

# MCAS Communicator

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

OCTOBER 2021

*Please post for/share with those employees who do not check email.*

## K-6 Math Pilot in Progress!

Elementary pilot classrooms across MCAS are in full swing with Illustrative Mathematics - our new curriculum for K-6. Through IM, students learn by *doing* math, solving problems in mathematical and real-world contexts, and constructing arguments using precise language.



### **Things are really "shaping up" in kindergarten**

Kindergarteners at Marsh are learning all about forming numbers, counting, and connecting numbers to pictures. They all have counting jars and are well on their way to counting beyond 100! They are also learning to identify shapes by using different characteristics of the shapes.

### **First-Grade Mathematicians are making it happen!**

The 1st graders at Pine also have counting jars and are becoming number line experts. They are learning about addition and subtraction, and are using those skills to solve one-step story problems. They work well together in their learning teams, and are able to share what they are learning using grade-level math vocabulary!

### **Third-graders are off the chart**

The 3rd-grade pilot classrooms at Springfield, Marsh, Joy, and Edgewood are working their way through multiplication. Not only are they getting better and better with their facts, they are also able to show the reasoning behind each fact by using area representations or array models. Along with multiplication, these 3rd graders are becoming experts at using data to make their own graphs, and can even pick the correct scale for their graph by looking at the data they are given.

### **Fifth-Grade Mathematicians are turning up the volume**

The 5th grade pilot at Knapp is learning about area and volume and doing so with fractions. Students share their thinking about area and represent the area of a shape in multiple ways. The next unit will build on their knowledge of area and challenge them with multiplication and division of fractions. These young mathematicians are learning to share their thinking, and also how to build on the thinking of their peers.

### **Sixth-graders are just scratching the surface!**

The 6th grade pilot students at Springfield, Coolspring, and Lake Hills are also working with area and volume, but have the added challenge of surface area. These students are recognizing patterns in math and using these patterns to explain generalizations. Students are excited to share their thinking and are frequently asked to show how they solved a problem in a different way.

Thank you to Mike Maesch for this update!

## And at the Secondary Level ...

Student engagement and excitement is evident in the rigorous discourse and grappling occurring in our seventh grade and high school pilot classrooms. Students are collaboratively problem solving and integrating content vocabulary and new ways of problem solving and reasoning into their daily math routines.

Our high school teachers were able to visit some of our seventh grade and third grade classrooms this week. They were highly impressed with the level of student engagement and higher-level thinking they were able to see in classrooms. Students have shared that they love math and are having fun with the hands-on grappling and activities that make up the curriculum.

*Thanks, Francesca Varga, for updating us!*



## MCAS is #BackOnTrack ...

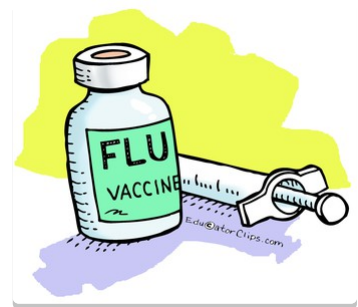
We enjoyed seeing everyone jump "on board" with this year's back-to-school theme! We hope you're off to a great start this school year.

[CLICK HERE to see a Dance Train from our friends at Marsh Elementary School](#)

## Looking for a flu shot?

On Thursday, Oct. 7th, Walgreens will be at Michigan City High School to administer flu shots. They will be in the Faculty Resource Center (Room A129) at the High School from 2 PM - 4:30 PM. (Enter by Door M in the horseshoe at MCHS).

All MCAS staff and family members 3 years and older are eligible. They will bill your insurance, please bring your insurance card. If uninsured there will be no charge.



Please [SIGN UP HERE](#) no later than October 1. Questions? Contact MCAS Director of Nursing Brandi Morlan at [bmorlan01@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:bmorlan01@mcas.k12.in.us)

[CLICK HERE to read an article in the Chicago Tribune - "8 things to know about the flu shot"](#)

## 10 Digits for Local Calls

Beginning October 24, northwest Indiana residents will be required to dial 10 digits instead of 7 to make local phone calls in the 219 and 574 area codes. (The change will make room for the FCC's new 988 Suicide Prevention Lifeline.) Please remember to add our area code when sharing/listing school phone numbers in your communications! **Important:** There is no change for outgoing calls you make

using MCAS phones to 219 numbers. Our system has been programmed to automatically add the "219" to the number you dial.

## 911 Reminder

If you ever accidentally misdial a number and call 911, please stay on the line and tell the dispatcher that you made the call by mistake. If you have already hung up, call 911 back and tell the dispatcher you made the mistake.



## Howl-O-Ween at Ames!

Are you ready to Trick-or-Treat?

Join us on Thursday, October 28 from 6:30 to 8 pm for our annual Howl-O-Ween at Ames for some Halloween fun! **Kids ages 0-13 are invited to wear a costume and trick-or-treat at Ames Field.** We will have more than 30 stations of activities, games, prizes, and candy. Parents welcome! We ask for a donation of \$1, proceeds will go to Special Olympics. This event is made possible by the MCHS Unified Track Team. For more information, call (219) 873-2043.

## Coming Soon: Our United Way Campaign!

It's that time of year again ... the United Way of La Porte County will soon be kicking off its annual campaign, and we hope you will consider supporting this organization that does so much to help MCAS students and our community! Watch for campaign information coming soon; there will be opportunities to donate online or through payroll deduction.



During COVID, United Way funding has helped support ...

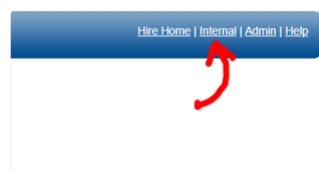
- Safe Harbor Learning Center at Joy during COVID
- Hot spots for remote learning last year
- Food distributions and other assistance by agencies serving our families

And the United Way provides ongoing support for ...

- MCAS Kindergarten Countdown program
- Safe Harbor Summer Camp
- Safe Harbor After-School programs including Robotics and mentoring
- Open Door Adolescent Health Center at Michigan City High School
- MANY other community agencies that support our students and their families!

## New Link for Employment Opportunities

We have transitioned to PowerSchool Applicant tracking. This has replaced the RDS postings and application process. You will find the internal postings by clicking on "Employment Opportunities" button on



the MCAS website, and then choosing the "Internal" link in the top right corner and following the on-screen instructions.

[HERE IS THE DIRECT LINK](#) for internal postings.



## Congratulations to the MCHS Booster Club Raffle winners!

\$1,000 - Karen Griffin  
\$500 - Jennifer Holt  
\$500 - Greg Deutscher  
\$250 - The Latchford Family  
\$250 - Connie Myres  
\$100 - Jeff Kelmczak  
\$100 - Jon Iacovetti  
\$100 - Pamela Baldwin  
\$100 - Rich Boch  
\$100 - Jenny Jones

*Thank you to everyone who supported the MC Raffle Fundraiser, allowing the Booster Club to help MCHS student athletes.*

**Go Wolves!**

### ***EAP (Employee Assistance Program)***

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 the link above for important information about this service!

#### **EAP Webinar - October**

**Finding Sanity in Surrender  
&  
Tips for a Strong Immune System**

**Wed, Oct 20, 2021 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM CDT**

[Register HERE](#)



## October EAP Newsletter

This month's topic: Finding Sanity in Surrender



### Ongoing COVID-19 testing site at Rural King

Free COVID tests (rapid and PCR) are available Tuesday through Saturday from 12 noon until 8 pm at the Rural King parking lot in La Porte, regardless of symptoms. Registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

### MCAS Masks Available!

Show your MCAS pride with this stylish, comfortable face mask, available for only \$5 each (cash or checks payable to MCAS)! Contact Sarah Painter at the Administration Building at [spainter@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:spainter@mcas.k12.in.us) to purchase one!

### October Specials for Teachers!

Evexia Salt Cave is offering discounts for teachers/admins on services during the months of October. Must pre-register and show employee identification. Contact [evexasaltsaltcave@gmail.com](mailto:evexasaltsaltcave@gmail.com) or (219) 728-6791.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Update (ISDH Newsletter)

## MCAS COVID-19 Resource Page

This is your go-to place for information, resources, data dashboard and more!

Give Backs for Pine!

You can help fund the integration of the arts at Pine Fine Arts Magnet School by attending "Give Back" events this fall.

**Panera Bread - Wednesday, October 27th, 4:00 - 8:00 pm**

**Chipotle - Wednesday, November 17th, 4:00 - 8:00 pm**

Contact Julie Schmidt ([jschmidt@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:jschmidt@mcas.k12.in.us)) at Pine with any questions.

## Get your Wolves Wear Gear! (And support Barker STEM Programs)

2021-2022 Barker MC Wolves Wear SALE! NEW MC Wolves Logo! NEW Items Added! NEW Infomercial!

Each Friday, orders are submitted. Orders normally take about 2 weeks to process. Adult sizes.

Cash sale or checks make payable to Barker Middle School. THANK YOU in advance for your support!

[Barker MC Wolves Wear SALE Infomercial](#)

[Barker MC Wolves Wear Apparel Pictures](#)

[Student & Mens Order Form](#)

[Ladies Order Form](#)

Orders forms & payment please send to: Mrs. Amy Hamann, Barker STEM Teacher & STEM Coordinator, Room 402, 873-2057 ext. 7318, [ahamann@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:ahamann@mcas.k12.in.us)



Congratulations to Karen Eigenmann, math teacher from Krueger Middle School, who competed in the Hoosier Star 2021 event! Watch the link below to see her performance (begins around 1 hour 23 minutes).

### Hoosier Star 2021





## Breast Cancer Walk THIS SATURDAY

Minority Health Partners of La Porte County is hosting a Breast Cancer Walk on Saturday, Oct. 2 at Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ (2722 West Wabash Street) at 9am.

There will be a contest between Michigan City High School and Marquette High School! The school with the most participants will win the "Pink Bell," an old Elston vs. La Porte tradition.

**Also ...** the Indiana Department of Health will provide **FREE COVID-19 tests and vaccinations** at this event from 9am to 4pm (on Saturday, Oct. 2 at Pentecostal Temple of God in Christ Church) for anyone ages 12 and older.

No appointment is necessary, but you can click to register for the [test](#) or [vaccine](#) to save time.

## Indiana Learning Lab Expands Online Resource for Educators

The Indiana Department of Education has partnered with philanthropic groups across the state to expand the Indiana Learning Lab with expanded resources. Included are instructional resources, professional development workshops, and live coaching from IDOE staff -- all focused on supporting literacy, digital, and STEM instruction with ready-to-use resources and lesson ideas.

To access the Indiana Learning Lab, educators can visit the Indiana Learning Lab website at [www.inlearninglab.com](http://www.inlearninglab.com) and log in with their school email address or through [IDOE's Link Portal](#).

### *2021-22 School Year Calendar*

## CPR Resources for Teachers/Certified Staff

Need CPR Certification? Here are two options to consider!

OPTION 1: Val Skwiat, Trainer/Safety Manager, MCAS Transportation Department has provided the following information:

- Go to [elearning.heart.org](http://elearning.heart.org) and complete your course.
- Send Val an email or call/text to schedule the "hands on" portion.
- If you live near, she can come to your house, or meet at your school.
- She will need a copy of your course completion certificate.
- The cost is \$15 and she will have the certification card for you.
- [vskwiat@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:vskwiat@mcas.k12.in.us) - Cell: 219-874-1716





OPTION 2: David Sanders, EMT Instructor at AK Smith, has provided this info about his company, Crash Course CPR:

- Go to [IneedaCPRcard.com](http://IneedaCPRcard.com) for information
- A simple CPR Card refresher class is \$30. This is an all-inclusive class including an online quiz and skills test out.
- Takes approximately 1 hour to complete (also available through Zoom)
- Appointments available - Monday through Friday 10:00 am - Noon, plus after school and evening hours.
- Bring your friends: We have enough CPR equipment to provide individual or up to 40 students at a time.
- Payment can be made at the time of service or online at [www.IneedaCPRcard.com](http://www.IneedaCPRcard.com)
- Questions? Contact David Sanders (812) 821-0433

**Enjoy Fall Break \* October 14 & 15**

