

# MCAS Communicator

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

## October 2014

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

### **CAR WASH EMERGENCY!!!**

#### **Now that we have your attention...**

Don't forget: **THIS FRIDAY** is the Michigan City Area Schools annual CAR WASH for a great cause. For the fourth year, we will be holding a car wash on the same day as our local police and fire departments – all to benefit the United Way of LaPorte County, which supports our students and families in so many ways...including funding of the Open Door Adolescent Health Center, Hours for Ours, Safe Harbor, and the Kindergarten Countdown program.

Last year, Chief Swistek and his colleagues raised a bit more than we did in this friendly competition...and this seems to have gone to their heads. So this year, Dr. Eason-Watkins is calling on all employees, board members, community members, parents, and friends to please help us as we de-throne the police and take our rightful place as top fundraisers for the United Way!

The MCAS car wash will be held **THIS FRIDAY** from **2:30 to 6:00 p.m.** at the **MCK Car Wash** on Woodland Avenue near Rt. 20. We will have a special "elite wash" lane for donors of \$100 or more, featuring a tire treatment and deluxe wash, plus a special photo opportunity and early bird service beginning at 1:45. For those who are in a hurry, we will also have a speedy "waterless wash" opportunity, where you can simply drop off your donation to United Way and be on your way!

We are grateful to MCK Car Wash on Woodland Avenue for hosting us again and donating the washing supplies; to the high school basketball team, MCESP members, Safe Harbor Staff, and MCAS Administrators who will be washing cars – and to Captain Ed who will be there with his pirate ship, passing out free candy.

**RAIN PLAN FOR FRIDAY:** We have no rain plan. We'll still be there washing in the wash bays... and/or collecting donations for United Way!

***THIS JUST IN....BREAKING NEWS... Top Dog will be giving "buy one get one free" coupons for hot dogs to the first 200 car wash patrons!***

#### **Staff Injury at School**

Reminder from our Business Office and Nursing Dept... If you experience an injury during the work day be sure to see your building school nurse/secretary and have them fill out the required Incident Report form. This should happen before you go to Working Well. Thank you!

#### **Important W2 News - from Payroll**

2014 W-2s will be accessed through your employee access account when they are available. Paper copies will not be distributed in January as they have been in the past. Please make sure you have access to your employee access account through the website. If you need assistance with employee access, please call the payroll office at ext. 8348 or 8350.

### **Anti-Bullying Grant Funds Available**

The Michigan City Human Rights Commission has grants of \$200 available for projects/materials related to bullying prevention. Deadline for applications is **October 17**. Information and an application is here:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/An%20End%20to%20Bullying%20Grant%20Application.pdf>

### **Teacher Grants - Deadlines are Approaching!**

#### **MCEF K-8 Teacher Grants**

Applications for [2014-2015](#) Michigan City Education Foundation Teacher Grants (for K-8 teachers) are now online! Follow the link below to apply...OR visit the Unity Foundation's website [www.uflc.net](http://www.uflc.net). Grants awarded are for projects up to \$350. Applications must be submitted by **Monday, October 13**.

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/17572-Unity-Foundation-Of-La-Porte-County>

#### **Barbara A. Carmen K-8 Teacher Grants**

Applications for these grants for elementary and middle school teachers (up to \$400) are ALSO now online. Deadline is **October 17th**. Follow this link to apply... OR visit the Unity web site [www.uflc.net](http://www.uflc.net).

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/17575-Unity-Foundation-Of-La-Porte-County>

#### **9-12 Teacher Innovation Grants**

Applications are ALSO now online for the 2014-15 Teacher Innovation Grants (exclusively for MCHS and A.K. Smith teachers!). Follow the link below to apply... OR visit the Unity web site [www.uflc.net](http://www.uflc.net). Grants are for projects up to \$350. Deadline for this is also **October 13th**.

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/17574-Unity-Foundation-Of-La-Porte-County>

#### **Lilly Fellowship**

The Lilly Endowment has announced its Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program for 2015. This fellowship supports lifelong learning among educators by enabling them to pursue dreams and passions, explore new areas of interest, expand existing talents, etc. Up to 100 grants of \$10,000 each will be awarded to Indiana teachers! Licensed K-12 teachers, guidance counselors, principals, and assistant principals can apply. Deadline is **November 3**. For more info visit: <http://www.teachercreativity.org>

#### **Celebrate School Lunch Week!**

**October 13-17** the school cafeterias will be celebrating National School Lunch Week. The theme is "Get In The Game With School Lunch". Students eating meals will be offered special healthy treats during the week. Hats off to our outstanding Food Service staff!

#### **Flu Shots**

The Flu Shot clinic scheduled at MCHS has been canceled; MCAS did not have the minimum # of employees sign up to offer the clinic. If you are interested in a flu shot, remember that you can stop by Working Well for this - cost is \$23.

#### **CPR for Teachers**

This school year, MCAS is again working with Opportunity Enterprises to offer CPR training for teachers in need of license renewal. The first class will take place on Thursday, **October 9** at Mullen, at 3:30pm. Please contact Linda Bechinski at [lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:lbechinski@mcas.k12.in.us) if you are interested in attending. The training will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$35 cash (please bring exact change) or check (payable to Opportunity Enterprises).

### **Enterovirus D-68 Information**

The Indiana Health Department has compiled information (see below) regarding the new Enterovirus D-68 which is prevalent in the Chicago area and in southern Indiana. It is uncommon, but not new and there is no vaccination for it. This virus is particularly problematic for asthmatics or those with other illnesses causing weakened immune systems. It is recommended that children wash their hands with soap and water as soon as they arrive at school. Also, be aware that hand sanitizers are not effective for this virus strain.  
<http://www.in.gov/isdh/26487.htm>

### **Hours for Ours Needs You!**

We all have 168 hours in a week. Just one hour mentoring a child could make a lasting difference in their life. Help someone succeed. Mentor a child! For more information contact Sherri Silcox at [873-2026](tel:873-2026), ext. 8744 or [ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:ssilcox@mcas.k12.in.us).

### **Homecoming is Oct. 10th**

MCHS homecoming is [next Friday, October 10](#). This year the Wolves take on our arch rival the LaPorte Slicers – and we hope for a great turnout to support our team. As is tradition, the annual homecoming parade will proceed down Franklin Street from the Elston area to Ames field at 6:00 pm ... and the Athletic Boosters will have their annual chili supper beginning at 5:00 pm near the fountain outside the stadium. Tickets for the chili supper are available in the athletic office or from any fall athlete. GO WOLVES!

### **MCHS Parent Network Craft Show**

The annual Parent Network craft show at MCHS is [November 8th](#) from 9am-3pm. If you are interested in becoming a vendor for this event, info is here:  
[http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/20/craft%20show\\_20140919111913.pdf](http://mcas.schoolwires.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/20/craft%20show_20140919111913.pdf)

### **"Give Back" for Pine School**

Pine is having a "give back" event at Holly's on [October 8th](#). Click the link below for the required coupon and thanks for your support!  
<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=2&PageType=17&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=1&EventDateID=15564>

### **Art Education Resources Fair**

The Lubeznik Center is hosting an Art Education Fair on Saturday, [October 11](#) from 11am-1pm. (This is for elementary teachers and administrators.) CEUs available - meet art organization representatives and learn about resources for your students! Lunch provided.  
<http://educateme.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/ArtEd.pdf>

### **Tis the Season - Check out these upcoming events...**

#### **Howl-o-ween!**

Save the Date... the MCHS Athletic Dept. is planning a special event for kids ages 0-13 at Ames Field on Thursday, [October 30th](#) from 6-8pm. Children will trick or treat and meet high school athletes, take part in activities and a costume contest, and more. FUN!! More details coming soon!

#### **Krueger's Haunted Trail**

Krueger Middle School will again be hosting a "haunted trail" on its wooded environmental science trails near the school. Dates this year are [Saturday, Oct 25](#) and [Saturday, November 1](#) from 7-9pm. Cost is \$5.00 and tickets are available at both Krueger and Barker. This year, MCHS Drama Club members are assisting - be prepared to

be scared! (Note: This is appropriate for older elementary ages through adults...some of the trail experiences may be a little scary for younger kids.)

### **Boo at the Zoo**

Michigan City's Washington Park Zoo will again host its annual "Boo at the Zoo" on [October 25th](#). There are two sessions, 12:15-3:00 and 4:15 to 7:00. MCEA will be there passing out candy, and watch for Wolfie and some of our other school mascots, too!

### **WAY TO GO!**

Congratulations to MCAS - we received the 2014 "**Luminary**" Award in Education from NIPSCO last week, in recognition of our commitment to STEM Education and Career Prep, K-12!

Congratulations to MCAS Curriculum Director **Dr. Jan Radford** - this week's "Life that Matters" on LaporteCountyLife.com. Here's the link to view the article:

<http://www.laportecountylife.com/community/serving/46248-a-la-porte-county-life-that-matters-jan-radford>

### **Community News**

On [October 8th](#), Maxine's is having a special "**Dine Out with United Way**" night from 5-9pm. All of the proceeds benefit United Way. No coupon necessary; special celebrity greeters/hosts will be on hand, including Mayor Meer, Sen. Arnold and Police Sergeant Chris Yagelski. Revive Consignments is staying open late and proceeds from their sales will be going to United Way also. Please see the flyer below for reservation information and consider attending!

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/DineOutwith%20Maxine.pdf>

Have a school event you would like included on the **LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau** website event listing? Submit your info online at [www.michigancitylaporte.com/events/submit-an-event](http://www.michigancitylaporte.com/events/submit-an-event). Events submitted by [October 13th](#) may also be considered for inclusion in the print edition 2015 Visitors Guide.

Northwest Athletic Club is hosting a tennis rally for breast cancer awareness on [October 24](#) from 6-8pm. Cost is \$30 and all proceeds go to the **Rally for the Cure**. For more info, call NAC at [879-4401](tel:879-4401) or email [wofford@northwestathleticclub.net](mailto:wofford@northwestathleticclub.net)

### **COMMUNITY BACKPACK**

There are two new postings on our "Community Backpack" page!

<http://mcas.schoolwires.net/domain/49>

- Dunebrook "Nurturing Family" Parenting Workshops
- Fall 2014 Youth Bowling at Lakeshore Lanes