

MCAS Communicator

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

October 2016

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

Flu Shots - Use Door M

Walgreens is coming to Michigan City High School TOMORROW (Tuesday, Oct 4th) from 1-4 to give flu shots for those who have signed up. Please enter through door "M" at MCHS, near the auditorium...also known as the "horseshoe" entrance. The shots will be taking place in the staff lounge.

MCAS United Way Campaign

The MCAS employee giving campaign has begun! (Forms are being distributed at all schools during September and October, typically during staff meetings.) Overall, 25,000 people in LaPorte County, or one in every four, are touched by United Way. In 2015, 988 youth were mentored and tutored, improving their grades and graduation rates within our schools. 1,200 teens were provided quality health care so they could stay in school, and Kindergarten Countdown helped increase kindergarten readiness. Your donation will help people in need stop needing help! PLUS: With your donation your name will be included in a drawing for lunch or dinner with Dr. Eason Watkins or a gift basket of goodies.

Mentors Needed

The Safe Harbor Hours for Ours Mentor program is looking for new mentors. It only takes one hour per week to make a difference for one of our students! Call 873-2026 if you are interested.

Before/After School Opportunity

Safe Harbor is in need of employees for before school care and after school care. Please spread the word! Applications can be found on the MCAS website.

Club Discovery Update

Krueger Lead and Seed students, coached by Amber Mac Donald, created a public service announcement video that focuses on the abuse of prescription drugs. The students acting in the video are Tamorra Walker, Emerald Terrell and Mason Day. The video has been well received and the students will present it live at the La Porte County Drug Free Partnership meeting October 5.

<https://youtu.be/EVhxzBw6KxU>

Robotics Update

First Tech Challenge Robotics began this past Monday. This program introduces students to real-world engineering challenges by building fully functional computer coded robots to complete tasks. FTC teams guided by their imagination and creativity begin to develop skills and abilities that will make them more prepared for future career possibilities. The program is coached by community partners Martin Bobcek and Tom May.

Educator Appreciation Days

Barnes & Noble is having their Educator Appreciation Days October 8th-16th. Educators can sign up or renew a free Educator Membership. More info is here:

<https://stores.barnesandnoble.com/event/9780061825800-0>

Support Our Girls!

The Girls on the Run 5K is Saturday, November 5th at Kesling Park in LaPorte. Edgewood, Pine, and Springfield have teams participating!

September Healthy U @ Work Newsletter

Brown bag lunch tips, the importance of sleep, common blood tests and more....

https://www.franciscanhealth.org/sites/default/files/documents/ww_newsletter_september2016.pdf

Google Doodle Contest

Students in grades K-12 are invited to take part in the 2016 Doodle 4 Google contest, and create a doodle that tells the world "What I see for the future." From crayons to clay, graphic design, or even food, young artists can utilize any materials to bring their creation to life. Like all Google Doodles, each doodle must incorporate the letters G-o-o-g-l-e. One national winner will also receive a \$30,000 college scholarship. The contest is open for entries from September 14, 2016 to December 2, 2016.

https://doodles.google.com/d4g/?utm_source=Google&utm_medium=HPP1&utm_campaign=D4G2016

Thank You and Help Needed for MCAS Employee

Thank you to all who donated clothing, household items, and funds to the MCAS Food Service employee who had a house fire in August. The family (of 4) now has housing but is still in need of some furniture. Their wish list includes: dressers, nightstands, end tables, lamps, a vacuum, full and queen mattresses, small kitchen table/2 chairs and bar stools. If you can donate, please contact Food Service.

Positive News?

Do you have a positive news item or photo of your program/classroom/project to share with local media? Send a brief writeup/caption info to Betsy Kohn (cc your principal) and she will share with our media list. (Please identify individuals who are in any photos and be sure to check that any students pictured have been okay'd for media.)

Time Out for Reading on Friday

Join thousands across Northwest Indiana who will READ this Friday, October 7, 2016 at 10:00am, as part of the annual "**Time Out for Reading**". Students, teachers, parents, administrators, business leaders, organizations, and the public are encouraged to Take Time Out to show the importance of reading; read from the recommended selections or whatever you like. Participation is FREE. To arrange for your group's participation contact georgeqf@gmail.com or connect to www.nwiliteracy.org.

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:

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/0816EAP.pdf>

This month's EAP Newsletter: Navigating Workplace Personalities

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/1016EAP.pdf>

EAP Webinar

The next EAP webinar will be at noon on October 19; this month's topics include "Navigating Workplace Personalities" and "Audiology 101: Why is Hearing Testing So Important?" Follow the link below to register.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/125239150097281026>

CPR Class

A CPR class for teachers in need of license renewal will be held on Thursday, October 13th. Training is at 3:30 at Mullen, 100 Manny Court, adjacent to Lake Hills Elementary. The fee is \$40 cash or check, payable to Dolphin Solutions. The certification lasts two years.

Important: Please contact Linda Bechinski (lbechinski@educatemc.net) to sign up. Also, the American Heart Association has written new workbooks and there is one available in every school's nurse's office for review if needed. If you borrow one, please remember to return.

Homecoming is Friday

Please support our MCHS Wolves as they take on LaPorte this Friday for homecoming! The homecoming parade steps off from Elston at 6:00pm, and the game kickoff is at 7:00pm. We are encouraging businesses throughout our community to display messages of support (Go Wolves, City Pride, We are MC, etc.) on signs and marquees this week - please help spread the word!

Grant Opportunities

- Unity Foundation Teacher Grants (deadlines in October):
<http://uflc.net/grants/teacher-grants/>
- The Northwest Indiana Literacy Coalition is offering two mini grants to teachers. One grant focuses on children and the other on adult learners. Follow this link for application instructions! (Deadline Oct. 20th).
<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/1016MiniGrants.pdf>

Torch Relay Celebration Saturday

The Indiana Bicentennial Torch will enter LaPorte County around 2pm on Saturday (October 8th) coming from St. Joseph County. The torch will move through Rolling Prairie, LaPorte and Michigan City. There will be a final celebration at North Point Pavilion in Michigan City's Washington Park, from 5pm-10pm and all are invited. Food, drink and live music will be provided.

After-school Cub Master Wanted

The LaSalle Council of Boy Scouts of America is seeking a Cub Master to work in cooperation with MCAS's Safe Harbor Program. The Cub Master will be a part time employee of the LaSalle Council BSA. Some training will be required and provided by the Potawatomi District Executive. The program or Den meeting will be at a different school each day Monday through Friday for about 90 minutes per day. The schools involved are Marsh, Knapp, Joy, Lake Hills and Edgewood. Interested? Contact Eric Fritzen at (219) 380-7459 to arrange an interview.

Howl-O-Ween at Ames

The MCHS Athletic Department will hold its annual "Howl O Ween" at Ames trick-or-treat on Thursday, October 27th. Follow the link below for details - and please help spread the word!

<http://educatemc.net/cms/lib5/IN01001792/Centricity/Domain/85/1016Howl2016.pdf>

Dual Credit/AP/Financial Aid Workshop

The MCHS Parent Network invites middle and high school parents to attend an informational meeting on Dual Credit, Advanced Placement, Scholarships, and Financial Aid on Wednesday, October 5th. Speakers will include Rachel Weaver of Purdue Northwest, Eric Ressler, MCHS Guidance Counselor, and Diana Kerrigan, Director of Financial Aid for Ancilla College. This meeting will take place in the auditorium and will include two sessions: 6:00 - 6:45pm - Dual Credit/AP; 6:45 - 7:30 - Financial Aid and Scholarships. This is open to public, private, and homeschool families; spread the word!

Battle of the Fit

Joy, Springfield, and Marsh are involved in a "Battle of the Fit" sponsored by MDWise, competing to earn funds for fitness equipment. They are promoting health and fitness through a variety of activities! Check out the fun (and the schools' progress) here:

<http://educatemc.net/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=22&ViewID=047E6BE3-6D87-4130-8424-D8E4E9ED6C2A&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=23709&PageID=1>

School Bus Safety Week

School Bus Safety Week is October 17-21; our MCAS Transportation Dept. is sponsoring a student poster contest and some other fun events to raise safety awareness. (Especially stop-arm safety!) Please remember to thank a bus driver or monitor near you!

WAY TO GO!

- MCHS history teacher **Bruce Stahl** is the winner of the South Shore Railroad's "Teachers Ride Free" essay contest. He has won free round-trip tickets to Chicago for 60 students! They will be using them for upcoming field trips.
- The annual "**Stuff a Bus**" event on September 10th secured amazing results for the MC Salvation Army food pantry. Results = 11,060 pounds of food, 178 meat vouchers (valued at \$5 each), \$1,221.40 in cash donations. Thanks to our Transportation staff and all others who helped!
- MCAS (along with our MCFD and MCPD friends!) raised more than \$5,600 for the United Way at the annual **Citywide Car Wash** on Friday. KUDOS to all who washed cars... and thanks to all who stopped by to have their cars washed!
- Congrats to the **Krueger Middle School singers, the Michigan City Education Support Professionals (MCESP), the JROTC, and the Construction Technology class from A. K. Smith**. These groups participated in the Epic Shopping Cart Walk supporting nonprofits working to prevent homelessness in our community. Altogether, more than \$12,000 was raised!

Give Backs and etc....

- The MCHS Alpha yearbook is having a give back at Holly's TOMORROW (**October 4**). The required coupon is here: <http://educatemc.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=2&PageType=17&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=1&EventDateID=21666&CurrentView=month>
- On **October 26th** Joy Elementary will be having a 5 guys fundraiser. The school we will receive 20% of all orders and \$1 for every shake! Visit the Joy website closer to the date for the required coupon.

Community Backpack - New on <http://educateMC.net/communitybackpack>

- MCPD Police Explorer program (First meeting is TODAY!)
- Boys & Girls Club after-school program info

- 4-H Open House (Oct 8)
- LaPorte County Parks Fall Programs
- And more!