

MCAS Communicator

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

October 2012

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

State of Our Schools

Dr. Eason-Watkins invites MCAS staff to attend the annual "State of the Schools" address tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6:00 p.m. in the MCHS auditorium. During the presentation Dr. Eason-Watkins will give staff, parents, and community members an update on our progress, and she will review of achievement data and outline priorities for the coming year. Don't miss it! (She promises everyone will be home in plenty of time to watch the Presidential debates.) The speech will be rebroadcast through [October 22](#) on Channel 98, at 8:00 am and 6:00 pm.

What a Wash!

The results are in: MCAS raised \$1,078 for the United Way through the MCAS Administrator Car Wash on [September 28th](#). This topped the MC Police and Fire Depts! Thanks to all who stopped by to support the cause (including several SCHOOL BUSES that lined up for a scrub) and to the many principals, administrators, and Safe Harbor staff who washed, rinsed, and dried. Special thanks to Herb Higgin, Sherri Silcox, John Yeakey, and Doug Schroeder who worked hard to get things organized for the wash. The MCAS United Way campaign officially kicks off this week - thank you in advance for considering a payroll deduction or lump sum donation this year. United Way supports Safe Harbor, Hours for Ours, Open Door and MANY other agencies in our community that serve our students and families.

Smooth Jazz Discount

"2 for 1" tickets are now available for the [October 13](#) "Music in the City" Smooth Jazz concert at Blue Chip, featuring Billboard Top 10 jazz vocalist and saxophonist Mindi Abair and guitarist Bryan Lubeck. Proceeds will support our "Dress for Success" program and will assist in providing musical instruments and equipment for our schools. To take advantage of the special discount, follow the link below to Ticketmaster, and enter the following code in the field under "2 for 1" - TMN241. You can also purchase tickets at the Blue Chip gift show to save the Ticketmaster fees. Ask for the 2 for 1 discount. Note: You must be age 21+ to attend.
<http://www.ticketmaster.com/Blue-Chip-Casino-tickets-Michigan-City/venue/57756#>

CPR Certification

Teachers who need CPR certification for license renewal should contact Linda Bechinski ASAP at lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us. She is setting up a class that will be offered after school by Opportunity Enterprises at Mullen this fall. Cost is only \$30.

Lights On After School

Mark your calendar: the 14th annual national "Lights On After School" celebration is [October 16th](#)! This event calls national attention to the importance of after-school programs for children, families and communities. On the 16th, Michigan City's McDonalds and WIMS Radio are hosting a give-back night at the McDonald's Play

Place (3507 Franklin) from 4:00-7:00 p.m. McDonalds will donate 15% of sales to Safe Harbor and Hours for Ours. During the event, Safe Harbor staff will be on hand to explain the program to community members. In addition, students involved in the Safe Harbor, Club Discovery, and Cafe Read a Latte Programs will showcase activities they are involved in. Come and check out student artwork, and see musical performances, poetry readings, robotics demos and more.

Lead and Seed

Lead & Seed will celebrate the first ever National *Above the Influence* day on **October 18**. This year the Lead & Seed students will be working to educate their peers on the effects of drugs and alcohol while encouraging everyone to stay above the influence. For more information about how to join the Lead & Seed movement please contact Nakia Bonds ([\(219\) 873-2026](tel:2198732026) ext. 8737 or Tonya Jones (219) [873-2057](tel:2198732057) ext.7329.

Club Discovery News

Club Discovery is the middle school sector of Safe Harbor's after-school programming. This year Club Discovery is on the move! **Barker Middle School** is offering a series of new enrichment classes including Photography 101, Tech Club, a Book Club sponsored by the MCPL and many other service learning projects. **Elston Middle School** is offering drumming sessions through the Positive Flow programming, led by Tim Catchings. Students at Elston are also working to support the Anti-Bullying movement by designing a comic book that expresses the issues students encounter involving bullying behaviors. The comic book will be available at the end of this school quarter. **Krueger Middle School** is offering a horticulture focused program. Students have worked hard preparing the green house on location for growing vegetables. These vegetables will be used to complete a service learning project focused on healthy living during the second semester. Krueger students will attend field trips that give them a clear understanding of our environment and how they can contribute to improving the environment. For more information regarding how to register for a Club Discovery program, please see your program site coordinator for an application.

"Team MCAS" Logowear Clearance Sale

Reprographic Arts is holding a clearance sale on the "TEAM MCAS" polos they have in stock. For a limited time, you can get one for just \$6. Here are the quantities/sizes they have left at this price: Womens (Small 7, Medium 6, Large 6, XL 10, XXL 6, XXXL 1); Mens (Small 2, Medium 2, Large 3, XL 1). Contact Kevin Brown ([872-9111](tel:8729111) or kbrown@raplanroom.com) or stop by 1017 Franklin Street to pick one up **today**.

Lilly Teacher Fellowships

The Lilly Endowment has announced that it will offer up to 100 grants of \$10,000 each to teachers, counselors, library/media specialists, principals, and assistant principals in Indiana. The program will support creative projects that are personally renewing and intellectually revitalizing to educators (the endowment believes that engaged educators = engaged students!). Just ask Edgewood teacher Tess Pavloff...she received one of these amazing fellowship grants last year! For information about the 2013 program, visit <http://teachercreativity.org/>. (Deadline for applications is **November 2**.)

Wilson Scholars Program

The Wilson Education Center has partnered with the American College of Education (ACE) and is offering Indiana educators a \$1,000 grant toward an online Master of

Education degree. For information visit the link below or call [1-800-280-0307](tel:1-800-280-0307). Admission and grant applications are due **November 19** for the **November 26** term. <http://www.ace.edu/wilson-scholars-program>

Transition to Teaching

Non-certified staff: The American College of Education has recently been approved as an Indiana transition to teaching program. Through ACE, you can earn a teaching license in 12 months, fully online. For details visit the link below or call [1-800-280-0307](tel:1-800-280-0307).

<http://www.ace.edu/academics/department-of-curriculum-instruction/transition-to-teaching-and-master-of-arts-in-teaching>

Continuing Education Courses

Trine University's School of Professional Studies offers a number of online, self-paced, continuing education courses for teachers. For information, visit the link below:

<http://www.virtualeduc.com/e-announcements/trine.htm>

See You at Ames!

Michigan City High School is gearing up for the big Homecoming game [this Friday, October 5](#), when the Wolves will take on the Laporte Slicers at Ames Field at 7:00 p.m. Spirit Week activities are now in full swing at MCHS; a homecoming parade is scheduled to step off from Elston at 6:00 p.m. [Friday](#) and proceed down Franklin Street to Ames field. The Athletic Boosters will be holding their annual chili and pizza supper outside Ames field before the game, and tickets for that event are available on site or from any fall athlete. Following the game, there will be a Homecoming Dance beginning at 9:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. GO WOLVES!

WAY TO GO

- Congrats to Pine Literacy Coach **Mary Gish**, who has been named to two national committees through the American Library Association. Mary will serve on the Innovative Reading Grant Committee and on the teacher advisory board for Teacher Created Materials.
- Congrats to Lake Hills teachers **Susan Peohl** and **Cindy Post**, who have been named Junior Achievement Teachers of the Year. This is the second year that this dynamic duo has received this honor, which is given annually by JA in partnership with the Michigan City Rotary Club.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Foreign Language Resource

The Michigan City Public Library has a new free program accessible with a library card via the library's website at www.mclib.org. "Pronunciator" is a language lab where you can learn over 60 different languages. The vocabulary and reading program is interactive and features speech recognition, quiz scoring, and progress measurement. The program can be interfaced with apps on iphone, ipod, or ipad.

Books for travelers are downloadable. The program is free and perfect for students. The only requirement is a library card and email address. For more information, contact the Literacy department at [219-873-3043](tel:219-873-3043).

Reins Seeking Volunteers

Reins of Life is seeking volunteers to feed horses in the morning (approximately 7:30-9:00 a.m.) at their location on W. 300 N (near Coolspring school). If you know anyone who may be interested, please contact Dorota Janik, dorotajanik@hotmail.com or call [874-7519](tel:874-7519).

October Library Programs for Youth

Check out the following link for LaPorte County Public Library programs for kids and teens!

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/site/default.aspx?DomainID=49>