137 or stop by their location in Michigan City at 3714 Franklin Street.

### **Partners in Prevention**

Last month, the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte awarded 11 LaPorte County schools/districts (including MCAS) grant funding for the Partners in Prevention initiative. The 3-year initiative provides our district with evidence-based curricula to help develop, identify, implement and sustain substance-use prevention programs. The programs foster positive relationships and social competencies, address addictive behavior, bullying, and violence, all while increasing school attendance, self-esteem and more. Implementation is beginning this fall in grades 4 & 5 with the Second Steps program; Botvin will be used in Grades 7 & 8.

During year two, Grades 2, 3, and 6 will be added and K, 1, and high school will be implemented during year three. Ray Silvas is coordinating this important initiative for our district.

### **Attention Runners (and Walkers)!**

The Salvation Army of Michigan City is holding its annual "Red Shield Run/Walk" 5K on Saturday, October 12. The race begins at 8am, registration is at 7am. This departs from Krueger Middle School and the course runs through Pottawattomie Park. See below for more info and a link to register! (Or, just come the morning of the event to run.)

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202019/5K%20Reg%20Form.pdf>

### **Bell Ringers Wanted**

The Salvation Army's bell-ringing campaign begins November 8, and they are seeking individuals and groups to ring. Sign up for an hour or two - or an entire day! An online sign up is at <http://registertoring.com>

### **AEDs**

Michigan City Area Schools was among 10 organizations that received Automated External Defibrillators - better known as AEDs - last month from the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte. The six devices our district received will be used by our Athletic Trainers, at Ames Field, and at other locations across our district. We will now have at least one AED at all buildings in our district and we are very grateful for these lifesaving devices.

### **Tickets at Work - October Savings**

As an MCAS employee, you can receive discounts on entertainment through Tickets at Work. Use the company code "MCAS". Check out their October specials on events, concerts, and much more:

<https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/cms/lib/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85//October%202019/TixWorkOct.pdf>

### **Barker Mansion Field Trips**

The Barker Mansion is a turn-of-the-century Gilded Age home in Michigan City, built by industrialist John H. Barker. It offers several field trip options and special programs tailored to specific subjects, such as Civil War history, American history, art, architecture, and design. (Coming soon: STEM!) There is no charge for MCAS students and teachers. For info contact T. J. Kalin, Assistant Director, [akalin@emichigancity.com](mailto:akalin@emichigancity.com) or (219) 873-1520.

[http://www.barkermansion.com/images/Barker\\_Mansion\\_Field\\_Trip\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.barkermansion.com/images/Barker_Mansion_Field_Trip_Flyer.pdf)

## **Upcoming Events**

- October 4 - Made in LaPorte County
- October 4 - Anti-Bullying/Suicide Prevention Assembly at MCHS
- October 14 - Deadline for nominations, Chamber Educator of Year
- October 16 - Parent Conferences at MCHS, Barker, Krueger
- October 17-18 - Fall Break
- October 24 - Howl O Ween at Ames
- **November 5 - eLearning Day (Election Day)**
- November 6 - AKS Open House
- November 9 - MCHS Parent Network Craft & Vendor Fair (9-2)
- November 12 - Chamber Educator of the Year Awards
- November 15-17 - MCHS Fall Musical "Ghost"
- November 25-29 - Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL

- December 2-13 - Districtwide Holiday Food Drive
- **December 9 - eLearning Day**
- December 12 - One City One Sound
- December 23 - Jan 3 - Winter Break NO SCHOOL

# #MCASGiantLeaps