

MCAS Communicator

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

October 2015

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

Flower and Pumpkin Sale TODAY

The MCAS Transportation Dept. special events team is holding a pumpkin and mum sale today from 10-4 at the service building (1100 S. Woodland). They'll be having this sale again on Friday, October 16th. Spread the word! Here's a flyer:

http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/october/PUMPKIN_MUM.pdf

Support the Wolves TODAY

Remember, it's Senior Night at the Football game tonight, and the homecoming queen will be crowned at halftime. The parade steps off at 5:30 p.m. from the Elston lot and will proceed to Ames. GO WOLVES!

IMPORTANT Announcement

Many of you have been waiting for details on the annual Car Wash Challenge, as MCAS once again works to defeat the MC Police and Fire Depts. in raising the most funds for the United Way. Well... HOLD ON! This year all three groups are UNITING. There will be a UNITED car wash for the UNITED WAY on Friday, October 9th. This will take place all day (9-5) at the Old Al's parking lot across from Ames on Franklin Street. MCAS Administrators, Safe Harbor, and Friends will be washing cars 2:30-5:00pm. There will be "free" hot dogs, a mum sale, and WEFM will be broadcasting an oldies show live with hosts John Landecker and Mike Dempsey. Please stop by! Here's a flyer to pass along to family, friends, and anyone you see within 100 miles who has a dirty car:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/october/CAR%20WASH%202015FINAL2.pdf>

Technology: Our Good to Great Journey Begins

We are off to a great start! You can feel the positive energy and the excitement around Google when walking through our schools. Teachers throughout the district have made amazing progress already as they begin the transition to Google for Education. On a daily basis, you can see how classroom lessons are being transformed in a digital environment. We are grateful to the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission for their confidence and support of MCAS. Recently they approved a \$3.4 million grant to help fund our first steps in upgrading our infrastructure and financing our staff development. With these dollars, teachers and students will receive upgraded WiFi in all the buildings, connectivity between buildings will be improved, power and servers at the administration building will be enhanced, and Chromebooks will be deployed to middle school English classrooms. There's lots of work ahead of us. We are excited about what the future holds for MCAS! Keep up the great work and continue to spread your enthusiasm around the community regarding the great things that are being created in our classrooms. Enjoy your Technology PLC days!

Don't Forget Your EAP Benefit

MCAS now offers an EAP (Employee Assistance Program) to all staff - Franciscan Alliance is the provider of EAP services; they can assist with a wide range of personal and mental health issues (grief, stress, weight management, marriage concerns, depression, and much more). Appointments can be made for you or a family member by calling (219) 662-3730 or (800) 747-7262.

Unity Teacher Grants Due

Deadlines are rapidly approaching for several Unity Foundation of La Porte County teacher grants: Teacher Innovation Grants (for MCHS and AK Smith teachers), MC Education Foundation (K-8 teachers) and Barbara A. Carmen Grants (for K-8 teachers). All three of these grants can be used to fund classroom projects/equipment. Submit an application today at the link below:

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

(To view a flyer about grant opportunities that Unity offers MCAS teachers, click here:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/UF%20Teacher%20Grant%20Information.pdf>)

Flu Shots

Flu Shots will be given for any interested MCAS employees and family members on Oct 13th from 1:30 - 4:00 in the Teacher's Lounge at the High School. Those coming from other schools, please enter through door M which is located on the west side of the building, in the "horseshoe" parking lot area. All insurances, including Medicare will be honored. The gentleman from Walgreens stated that if you have no coverage, they will attempt to provide a voucher. Please let Linda Bechinski know in advance if you plan to come - you can call her at ext. 4318 or email lbechinski@educatemc.net.

Speaking of the Flu

Check out this info sheet from St. Anthony on preventing colds/flu. It's that time of year... these are some great reminders:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/october/CommonColdAndFlu-Flyer-FRA.pdf>

Are YOU Resilient?

Check out this bulletin from our EAP program...

http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/october/2015_EAP_October.pdf

More on Resilience...EAP Webinar for October

Your Franciscan Employee Assistance Program along with the Franciscan WELLCARE invite you to a Webinar "Learning to Thrive Rather Than Just Survive" and "Travel Fitness" on Oct 21, 2015 at Noon. Register here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6846496545689338113>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. (Note: We are working on getting a recorded version of these webinars for those who are unable to attend during school hours. Watch next month's Communicator for updates.)

Lubeznik Center Arts Fair

On Saturday October 17, the Lubeznik Center for the Arts (LCA) will be hosting its third annual Arts Integration Professional Development and Fair from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. at LCA. Registration is free, lunch is included and participants will earn two continuing education credits. Space is limited! RSVP by calling 219.874.4900 or by emailing artinfo@lubeznikcenter.org.

Sensory Room Ribbon Cutting

Michigan City Robotics Team 3936 will hold a ribbon cutting to introduce the new "Sensory Environment Room" at Michigan City High School on Thursday, October 8th from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Enter from the door on the east side of MCHS (follow signs). In order to assist fellow high school students, Team 3936 researched and designed a therapeutic room and developed a work plan that can be utilized by other FIRST FRC teams for replication at other schools. Come and visit! You'll want a room just like it in your own home!

Safe Harbor Middle School Update

Barker and Krueger Horticulture students have been participating in a project to revitalize, restore and beautify the Rotary Garden located at International Friendship Gardens; Annette Young is Coordinator. The Evolve/Evolution Program is now in process in Club Discovery at both Barker and Krueger. This program is character development and life skill oriented with a focus on behavior and attitudinal change and decision making; Diana Gore is Coordinator. T'Andre Harris, College and Career Readiness Coach, took a group of middle school students to the PNC College Fair. Fifty-two colleges and universities were represented at the fair. Students visited displays and spoke with representatives on college interest, preparation, and financial aid.

CPR for Teachers

CPR for teachers in need of license renewal is scheduled for Thursday, Nov 12th at 3:30 at Mullen School, which is at 100 Manny Court, adjacent to Lake Hills Elementary. The fee is \$40.00 cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions. The certification lasts 2 years. Please contact Linda Bechinski (lbechinski@educatemc.net) to sign up.

Howl-O-Ween at Ames

It's BACK! The MCHS Athletic Dept. is once again sponsoring "Howl-O-Ween" at Ames Field. This year's event will take place on Thursday, October 29, from 6:30-8:30. Kids ages 0-13 are welcome; suggested donation is \$1 and proceeds benefit Special Olympics. High school students and student athletes will be there engaging younger kids in lots of fun activities! Spread the word:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/october/Howl-o-ween%20at%20Ames2015.pdf>

Healthy U @ Work Newsletter

Cholesterol Awareness, the importance of routines, and insight on fasting...

http://www.workingwellsite.org/images/newsletter_september2015.pdf

Mammography Special

Think pink this October for Breast Cancer Awareness! This month, St. Antony is giving away a free makeup bag and a chance to win a spa treatment for all women getting mammograms:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/october/Mammography%20Special%20October.pdf>

More on Breast Cancer...be in the know!

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/october/BreastCancerAwareness-Flyer-FRA.pdf>

GREAT Schools

Do you have a child who attends MCAS? Please consider leaving a review highlighting some positives about our schools from a parent's point of view on the web site

<http://www.greatschools.org/>. This site is linked to many real estate listings and other resources across the web. Thank you for helping us tell others about the many outstanding opportunities and experiences we offer!

WAY TO GO!

Kudos to the Transportation Dept. for their assistance with the Salvation Army's recent "Stuff a Bus" project at Al's Supermarkets. The donations helped fill the pantry, which feeds hundreds of families in need each month!

SCHOOL NEWS

Krueger Middle School just opened a new "Pathway to the Wetlands" trail! Read all about this amazing project and check out the photos on the MCAS website: <http://educatemc.net>

Pine Elementary is having a "Give Back" at Swingbelly's on Tuesday October 13. Follow this link for the required coupon - and thanks for your support!

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/october/swingbelly%202015.png>

Michigan City High School is having a "Give Back" at Panera on Wednesday, October 21 from 4-8pm. No coupon is needed...but here is a flyer with more info to pass along. Please support!

http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/october/Panera_MCHS_Benefit.pdf

COMMUNITY NEWS

Harlem Wizards

Queen of All Saints is sponsoring a performance by the Harlem Wizards basketball team on Friday, October 23, in the gym at MCHS. Proceeds will benefit several area charities. Tickets are \$10 in advance (\$12 at the door) and are available at Captain Ed's on Rt. 20, at the MCHS Athletic Office, at Queens, and online at www.harlemwizards.com. Interested in **playing** the Wizards? They are seeking teachers/staff/community members to play on a Michigan City community team and/or to help referee. Please contact Nancy Drewes at (219) 879-6650 by October 12 if you are interested. No actual basketball-playing talent required!

Imagination Station Benefit

Imagination Station is holding a Family Concert and Fun Fair tomorrow, October 3, at 3:00 pm at the Michigan City Senior Center. This will feature a bounce house, a concert by Jim Gill, games, food and more:

http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/domain/85/october/IS_JimGill.jpg

Have you checked out MCAS's Community Backpack resources lately? These are some recent postings at <http://educatemc.net/communitybackpack>:

- United Way Car Wash
- Howl-O-Ween at Ames
- NAC Fall Tennis Programs for Kids and Teens
- LaPorte County Parks Fall Programs for Families
- Champion Force Cheerleading
- and MORE!